

Amendment #1

2023 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

OFFERED IN: The House Finance Subcommittee for the Department of Health

TO: HB 39 / HB 41

OFFERED BY: Representative Dan Saddler

FISCAL YEAR: FY24

DEPARTMENT: Department of Health

APPROPRIATION: Public Health

ALLOCATION: Epidemiology

DECREMENT: \$3,295.0 general funds (1004)

EXPLANATION: This amendment decrements the FY24 increment to the Epidemiology allocation's base budget. This decrement will be split as \$1,990.0 from the Services line and \$1,305.0 from the Commodities line.

ADD: \$3,295.0 general funds (1004)

EXPLANATION: This action would replace the above decrements to the base budget with temporary increments to the Epidemiology allocation's FY24 budget and continue as temporary increments through FY30 to align with the Governor's Healthy Alaskans 2030 public health initiative. This action would temporarily increment \$1,990.0 to the Services line and \$1,305.0 to the Commodities line.

Amendment #2

2023 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

OFFERED IN: The House Finance Subcommittee for the Department of Health

TO: HB 39 / HB 41

OFFERED BY: Representative Dan Saddler

FISCAL YEAR: FY24

DEPARTMENT: Department of Health

APPROPRIATION: Public Health

ALLOCATION: Public Health Laboratories

DECREMENT: \$705.0 general funds (1004)

EXPLANATION: This amendment decrements the FY24 increment to the Public Health Laboratories allocation's base budget. This decrement will be split as \$205.0 from the Personal Services line and \$500.0 from the Commodities line.

ADD: \$705.0 general funds (1004)

EXPLANATION: This action would replace the above decrements to the base budget with temporary increments to the Public Health Laboratories allocation's FY24 budget and continue as temporary increments through FY30 to align with the Governor's Healthy Alaskans 2030 public health initiative. This action would temporarily increment \$205.0 to the Personal Services line and \$500.0 to the Commodities line.

Amendment #3

2023 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

OFFERED IN: The House Finance Subcommittee for the Department of Health

TO: HB 39 / HB 41

OFFERED BY: Representative Genevieve Mina

FISCAL YEAR: FY24

DEPARTMENT: Department of Health

APPROPRIATION: Senior and Disability Services

ALLOCATION: General Relief/Temporary Assistance Payments

ADD: \$6,444.9 general funds (1004) in the Grants/Benefits line (7000)

ADD INTENT: It is the intent of the legislature that the department increase the daily rate for General Relief/Temporary Assisted Living from \$104.30 to \$169.48 to reflect the real costs of General Relief/Temporary Assisted Living in assisted living homes.

EXPLANATION: In FY23, the daily rate of General Relief increased by inflation from \$70 to \$104.30 on July 1, 2022. However, the inflation-adjusted rate is below the actual costs of General Relief. The \$6,444.9 increment to the Governor's FY24 proposed funds for General Relief/Temporary Assisted Living increases the total funds to \$16,839, resulting in a daily rate of \$169.48.

Amendment #4

2023 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

OFFERED IN: The House Finance Subcommittee for the Department of Health

TO: HB 39 / HB 41

OFFERED BY: Rep. Fields

FISCAL YEAR: FY24

DEPARTMENT: Health

APPROPRIATION: Public Assistance

ALLOCATION: Child Care Benefits

ADD: \$250.0 / Fund Source: Unrestricted General Fund (UGF) / Fund Code: 1004

EXPLANATION: This amendment proposal provides additional funding to the Child Care Program Office to conduct a state-wide child care cost study. Statutorily, Department of Health conducts a biennial child care cost study focused on the “market-rate” of child care providers statewide.

This appropriation would provide funding for an additional study focused on the true cost of child care, as experienced by parents. The study should include detailed information on the share of parents who pay for child care exclusively through private means, and also outline information on parents who receive state, local, or Tribal government subsidies. Information about employer-assistance child care programs is also requested.

Amendment #5

2023 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

OFFERED IN: The House Finance Subcommittee for the Department of Health

TO: HB 39 / HB 41

OFFERED BY: Rep. Fields

FISCAL YEAR: FY24

DEPARTMENT: Health

APPROPRIATION: Public Assistance

ALLOCATION: Child Care Benefits

ADD: \$250.0 / Fund Source: Unrestricted General Fund (UGF) / Fund Code: 1004

EXPLANATION: This amendment proposal expands agency capacity for outreach for programs to include Alaska Inclusive Child Care Program (Alaska IN!). Early intervention has proven life-long benefits to program recipients, however program participation rates remain low.

