



State of Alaska Department of Health

Division of Public Assistance

FY2024 Budget Overview

Heidi Hedberg | Commissioner-Designee

Emily Ricci | Deputy Commissioner

Josie Stern | Assistant Commissioner

Deb Etheridge | Division Director

Tuesday, February 28, 2023



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

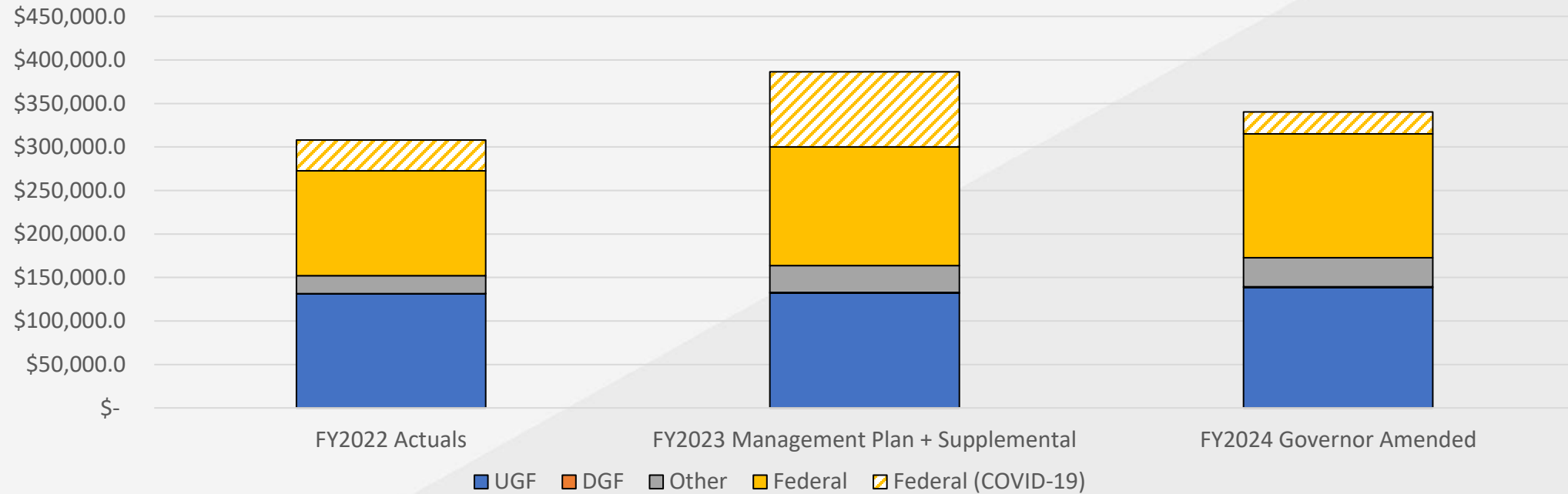
SFY2023 Recipients:

- 274,000+ Alaskans



Division of Public Assistance

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



Division of Public Assistance

Governor's Budget

December 15 FY2024 Governor (in thousands):

- \$25,000.0 Federal childcare block grant discretionary funds (FY2024-FY2025)
- \$1,331.9 20 positions to support application processing (FY2023-FY2024)
 - \$679.2 Federal
 - \$652.7 GF match
- \$3,017.8 maintenance of effort (FY2024-FY2025)
 - \$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 Federal Medicaid eligibility redeterminations and application processing

