



UNIVERSITY
of ALASKA



University of Alaska

34th Legislature

Top FY27 Budget Requests for UA Stability

UA House Finance Subcommittee

February 16, 2026



Overview

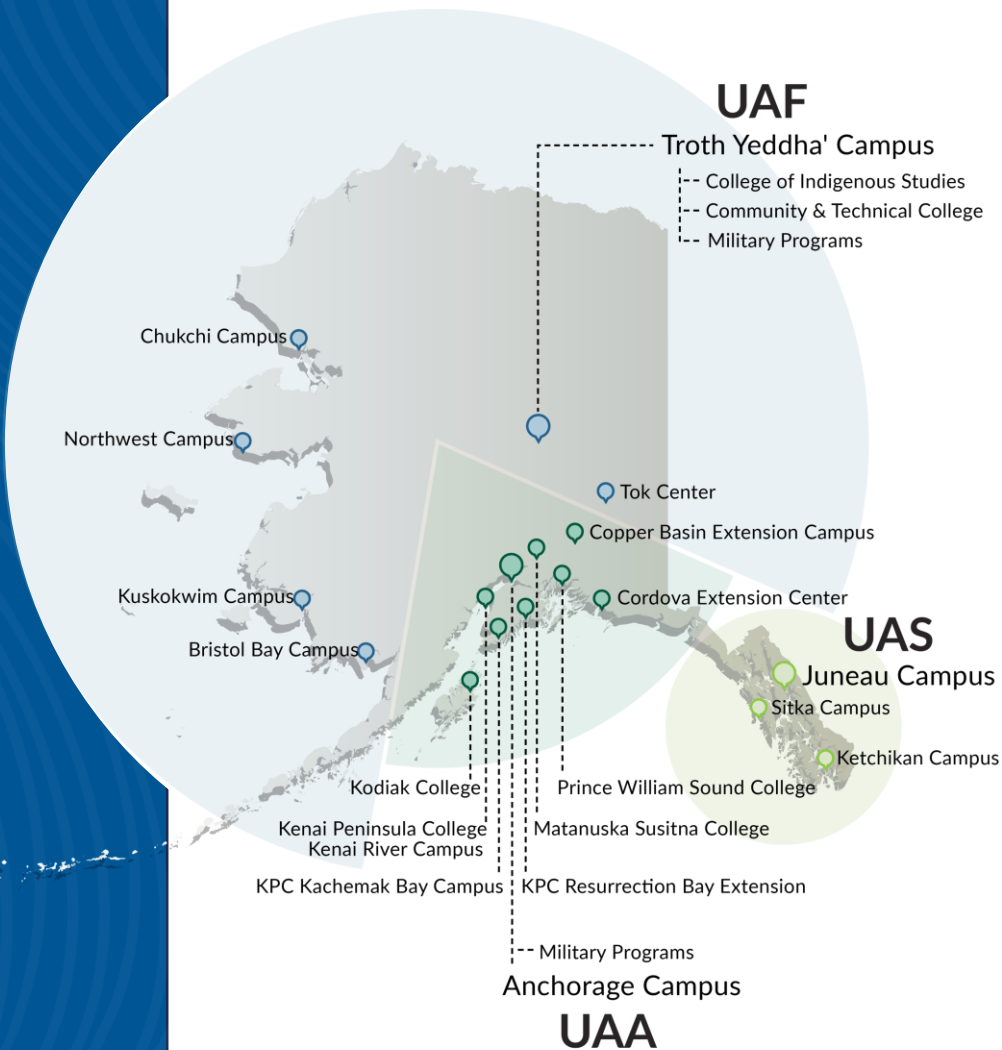


- FY27 Compensation Request
 - Number of employees
 - Amount being set aside
 - Scope
- FY27 Fixed Cost Increases, with Emphasis on Public Safety
- FY27 Student Mental Health Services Requests
- FY27 Retention, Recruitment, and Graduation Requests
- Appendix
 - Reference Documents



University of Alaska

Alaska's System of Higher Education



Empower Alaska

Pillars

- Financially Responsible and Future-Focused
- State & Arctic Leadership
- Quality Reputation

University/System Roles

- System Office – Advancing Post-secondary Education by Driving Value to the Universities. Corporate structure required by State Constitution.
- UAA – Alaska's Comprehensive, Workforce-Emphasis, Health University: A University of Distinction, Transforming Lives and Communities.
- UAF – Alaska's Research and Arctic University: Creating Excellence Through Transformative Experiences.
- UAS – Alaska's Experiential Learning University: Impacting the World by Offering an Unparalleled Education Rooted in the Natural and Cultural Richness of Southeast Alaska.



