

*DOH Amendment 1*

**2022 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL**

**OFFERED IN:** The House Finance Subcommittee

**TO:** HB 281 / HB 282

**OFFERED BY:** Representative Fields

**DEPARTMENT:** Health

**APPROPRIATION:** Behavioral Health

**ALLOCATION:** Behavioral Health Prevention & Early Intervention Grants

**ADD:** **\$346,660 UGF GF/MH (1037)**

**EXPLANATION:** Add 20% UGF increase to Behavioral Health Prevention & Early Intervention Grants which are funded with \$1,728.3 UGF in the FY22 Management Plan and FY23 Adjusted Base. We have heard from stakeholders that the 1115 Medicaid Waiver will not necessarily cover all services or mandatory grant requirements. Providers are worried about losing key funding that allows them to keep their doors open.

Given the behavioral health crisis within the pandemic, there should be a commitment from the state as well as direction and support for providers to ensure a consistent continuum of care.

*DOH Amendment 2*

**2022 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL**

**OFFERED IN:** The House Finance Subcommittee

**TO:** HB 281 / HB 282

**OFFERED BY:** Representative Fields

**DEPARTMENT:** Health

**APPROPRIATION:** Behavioral Health

**ALLOCATION:** Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery Grants

**ADD:** **\$959,520 UGF (1003)**

**EXPLANATION:** Add 20% UGF increase to Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery Grants, which are funded with \$4,797,600 UGF in the FY22 Management Plan and FY23 Adjusted Base. We have heard from stakeholders that the 1115 Medicaid Waiver will not necessarily cover all services or mandatory grant requirements. Providers are worried about losing key funding that allows them to keep their doors open.

Given the behavioral health crisis within the pandemic, there should be a commitment from the state as well as direction and support for providers to ensure a consistent continuum of care.

*DOH Amendment 3*

**2022 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL**

**OFFERED IN:** The House Finance Subcommittee

**TO:** HB 281 / HB 282

**OFFERED BY:** Josephson

**DEPARTMENT:** Health

**APPROPRIATION:** Senior and Disabilities Services

**ADD INTENT:** It is the intent of the legislature that the department develop a five-year plan, in collaboration with stakeholders, to eradicate the waitlist for the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities waiver and to prevent waitlists for other Home and Community Based Waivers, and submit the plan to the Co-Chairs of the Finance Committees and the Legislative Finance Division by December 20, 2022.

**EXPLANATION:** Until FY16 Alaska was drawing 200 individuals with IDD annually from the waitlist and providing them with a Medicaid waiver. In FY16 the number of draws was reduced to 50 annually. As a result, at the present time over 600 Alaskans with IDD are waiting for services. The longer they remain on the waitlist and do not receive services that fully meet their needs, the more costs increase. Without supports, young adults sit at home and lose the skills they developed in school. Family members neglect their health and forego income trying to “do it all,” especially as they and their loved ones face the challenge of aging.

*DOH Amendment 4*

**2022 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL**

**OFFERED IN:** The House Finance Subcommittee

**TO:** HB 281 / HB 282

**OFFERED BY:** Representative Snyder

**DEPARTMENT:** Health

**APPROPRIATION:** Medicaid Services

**ALLOCATION:** Medicaid Services

**ADD:** \$870.9 GF Match (1003)

\$870.9 Federal Receipts (1002)

**INTENT:** It is the intent of the legislature that the department draw a minimum of 70 new individuals from the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities waiver waitlist in FY23 to receive services. The department shall submit a waiver amendment, if necessary, to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid to ensure costs for this increased draw will be matched with federal dollars.