With increased funding, Department of Health may expand outreach to families with children with developmental disabilities, with the goal of bringing Alaska up to the national average for outcomes for young children.

Amendment #6

2023 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

OFFERED IN: The House Finance Subcommittee for the Department of Health

TO: HB 39 / HB 41

OFFERED BY: Rep. Fields

FISCAL YEAR: FY24

DEPARTMENT: Health

APPROPRIATION: Senior & Disabilities Services

ALLOCATION: Early Intervention / Infant Learning Programs

ADD: \$300.0 / Fund Source: General Fund / Mental Health (GF / MH)
(UGF) / Fund Code: 1037

EXPLANATION: This amendment proposal expands agency capacity for outreach for Alaska Infant Learning Program. Early intervention has proven life-long benefits to program recipients, however program participation rates remain low. Children from birth to 3 years are in the most important developmental phase of their lives.

Alaska's Infant Learning Program offers developmental screening & evaluation, hearing & vision screening, family services coordination, early educational services, social services such as support or play groups, and developmental services such as therapies, physical occupation, and speech language therapy.

The ILP program will not deny services for inability to pay. With increased funding, Department of Health may expand outreach to families with children with developmental disability, with the goal of supporting early intervention efforts to bring Alaska up to the national average for outcomes for young children with developmental disabilities.

Amendment #7

2023 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

OFFERED IN: The House Finance Subcommittee for the Department of Health

TO: HB 39 / HB 41

OFFERED BY: Rep. Fields

FISCAL YEAR: FY24

DEPARTMENT: Health

APPROPRIATION: Senior & Disabilities Services

ALLOCATION: SDS Community Based Grants

ADD: \$725.0 / Fund Source: Unrestricted General Fund (UGF) / Fund Code: 1004

EXPLANATION: This amendment proposal provides an additional increment to this allocation to further increase community grants over their FY 2023 amount. Community grants serve older Alaskans from Utqiagvik to Ketchikan. They enable seniors to remain independent and to live in the community of their choice. Community grants may be used to cover up to 1/3 in total eligible project costs.

This program has dwindled in scale after nearly a decade of flat funding and the ravages of inflation. The number of seniors in Alaska increases by more than 10% each year, growing the number of recipients seeking services and increasing costs over time. In 2022, Alaskans aged 60+ (147,504) represent more than 20% of the State's total population (736,556).

An additional FY 2024 increment over the Governor's amended budget request will ensure the program keeps up with growing need in the coming fiscal year.

Amendment #8

2023 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

OFFERED IN: The House Finance Subcommittee for the Department of Health

TO: HB 39 / HB 41

OFFERED BY: Rep. Fields

FISCAL YEAR: FY24

DEPARTMENT: Health

APPROPRIATION: Senior & Disabilities Services

ALLOCATION: Senior/Disabilities Svcs Admin

ADD: \$640.0 / Fund Source: General Fund / Match (GF/Match) / Fund Code: 1003

EXPLANATION: This amendment proposal increases funding for the Senior / Disabilities Services Admin allocation, to better allocate statewide services to maximize efficiency.

The number of seniors in Alaska increases by more than 10% each year, growing the number of recipients seeking services and increasing costs over time. In 2022, Alaskans aged 60+ (147,504) represent more than 20% of the state's total population (736,556). With a growing senior population, there is growing demand for Medicaid-based services. An increment to this allocation will allow the Department to increase staffing in high-need areas of the state.

Amendment #9

2023 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

OFFERED IN: The House Finance Subcommittee for the Department of Health

TO: HB 39 / HB 41

OFFERED BY: Rep. Fields

FISCAL YEAR: FY24

DEPARTMENT: Health

APPROPRIATION: Public Assistance

ALLOCATION: Child Care Benefits

ADD: \$30,000.0 / Fund Source: Unrestricted General Fund (UGF) / Fund Code: 1004

EXPLANATION: Federal relief funding injected the child care sector with millions of dollars, helping keep child care providers' doors open. Final phase of the child care stabilization grant program ends March 2023. The federal relief funds have not solved the long-term challenge: how to provide quality services and pay workers a competitive wage while keeping prices affordable.

Until the legislature takes policy action to increase worker pay and stabilize parent costs in the child care sector, the state must invest its resources to stabilize the sector. Components of this targeted investment to include: working parent support, child care workforce support, and child care program support. Reinstate covering child care co-pays for families using child care assistance; and provide child care assistance to the child care workforce regardless of income. Invest in supplemental wages to individual early educators. Continue support to licensed child care programs to ensure Alaska's workforce has access to child care.