UA FY27 Budget Highest Priorities

(UGF in millions of \$)

	BOR Op	BOR Cap	Gov
FY26 Budget	\$351.5	\$10.0	\$351.5
Priority Requests			
Compensation - wage increase for employee groups as required by collective bargaining agreements and 3% for non-union staff (excludes contracts that have not yet been negotiated for FY27, Local 6070 and Fairbanks Firefighter Union). In FY27, the university's medical plan (including dental and vision) is expected to incur a \$6M increase in premium costs. Total compensation increment \$20.8M.	15.2		6.5
Operating cost increases (cyber security/IT, facilities, utilities, risk mgmt., and public safety) - are key to continued stability. Total operating cost increment \$ 11.7M.	8.0		
Student Mental Health Services	0.9		
BOR's Students-1st Action Agenda - increasing student recruitment, retention, and graduation. Have reallocated \$2.5M - Expect to leverage \$5.2M in tuition and fees.	4.9		
Capital - Deferred Maintenance – predictable and sufficient funding for UA's highest-priority DM projects allows UA to avoid costly and more disruptive repairs.		60.0	
Tier 1	\$29.0	\$60.0	\$6.5 op



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FY27 Compensation \$15.2M (\$20.8M total)

Salary and Benefits Increases \$10.4M (\$14.8M total)

- Wage increase for employee groups as required by collective bargaining agreements (3% increase)
 - UNAC (~1,100 faculty); UNAD (~640 adjunct faculty); AGWA (~420 grad students)
- Wage increase (3%) for non-union staff
 - Approx. 2,700 staff
- Local 6070 (crafts & trades) & Fairbanks Firefighters Union contracts expire June 30, 2026
 - Once a tentative agreement has been reached with a union, a funding request will be made through the appropriate legislative process
 - Local 6070 (~250 members)
 - Firefighters (~11 members)
- Governor's Proposed Budget funded \$3.5M (\$5.0M total)
- Most temporary workers (ex: student workers) not in request
- 53% of overall operating budget goes to UA compensation, the rest pays for contracted services (food/cleaning), travel, commodities, etc.

Health Care Cost Increases \$4.8M (\$6.0M total)

- In FY27, the university's medical plan (including dental and vision) is expecting an increase in premium costs (\$6M)
- Governor's Proposed Budget funded \$3M (\$6.0M total)





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FY27 Operating Cost Increases

Cyber Security & Information Technology \$2.2M

This funding is necessary to address emerging cybersecurity threats, modernize aging systems, and cover the increasing costs of software and technology (Red Book, starting on page 3)

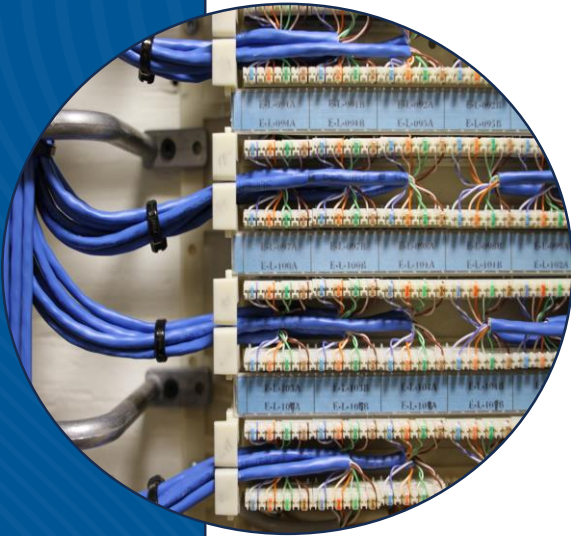
Facilities Maintenance Operating Costs \$2M (\$4M total)

This funding is crucial for preserving the university's capital assets, which have been impacted by several years of reduced operating budgets and minimal capital funds. The goal is to reduce the risk of building failures and prevent adding to the backlog of deferred maintenance projects (Red Book page 4)

Utilities and Contractual Services Cost Increases \$2.1M (\$3.8M total)

These requests cover the projected FY27 utility cost increases at UAA, UAF, and UAS. Cost increases include utility expenses such as electrical, fuel, water, and sewer, and commodity costs for utility inputs (Red Book page 5)

This funding would cover projected custodial contract cost increases at UAF. These are critical services that ensure a safe and clean campus environment for students, faculty, and staff (Red Book page 5)





FY27 Operating Cost Increases cont.