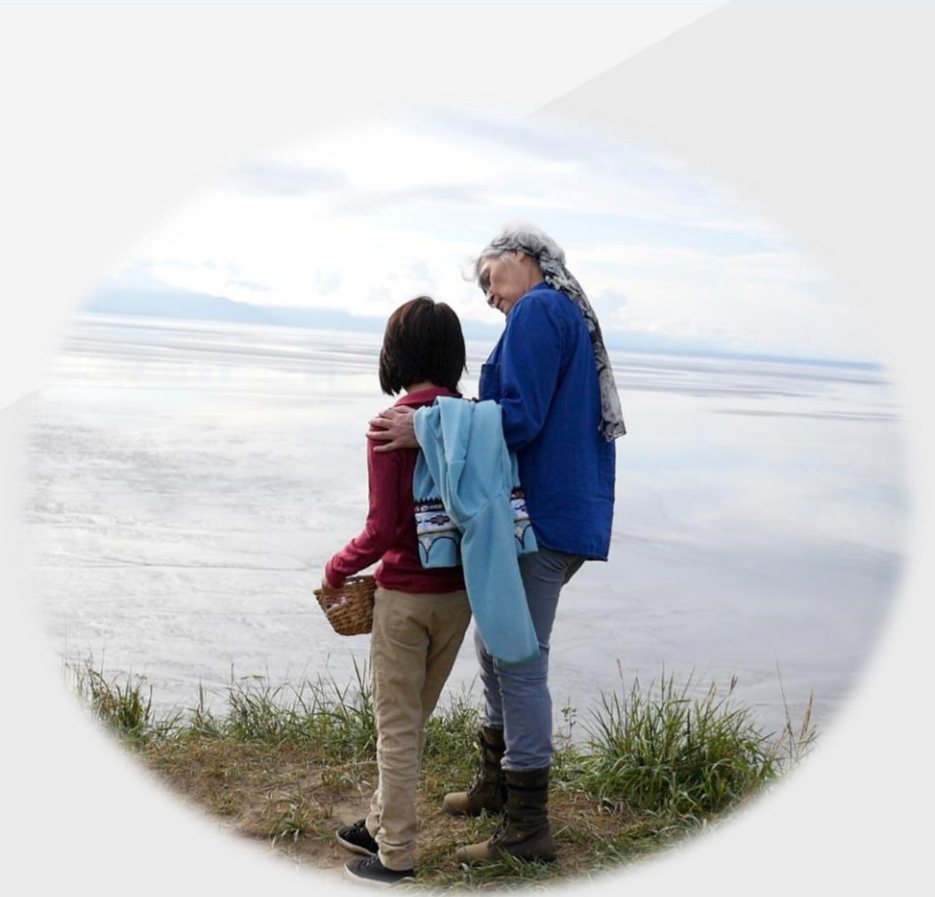


Division of Public Assistance

Governor's Budget Cont.

February 14 FY2024 Governor Amend (in thousands):

- \$17,834.5 Medicaid eligibility redeterminations and application processing (FY2024-FY2025)
 - \$8,917.3 Federal
 - \$8,917.2 GF Match
- \$2,415.0 I/A Preschool Development Grant (FY2024-FY2026)
- \$54,234.2 capital allocation for full mainframe system replacement
 - \$30,152.72 (56%) funded through federal awards
 - \$24,081.5 in GF match and reappropriations



SNAP Timeline



2020

March – Federal and State Public Health Emergency begins

June – SNAP Emergency Allotments issued (manual process)

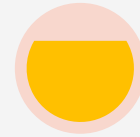
July – SNAP autorenewal begins



2021

May – Cyberattack

Fall – DPA begins issuing Pandemic-EBTs (manual process)



2022

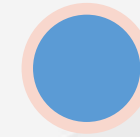
July – State Public Health Emergency ends and requirements to recertify SNAP benefits take effect

August – Last month SNAP Emergency Allotments are issued

October – Federal waiver suspends interviews for SNAP recertification

November – Designated staffing team assigned to work SNAP backlog applications

December – IT reprogramming to roll SNAP recerts for Feb-April 2023 begins



2023

January – IT reprogramming to roll SNAP recerts for Feb-April 2023 complete

January – IT reprograming to for SNAP 12-month certificate period begins

March – Testing begins to transition to permanent 12-month certification period for SNAP