*DOH Amendment 5*

**2022 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL**

**OFFERED IN:** The House Finance Subcommittee

**TO:** HB 281 / HB 282

**OFFERED BY:** Josephson

**DEPARTMENT:** Health

**APPROPRIATION:** Senior and Disabilities Services

**ALLOCATION:** Senior and Disabilities Community Based Grants

**ADD:** \$1,498.2 UGF (1004)

**ADD INTENT:** It is the intent of the legislature that the department distribute \$586,000 UGF, in addition to the FY22 level of grant funding for the Centers for Independent Living, to the Centers for Independent Living. It is furthermore the intent of the legislature that \$912,200, be distributed to SDS Community Based Grant recipients that provide services to Alaska seniors, in addition to their FY22 level of grant funding

**EXPLANATION:** This amendment addresses the urgent need to adjust grants to partially address the impacts of inflation, wage pressure and population growth on services to seniors and disabled individuals that allow Alaskans to live as independently as possible. Multiple senior organizations and Centers for Independent Living have explained how services have been strained and diminished during a decade of nearly flat funding while the senior population has increased dramatically. The increment is 13% of the UGF for Senior and Disabilities Community Based Grants, which represents two years of the 2021 Alaska 6.5% rate of inflation.

*DOH Amendment 6*

**2022 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL**

**OFFERED IN:** The House Finance Subcommittee

**TO:** HB 281 / HB 282

**OFFERED BY:** Rep. Spohnholz

**DEPARTMENT:** Health

**APPROPRIATION:** Senior and Disabilities Services

**ALLOCATION:** General Relief/Temporary Assisted Living

**ADD:** \$3,418.5 Gen Fund (1004)

**ADD INTENT:**

It is the intent of the legislature that the department increase the daily rate for General Relief/Temporary Assisted Living from \$70 to \$104.30 to reflect Alaska's inflation rate (according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index for Urban Alaska) since the rate was last set on July 1, 2002.

**EXPLANATION:**

This amendment increases the total funds for General Relief/Temporary Assisted Living by 49%, adjusting the value to Alaska's inflation rate (using the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index for Urban Alaska). The daily rate of \$70 has not increased since the rate was last set on July 1, 2002. The 49% increase to the Governor's FY23 proposed funds for General Relief/Temporary Assisted Living increases the total funds to \$10,395.0 and results in an increment of \$3,418.5.

*DOH Amendment 7*

**2022 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL**

**OFFERED IN:** The House Finance Subcommittee

**TO:** HB 281 / HB 282

**OFFERED BY:** Snyder

**DEPARTMENT:** Health

**APPROPRIATION:** Public Assistance

**ALLOCATION:** Public Assistance Field Services

**ADD:** \$679.2 Fed Rcpts (1002)  
\$652.7 GF/Match (UGF) (1003)

**POSITIONS:** 20 PFT

**EXPLANATION:** This amendment adds 20 full time positions within Public Assistance Field Services. During last year's budget process, the Governor requested the deletion of 101 positions. The Legislature ultimately approved 50% of the reduced positions and 75% of the funding reductions. The Governor ultimately vetoed the smaller reductions and as of August 18, 2021, 78 of the 101 deleted positions were vacant.

The Department stated that last year's reduction could be achieved as a result of technological updates, however, we have continued to hear from constituents and stakeholders about a backlog in processing applications for benefits. This amendment provides sufficient staff for the department to handle applications and the upcoming changes to COVID-related benefits such as the large-scale review of Medicaid eligibility when federal benefit extension expires.

*DOH Amendment 8*

**2022 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL**

**OFFERED IN:** The House Finance Subcommittee

**TO:** HB 281 / HB 282

**OFFERED BY:** Snyder

**DEPARTMENT:** Health

**APPROPRIATION:** Public Health

**ALLOCATION:** Nursing

**ADD:** \$520,000 (1004 UGF)

**INTENT:** It is the intent of the legislature that the department direct \$520,000 UGF to recruitment and retention efforts in Public Health Nursing including a \$5,000 sign-on bonus and \$5,000 in relocation support for each of the vacant Public Health Nursing positions.

**EXPLANATION:** Public Health Nursing has been facing ongoing recruitment and retention issues, which negatively impacts community health and contributes to burnout in the existing workforce. Many positions have remained vacant despite funding existing for them. This amendment implements similar recruitment incentives used in other state departments to fill these vacancies. The increment is based on 52 vacant positions.