Risk Management \$600k

UA anticipates a 5% increase in Risk Services costs (FY26 \$11.1M), such as auto liability, property loss, employment practice premiums, university direct premiums, and loss prevention (Red Book page 5)

Enhance Public Safety \$1.1M

These requests aim to address rising property crime, increase crisis response capabilities, ensure regulatory compliance, and improve overall campus safety and security (Red Book, starting on page 5)

- Breakdown:
 - UAA Public Safety Support \$500K
 - UAF Critical Campus Safety: Police Technology and Emergency Communication Center Support \$326K
 - UAS Improving Campus Safety and Physical Security \$250K





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FY27 Student Mental Health Services Request

Student Mental Health Services \$965k

These requests are focused on expanding and enhancing student mental health and support services through increased staffing and utilizing telehealth technologies (Red Book, starting on page 8)

- Breakdown:

- UAA Student Mental Health Support: Expanding Capacity \$440K
- UAF Increased Clinical Psychology Capacity \$350K
- UAS Boosting Student Mental Health and Life Skills \$175K





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UA Student Recruitment, Retention, and Graduation

UA is working across campuses, communities, and leadership to ensure that every Alaskan has the opportunity to access, thrive in, and obtain the credentials necessary for employment, career advancement, or enrichment.

The UA Board of Regents approved \$2.5 million in FY26 to expedite efforts to strengthen recruitment, retention, and graduation. Through the Systemwide Attainment Framework (SAF) and Students-First Action Agenda, the UA is aligning efforts to recruit, retain, and graduate students with measurable success.

The SAF website (<https://www.alaska.edu/saf/>) serves as a living dashboard and public accountability tool, cataloging all active and completed projects, shared metrics, and campus highlights. The site links directly to outcome-measure dashboards for recruitment, retention, and graduation, enabling real-time visibility into systemwide progress.

In support of the Students-First Action Agenda (<https://www.alaska.edu/saf/about/index.php>), the universities advanced 27 projects focused on recruitment, retention, and graduation, ranging from common admissions systems and advising innovations to financial access and workforce pathway initiatives.

- Enrollment momentum: Systemwide headcount is up year-over-year for a third consecutive fall, with gains in health, education, and engineering programs, the State's highest-demand fields.
- Retention focus: Coordinated advising and early-alert tools are being scaled across campuses, improving semester-to-semester persistence.
- Completion pathways: Dual-enrollment expansion and credit-transfer simplification continue to shorten students' time to degree.





FY27 Program Requests

Student Recruitment \$3.4M



- UAA (\$1.6M) increasing enrollment through dual enrollment conversion, and leading-edge outreach and communication systems
- UAF (\$1.4M) a multi-pronged approach to enrollment growth, academic program development, digital outreach, targeted marketing, and enhancement of student services
- UAS (\$377k) adopts technology to broaden the pool of prospective students, connect them to college resources, and offer in-state tuition to all undergraduates
- See Red Book, starting on page 14





FY27 Program Requests

Student Retention & Graduation \$1.5M



- UAA (\$591k) improving internal support services and communication to keep students enrolled and working toward their degrees
- UAF (\$600k) improving advisor and career readiness services and expanding high-demand workforce programs
- UAS (\$42k) strengthening retention efforts by coordinating and aligning academic advising across all three UAS campuses, shortening time to graduation
- System Office (\$300k) fostering instructional innovations and mentoring programs proven to increase student engagement, performance, retention, and degree completion across the UA system
- See Red Book, starting on page 18





Questions?



Appendix

UA Education Program Facts

- UA Graduates Working in Alaska one year post graduation
 - Early Childhood 531 (78.9%)
 - Elementary 612 (88.7%)
 - Secondary 393 (89.1%)
- Alaska Hire – 96.9% of working graduates are Alaska residents
- Nearly 4,000 people have graduated from UA education programs over the last decade
- 80% of the graduates who find work in Alaska in their first year after graduation work in our local schools (the remaining twenty percent take jobs in other industries)

Workforce Education Report:

https://www.alaska.edu/research/wd/UA_WFR_Education_Final_2025.pdf

UA Alaska College of Education Consortium

Focus Areas

- Increase enrollment in Initial Licensure programs, especially in high-need areas
- Support Recruitment and Retention efforts across the state with key stakeholders: K12 school districts, ACSA, DEED, ACPE
- Engage in collaborative, coordinated efforts between all three Schools of Education to reach these goals

