



State of Alaska Department of Health

Division of Public Assistance

FY2024 Budget Overview

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Division of Public Assistance

Mission: To Promote self-sufficiency and provide for basic living expenses to Alaskans in need.

18 Public Assistance Programs:

- Adult Public Assistance
- Child Care
- Family Nutrition
- SNAP Benefits
- General Relief Assistance
- Heating Assistance
- Medicaid Eligibility
- Senior Benefits
- Temporary Assistance

Positions:

- 458 Permanent Full Time
- 65 Long Term Non-Permanent

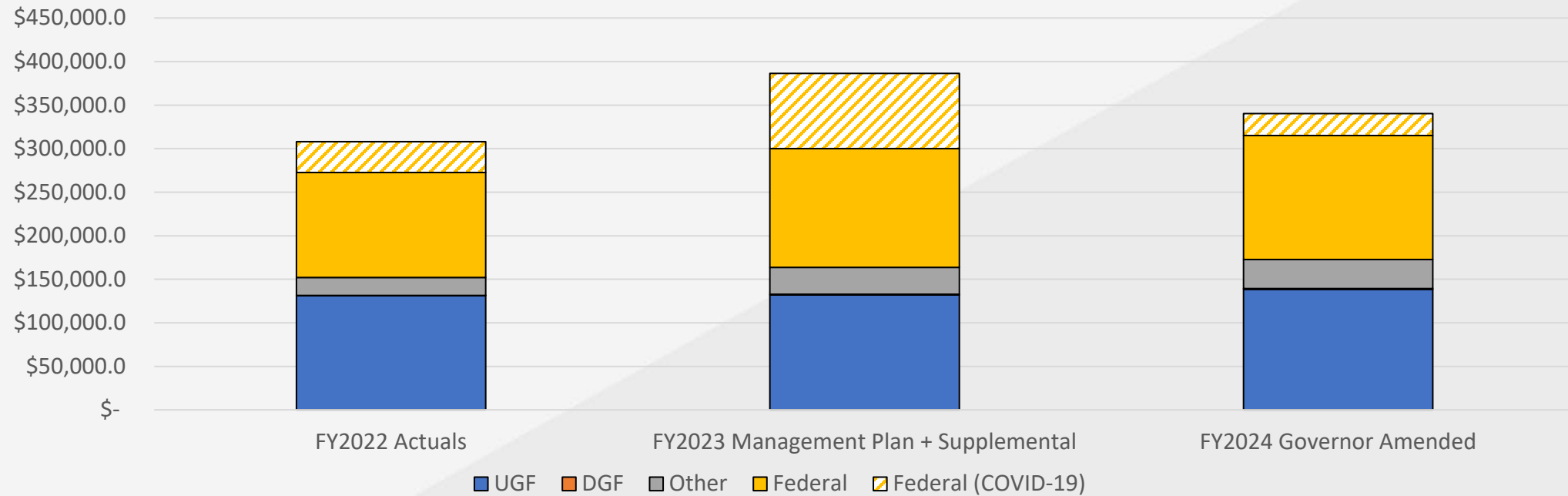
SFY2023 Recipients:

- 274,000+ Alaskans



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Operating Budget Comparison FY2022-FY2024 (in thousands)



	FY2022 Actuals	FY2023 Management Plan + Supplemental	FY2024 Governor Amended
UGF	\$ 131,345.4	\$ 132,091.3	\$ 138,527.6
DGF	\$ 112.3	\$ 814.7	\$ 814.7
Other	\$ 20,731.5	\$ 30,840.4	\$ 33,295.4
Federal	\$ 120,325.9	\$ 136,394.1	\$ 142,548.7
Federal (COVID-19)	\$ 35,553.0	\$ 86,153.0	\$ 25,000.0
Total	\$ 308,068.1	\$ 386,293.5	\$ 340,186.4



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Governor's Budget

December 15 FY2024 Governor (in thousands):

- \$25,000.0 Fed – Child Care Block Grant Discretionary Funds (FY24-FY25)
- \$1,331.9 – 20 Positions to Support Application Processing (FY23-FY24)
 - \$679.2 – Fed
 - \$652.7 – GF Match
- \$3,017.8 – Maintenance of Effort (FY24-FY25)
 - \$210.4 – GF Match – Alaska Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
 - \$2,807.4 – GF Match – Tribal Assistance Programs

February 14 FY2023 Governor Amend Supplemental (in thousands):

- \$3,088.7 UGF – Transfer from Medicaid Services to Public Assistance for Medicaid Eligibility Redeterminations and Application Processing
- \$3,733.0 Fed – Medicaid Eligibility Redeterminations and Application Processing



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Governor's Budget Cont.

February 14 FY2024 Governor Amend (in thousands):

- \$17,834.5 - Medicaid Eligibility Redeterminations and Application Processing (FY24-FY25)
 - \$8,917.3 – Fed
 - \$8,917.2 – GF Match
- \$2,415.0 I/A – Preschool Development Grant (FY24-FY26)
- \$54,234.2 Capital Allocation for Full Mainframe System Replacement
 - 56% funded through federal awards



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Public Assistance Backlog Causes

1. IT systems – 40-year legacy system

- ✓ Eligibility Information System (EIS) was never fully migrated to ARIES
- ✓ Fiscal crisis delayed efforts to modernize systems

2. Pandemic – Manual Processing of benefits

- ✓ DPA was unable to automate the SNAP Emergency Allotments (EA), resulted in manually issued benefits processed by staff for over 2+ years
- ✓ The Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) benefits issued by DPA on behalf DEED
- ✓ When the state public health emergency ended and Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) clarified policy, recertifications restarted for SNAP

3. Cyber Attack in May 2021

- ✓ Pivoted existing IT staff to protection of personal health information, forensic analysis, and recovery efforts
- ✓ The majority of DPA systems were taken down requiring substantial manual processing
- ✓ Planned system changes that would have brought online forms and other improvements were further delayed

4. Open enrollment for Federally Facilitated Marketplace

- ✓ October 2022 – January 2023 also created a recent influx of applications



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Backlog Action Steps

Included in the FY2024 Governor's Amended Budget

Short/Mid-Term Solutions

- Recruiting and onboarding additional permanent and 30 new long-term non-permanent eligibility technician positions
- Temporary staffing contract for the Virtual Call Center
- Lengthen SNAP certification periods from 6 months to 12 months
- Security evaluations and security guards for DPA lobbies
- Securing contractors to program EIS
- Crisis Communication

Long-Term Solutions

- Online SNAP application
- Recruit and Train additional fee agents
- Migrate legacy system programs into ARIES



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Child Care Funding

Preschool Development Grant

- Up to \$8M each year for 3 years, beginning 2023

Federal COVID Relief Funding

- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Stabilization and Supplemental Direct
- Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Act
- ARPA Stabilization and CRRSA fully obligated
- ARPA Supplemental - \$25M for FY24 to allow for obligation and liquidation based on federal timeline requirements



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**Need Help With Your Public Assistance
Application/Recertification?**

Virtual Contact Center (VCC): 800-478-7778

or email our offices at: hss.dpa.offices@alaska.gov

