



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

## Department of Health

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January 31, 2024

The Honorable Will Stapp  
State Capitol, Room 513  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Stapp,

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the Chronic and Acute Medical Assistance (CAMA) and General Relief (GR) program.

***How many applications for general relief (rent and utility assistance) were submitted in FY21, FY22, and FY23? (Just submitted applications)***

The below reflects all General Relief (GR) Assistance Initial Applications, including Rental, Utility, Food, Miscellaneous, and Burial. The Department is unable to distinguish applications by category of GR.

- FY21 - 11,904
- FY22 - 6,564
- FY23 - 6,226

***In FY22 there were 109 rental payments and 69 utility payments based on data from the Department of Health (DOH). How many payments per household does this equate to? (Example 1 family = 12 utility payments and 12 rental payments)***

General Relief is determined on a month-by-month basis, in as such an individual / household will need to reapply for assistance each month. i.e. once a household receives rental assistance in one month, it is not automatic for subsequent months.

***How many people receive GR medical assistance?***

Presently there are no recipients.

***What is the department's interpretation of discretionary assistance as defined in AS 47.25.252? Did DPA make any distributions under this statute? If so, what was the amount?***

The division does not pay any discretionary GR benefits. If the individual is not eligible for GR based on the policy outlined in the manual, the application is denied.

***How many applications for CAMA were submitted in FY21, FY22, and FY23? How many were approved?***

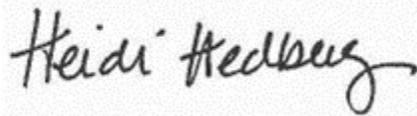
The division is unable to differentiate GR and CAMA applications to determine categories for applications received, but CAMA was approved for two individuals in Calendar Year 2021, zero individuals in 2022 and 2023.

***What would the average time be to process an application for the CAMA program? (roughly)***

Processing time is roughly 90 minutes per application, but additional review may extend this time to a few hours and pend periods for needed information.

Please let me know if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heidi Hedberg". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light gray map of Alaska.

Heidi Hedberg  
Commissioner