Public health nurses provide critical services for Alaskan communities, including health education, health program implementation and evaluation, emergency preparedness activities, infectious disease investigation, and immunizations. A key focus in public health nursing is prevention, which improves quality of life and is critical to reducing overall healthcare costs for the state. This amendment seeks to use the funds appropriated for the Public Health Nursing positions that remained vacant during the last fiscal year.

*DOH Amendment 9*

**2022 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL**

**OFFERED IN:** The House Finance Subcommittee

**TO:** HB 281 / HB 282

**OFFERED BY:** Josephson

**DEPARTMENT:** Health

**APPROPRIATION:** Public Health

**ALLOCATION:** Public Health Administrative Services

**ADD:** \$120.0 GF Match (1003)

**POSITIONS:** 1 PFT position

**EXPLANATION:** This amendment creates a position in the Division of Public Health to develop a state plan required to access federal BOLD Act funds to address Alzheimer's disease in Alaska. The BOLD Act provides funds to reduce risks, improve early diagnosis, prevent, manage related health issues, and avoid hospitalization related to Alzheimer's disease.

The position is a Public Health Specialist II whose responsibilities may also include development and implementation of specific strategies to ensure community engagement, the provision of educational materials, creation, and maintenance of a list of providers who provide dementia services, and implementation of a statewide comprehensive public awareness campaign in conjunction with stakeholders.

*DOH Amendment 10*

**2022 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL**

**OFFERED IN:** The House Finance Subcommittee

**TO:** HB 281 / HB 282

**OFFERED BY:** Representative Snyder

**DEPARTMENT:** Health

**APPROPRIATION:** Departmental Support Services

**ALLOCATION:** Commissioner's Office

**ADD:** \$500,000 UGF (1004)

**EXPLANATION:** These funds will support a contracted study tasked with developing evidence-based, stakeholder-informed recommendations on improving the performance, reach, and efficiency of DHSS programs, which may also include recommendations regarding how to successfully split DHSS into two or more smaller departments. This funding is 25% of the funding proposed to fill 13 new upper-level positions created to complete the same task as the study, while freeing up the remaining 75% of funds to meet well-established, long-running needs in the department (e.g., recruitment and retention, technology upgrades). This amendment recognizes and appreciates the potential benefit of splitting the department and the work thus far expended in preparation of a split, but provides a more conservative, appropriately-paced path forward while also addressing immediate needs.

*DOH Amendment 11*

**2022 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL**

**OFFERED IN:** The House Finance Subcommittee

**TO:** HB 281 / HB 282

**OFFERED BY:** Josephson

**DEPARTMENT:** Health

**APPROPRIATION:** Medicaid Services

**ALLOCATION:** Medicaid Services

**ADD APPROPRIATION LEVEL INTENT LANGUAGE:** It is the intent of the legislature that the Department submit the Medicaid Unrestricted General Fund Obligation Report for FY22 and the first half of FY23 to the co-chairs of the Finance Committees and the Legislative Finance Division by January 31st, 2023 and subsequently update the report as requested by the legislature.

**EXPLANATION:** The Medicaid Unrestricted General Fund Obligation Report provides the legislature a status of UGF obligations in the Medicaid program for the most recently closed fiscal year as well as the first half of the active fiscal year at the beginning of the legislative session.

*DOH Amendment 12*

**2022 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL**

**OFFERED IN:** The House Finance Subcommittee

**TO:** HB 281 / HB 282

**OFFERED BY:** Josephson

**DEPARTMENT:** Health

**ADD CONDITIONAL LANGUAGE:** At the discretion of the Commissioner of the Department of Health, up to \$10,000,000 may be transferred between all appropriations in the Department of Health, except that no transfer may be made from the Medicaid Services appropriation, and the Department shall submit a report of transfers between appropriations that occurred during the fiscal year ending June 20, 2023, to the Legislative Finance Division by September 30, 2023.

**EXPLANATION:** Similar language has been included in the operating budget of the Department of Health and Social Services for over five years. In FY22 that department was authorized to transfer \$20 million between appropriations. This amendment authorizes \$10 million transfer to reflect the reorganization into two departments.