



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Family and Community Services

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES
Juneau Office

P.O. Box 110650
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0650
Main: 907.465.3082

Fax: 907.465.2499

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The Honorable Andy Josephson
Chair, House Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 505
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Chair Josephson:

During the House Finance meeting on February 27, 2026, the Department of Family & Community Services (DFCS) received the following questions from committee members.

1. Representative Hannan inquired about the current percentage of veterans residing at the Palmer Pioneer Home, and the status toward meeting the target percentage.

The Alaska Veterans and Pioneer Home in Palmer is currently at 55.7 percent veterans. The home is actively working the waitlist and prioritizing veterans to move in to reach the target of 75 percent.

2. Representative Bynum requested to know all locations of the Youth Courts program, the funding sources supporting the program, and any barriers to expanding the program to Fairbanks.

There are currently eight youth courts operating in Alaska located in the communities of Anchorage, Juneau, Kenai Peninsula, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Mat-Su, Nome, and Valdez.

The FY2026 Management Plan budgeted \$469,400 in general funds to support Alaska's youth courts. Additionally, youth court directors consistently work to secure additional funding for their programs. This includes community-based grants and non-profit sub-grants. For example, the Anchorage Youth Court works to secure dozens of individual grants, the majority of which are \$10,000 or less. In some rare cases, youth courts have also sought federal awards.

AS 47.12.410 *Funding for youth courts*, notes the legislature may appropriate 25 percent of imposed court fines to the Department of Family and Community Services for distribution to Alaska's youth courts.

The dissolution of the North Star Youth Court in Fairbanks means the program's infrastructure, volunteer program, and governance structures would all need to be rebuilt. Youth courts in Alaska depend heavily on stable local funding and community-based grants, which can be difficult to secure in the absence of established programming and state funding.

3. Representative Bynum requested statistics/information pertaining to DFCS staff departures.

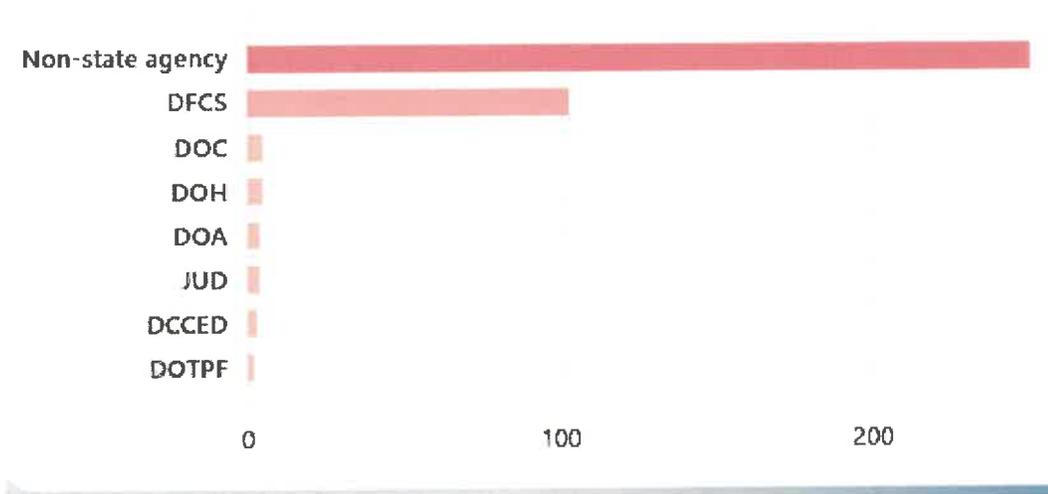
The department routinely analyzes trends in staff changes from a series of reports generated from the Alaska Budget System which are then summarized in a business intelligence and data visualization platform.

For example, the chart below illustrates the tenure of employees leaving DFCS during FY2026 (through mid-February). Most employees who leave their positions within DFCS have been there for less than a year, and the rate of departures tends to decrease the longer someone has been in their position. These trends have been consistent dating back to FY2023, the first year after the bifurcation of the Department of Health and Social Services.



The following chart illustrates where people go to when leaving their position within DFCS. Most departures result in the employee leaving state employment entirely. The second most common departure in DFCS is one where staff move to another position within the department. Again, these trends are consistent with prior years.

Where are Employees Going?



The table below contains the top 10 departures by job title for FY2026 (through mid February). The column on the right indicates the number of departures that resulted in the employee moving elsewhere within the department.

Job Title	# of Departures	Average Service Years	Stayed with DFCS
Assisted Living Aide (PG0210)	39	0.6	6
Certified Nurse Aide 1 (PG0211)	37	4.3	3
Juvenile Justice Counselor 2 (PJ03A2)	35	2.7	10
Pro Svcs Sp 2 (PF0202)	33	2.3	15
Social Services Associate (PF0222)	31	2.5	17
Nurse 2 (PG0312)	19	1.4	2
Pro Svcs Sp 3 (PF0203)	18	3.3	7
Psy Nur Asst 3 (PG0233)	15	2.5	2
Pro Svcs Sp 1 (PF0201)	12	0.5	2
Juvenile Probation Officer 2 (PJ0452)	10	4.2	4

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Marian Sweet
 Assistant Commissioner

cc: Jordan Shilling, Legislative Director, Office of the Governor