Continuous Progress

- UAA Registered Apprentice Programs (RAP): 96 apprentices enrolled and 4 certificate graduates (Dec 2025)
- UAA Youth Early Teaching Initiative (YETI), 32 enrolled students (35% urban, 34% rural/remote, 31% homeschool)
- UAF annual Grow Your Own (GYO) collaborative event, school districts from across the state will attend to strengthen their existing partnerships and explore new GYO engagement
- UAF Secondary Education Program welcomed 32 new interns who will complete their teacher education program by spring 2026
- UAS Special Education RAP is in development, students will complete their AA with UAA RAP and transfer to UAS to complete their SPED BA
- UAS Ed Leadership RAP, nine learning modules include all 32 job-specific tasks identified by the Dept of Labor for school leaders and are aligned with NELP standards
- UA Teaching Intern Scholarship has awarded \$1.3M for the 2025-2026 school year, supporting 99 students in our initial licensure programs, both undergraduate and graduate



FY27 Budget Requests Summary



FY27 Operating Budget State funding request \$29.0M

- \$24.1M - Compensation and other operating cost increases
- \$ 4.9M - Student Recruitment, Retention & Graduation increases

Research and Receipt Authority

- \$25.5M (\$29.4M rcpt auth) - R1, Agriculture & Food Security, Drones, Critical Minerals
- \$54.0M – Fed, SDPR, UA Rcpts, State I/A, UA I/A

FY27 Capital Budget

- Deferred Maintenance & Modernization \$60.0M
- Priority capital requests \$12.25M
- Match for grant \$1.4M and Capital project receipt authority for externally leveraged funds \$12.4M



UA FY27 Budget Overview (continued)

(UGF in millions of \$)

	BOR Op	BOR Cap	Gov
Additional Investments for Tangible Impacts			
Research Programs and Other State Priorities			
• UAF R1 Strategy Continuity (multi-year FY27-FY29)	7.5		
• UAF Agriculture and Food Systems (multi-year FY27-FY29)	3.0		
• UAF ACUASI Drone Program Year 5 (multi-year FY27-FY29)	12.0		
• UAF Alaska Critical Minerals Collaboration	3.0		
UAA Alaska Leaders Archives Consortium Library Renovation Complete Phase 1		1.25	
UAS Sitka Campus New Dock and Mariculture Training Facility-Phase II		2.0	
UAA Targeted Classroom Upgrades-Facilitate Community Campuses Hybrid Delivery		3.5	
UAF Facility Footprint Reduction – Program Relocation & Building Demolition		4.0	
Juneau Joint Use Facility Roof Replacement (joint request with DMVA)		1.5	
Tier 2	\$25.5	\$12.25	\$0.0



