

University of Alaska Fairbanks - Achieve Research 1 Status **FY2025 Request:** **\$20,000,000**
Reference No: **64794**

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Research / Studies / Planning
Category: University **House District:** Fairbanks Areawide (HD 31 - 35)
Location: Fairbanks (Denali/University) **Contact:** Michelle Rizk
Impact House District: Fairbanks Areawide (HD 31 - 35) **Contact Phone:** (907)450-8187
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2024 - 06/30/2029

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The sum of \$20,000,000 is appropriated to the University of Alaska Fairbanks, to achieve Research 1 status as defined by the Carnegie Classification System, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, from the following sources:

- (1) \$10,000,000 from the unrestricted general fund;
- (2) \$10,000,000 from university receipts.

The appropriation is contingent on the University of Alaska Fairbanks awarding at least 70 doctoral degrees in the academic year from the fall semester 2024 to the spring semester 2025.

Funding:	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	Total
1004 Gen Fund	\$10,000,000						\$10,000,000
1048 Univ Rcpt	\$10,000,000						\$10,000,000
Total:	\$20,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000,000

State Match Required One-Time Project Phased - new Phased - underway Ongoing
0% = Minimum State Match % Required Amendment Mental Health Bill

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

R1 is the highest ranking of doctoral granting research universities in the United States as defined by the Carnegie Classification System. The University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) currently ranks as an R2 “high research activity” university and attaining R1 status is an ambitious yet realistic goal. These funds will be used for graduate student stipends and assistantships to support the recruitment, retention, and mentorship of graduate students and the strengthening of the UAF’s PhD programs to help UAF

Project Description/Justification:

R1 status will provide global recognition for UAF’s high research productivity; enhance competitiveness for external funding; attract globally competitive faculty, staff, and students, further improving the quality and caliber of UAF research and education; increase student enrollment; and provide economic benefits to the

broader Fairbanks community and beyond.

UAF currently has over 280 PhD students enrolled in UAF programs and will strive to increase PhD graduation from approximately 40 PhDs annually, to a minimum of 70 PhDs annually, in addition to growing the pipeline of incoming PhDs. Faculty play a critical role in mentoring doctoral students and postdoctoral research fellows; therefore, faculty support incentives are a critical component to increasing research productivity and advancing UAF to R1 status. Support for the Graduate School will help increase capacity and improve efficiency to ensure that the needs associated with higher volume and faster degree completion rates of PhD students can be met. Funding will also be used to organize prospective graduate student visitation weekends; these visits present an opportunity to draw research talent to Alaska and is a common recruitment strategy used by R1 universities. Finally, this investment will strengthen UAF's research portfolio while helping to advance Alaska-relevant priorities such as building climate resilience, mitigating natural hazards, retaining, and growing Alaska Native Languages and Indigenous ways of knowing, improving the health of Alaskans and our environment, and developing sustainable energy sources and infrastructure. This short-term investment will yield long-term financial growth through increased research revenue, student enrollment, and endowments. Achieving R1 research status isn't just about growing research, it's about growing Alaska.