July – Tentative go live transition to 12-month certification period for SNAP

December – Tentative go live for online SNAP application



Public Assistance Backlog: **Immediate Efforts**



Continuous recruitment and onboarding both permanent eligibility technicians and long term non-permanent positions



Engaged additional contractors to program SNAP eligibility systems



Secured temporary contractor to support the Virtual Call Center (VCC) – onboarding underway



Engaged crisis communication contractual support



Security guards at large DPA lobbies, security office assessment in process



Governor Dunleavy redirected \$1.68 million to be distributed to the 150 food pantries across the state

Public Assistance Backlog: **Funding Requests**

December 15 FY2024 Governor (in thousands):

- ✓ \$1,331.9 for 20 positions to support application processing (FY2023-FY2024)
 - \$679.2 Federal
 - \$652.7 in GF Match
 - 10 IT positions

February 14 FY2023 Governor Amend Supplemental (in thousands):

- ✓ \$3,088.7 UGF transfer from Medicaid Services to Public Assistance for Medicaid eligibility redetermination processing
- ✓ \$3,733.0 Federal for Medicaid eligibility redetermination processing

February 14 FY2024 Governor Amend (in thousands):

- ✓ \$54,234.2 capital request for full mainframe system replacement
 - 56% (\$30,152.72) funded through federal awards
 - \$24,081.5 in GF Match and reappropriations



Public Assistance Backlog: Long Term Efforts

Transition from legacy system to Integrated Enrollment Eligibility System underway:



Multi-year effort with five distinct milestones:

Enhanced and Streamlined Worker Experience

•Underway

Migrating SNAP off EIS

•Not Started

Migrate TANF and cash programs off EIS

•Not Started

Transition Non-MAGI Medicaid Categories

•Underway

Improve Case Processing and Communication

•Not Started



Medicaid Renewals

The Unwinding of Continuous Enrollment for Medicaid



Unwinding of Continuous Enrollment for Medicaid

- ✓ Requirement initially tied to the Families First Coronavirus Response Act
- ✓ Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 established the end of continuous enrollment
- ✓ Outlined phase-down of enhanced federal funding match
- ✓ Must meet certain requirements to continue to receive the enhanced FMAP
- ✓ Starting April 1, 2023, Alaska will begin Medicaid eligibility redeterminations
- ✓ Alaska has 12 months to initiate redeterminations for all active Medicaid cases
- ✓ Redeterminations must be completed by June 30, 2024



Medicaid Redetermination: **Funding Requests**

December 15 FY2024 Governor (in thousands):

- ✓ \$18,132.6 Medicaid utilization and inflation

February 14 FY2023 Governor Amend Supplemental (in thousands):

- ✓ \$3,088.7 UGF Transfer from Medicaid Services to Public Assistance for Medicaid eligibility redetermination processing

February 14 FY2024 Governor Amend (in thousands):