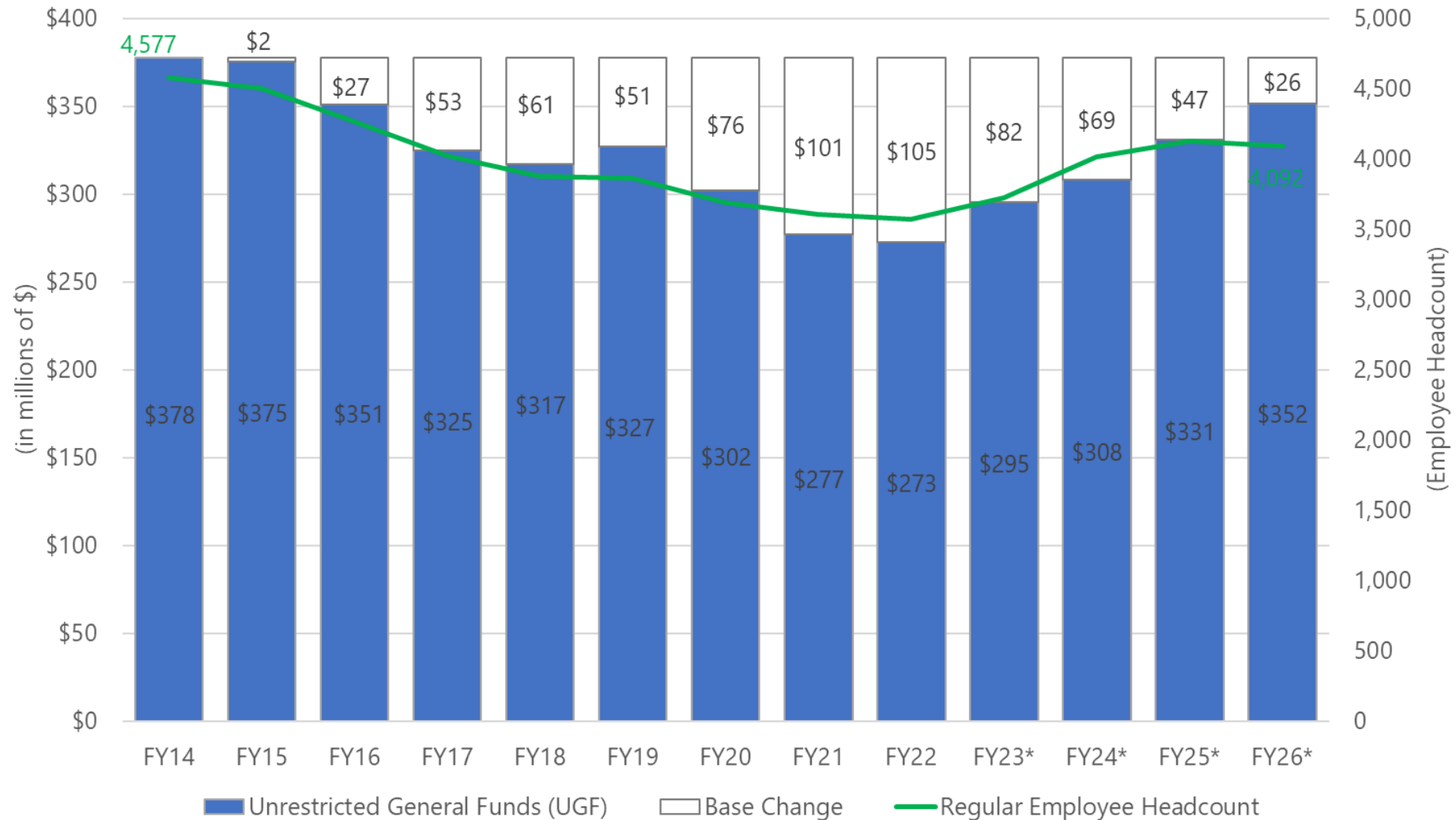
UA FY27 Budget Overview (continued)

(in millions of \$)

	BOR Op	BOR Cap	Gov
Receipt Authority Only Projects (not state funding)			
UAA Alaska Native Gathering Space		4.5	
UAF Campus Transit Fleet Maintenance Facility (\$1.4M grant match)		6.8	
UAS Egan Library/Cyril George Indigenous Knowledge Center		2.5	
Federal Grants & Contracts Receipt Auth	15.0		15.0
Statutory Designated Program Receipt Auth	8.0		8.0
UA Receipt Auth	6.0		2.0
State Inter-agency Receipt Authority	10.0		10.0
UA Intra-agency Receipt Authority	15.0		15.0
Tier 3	\$54.0	\$13.8	\$50.0



General Funds and Employee Headcount History



* excludes multi-year funds



FY26 Supplemental Operating & Capital Budgets

Operating Budget (\$68.4M non-state funds)

In FY26, many of UA's earned revenue budget authority categories are below FY25 actuals. To avoid a situation where UA lacks sufficient receipt authority, UA is requesting an increase in the following receipt authority categories to align budget authority with anticipated activity:

- Federal \$15.0M (in Gov's proposed budget)
- Statutory Designated Program Receipts \$8.0M (in Gov's proposed budget)
- UA Receipts \$10.5M
- State Inter-agency Receipts \$11.9M
- UA Intra-agency Receipts \$23M (\$15M in Gov's proposed budget)

Capital Budget

- The Governor vetoed \$3.25M of the \$10M deferred maintenance funding proposed by the Legislature for UA in FY26. UA requested \$3.4M for the most critical DM projects from the Statewide Deferred Maintenance funding administered by the State Office of Management and Budget. Ultimately, the funding was not available, and a supplemental request was made for these projects.
 - \$1.0M UAA Lucy Cuddy Hall system renewal for culinary arts program
 - \$2.0M UAF Cutler housing roof repairs
 - \$400k UAS Paul building roof replacement
- UA Museum of the North Planetarium Addition - \$8.0M (SDPR) from a private gift and philanthropic foundation grant for specialized equipment (in Gov's proposed budget)