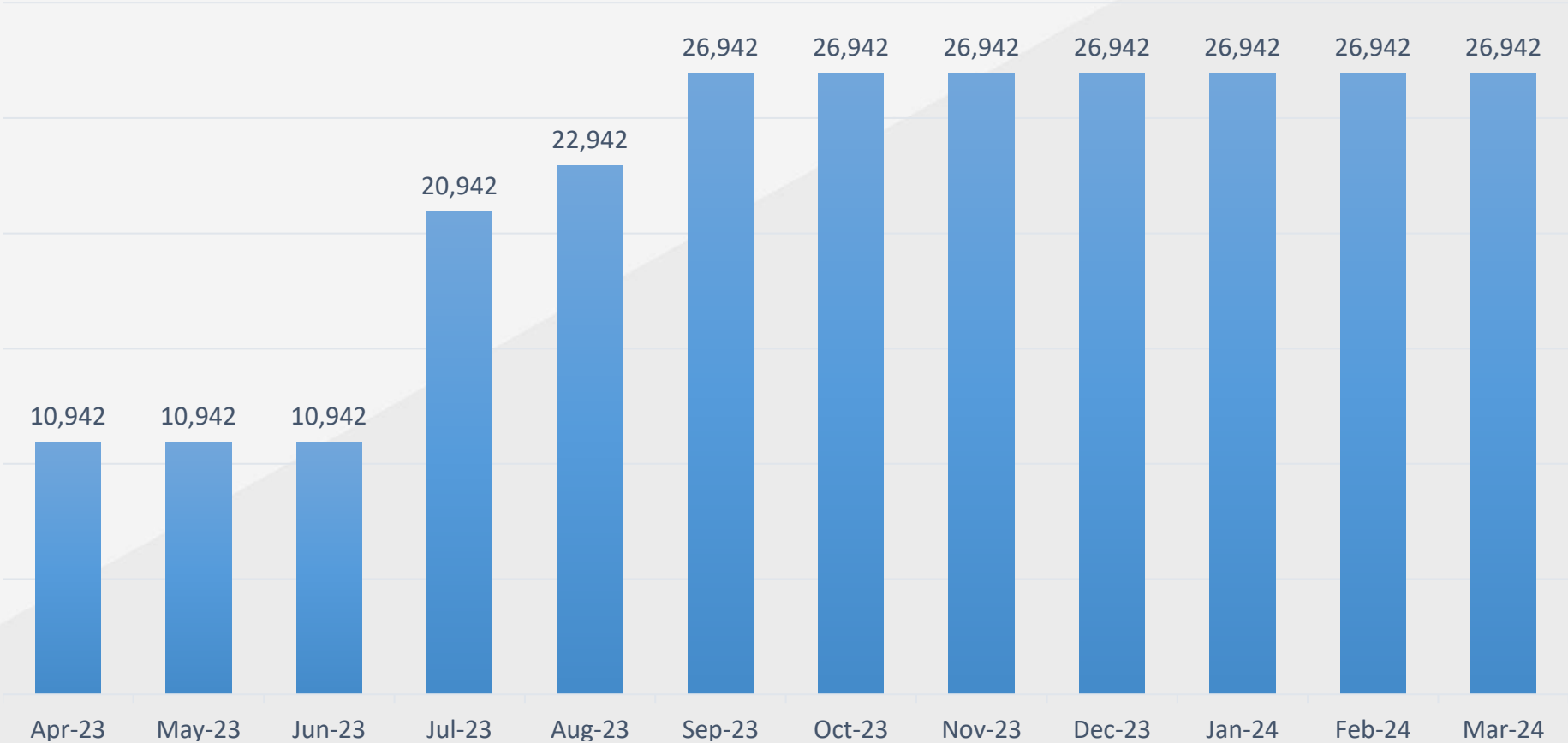
- ✓ \$24,388.0 UGF Medicaid increases from eFMAP stepdown and rate rebasing
- ✓ \$17,834.5 for Medicaid and Public Assistance program eligibility redeterminations (FY2024-FY2025)
 - \$8,917.3 Federal
 - \$8,917.2 GF Match



Alaska's Redetermination Schedule

Number of renewals scheduled to be initiated by month

- ✓ Redeterminations will be distributed over the full 12-month period
- ✓ Proposed ramp up from April through June 2023

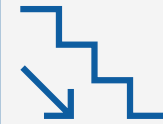


Federal Requirements

If states are unable to meet requirements, states must:

- 1) Have a CMS approved mitigation plan, including set dates for reaching compliance
- 2) Be actively working towards compliance

Alaska may be meet requirements with a mitigation plan and timeframes for full compliance within two years from the end of the unwinding period



Phase Down of FFCRA Temporary FMAP Increase

Jan 1, 2023 - March 31, 2023:	6.2%
April 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023:	5.0%
July 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023:	2.5%
October 1 – December 31, 2023:	1.5%

Division of Public Assistance

**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



Appendix



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

