

**State of Alaska
Department of Health
Division of Public Assistance**

FY2027 Budget Overview
House Finance Subcommittee

Deb Etheridge, Director

Ciara Meek, Administrative Operations Manager

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

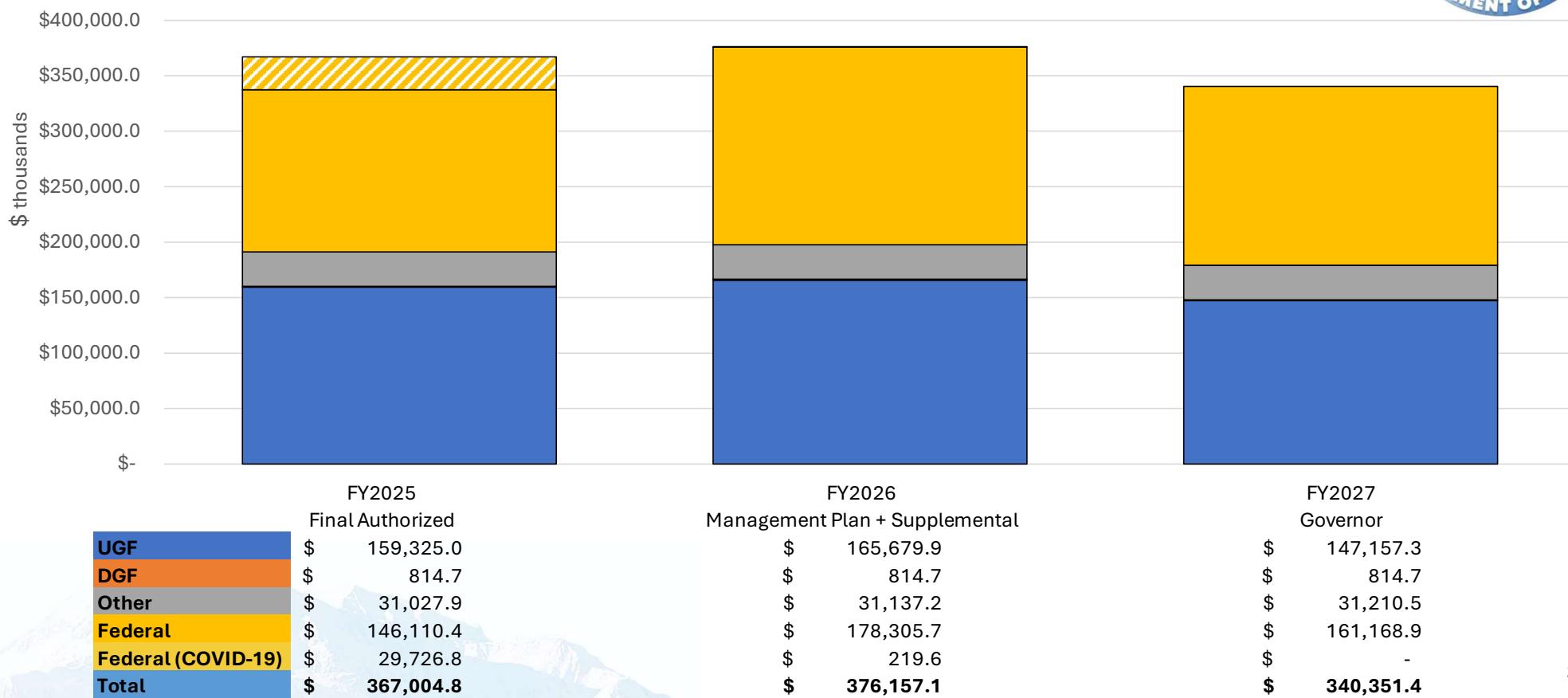


Public Assistance*



Operating Budget (FY2025-FY2027)

Dollars in thousands



* Including Senior Benefits Payment Program

FY2026 Budget Update



FY2026 Budget Updates	Total	Federal	UGF
Preschool Development Grant	\$14,000.0	\$14,000.0	\$0.0
Child Care Grant Program	\$5,867.1	\$0.0	\$5,867.1
Senate Bill 95 – Child Care	\$6,092.2	\$225.1	\$5,867.1
Add 15 full-time Eligibility Technician positions	\$1,629.8	\$814.9	\$814.9
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program New Investment	\$5,954.3	\$0.0	\$5,954.3

FY2026 Budget Supplements



FY2026 Supplemental Requests	Total	Federal	UGF
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program New Investment	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Eligibility Systems Amid Rising Operating Costs	\$21,041.9	\$9,769.4	\$11,272.5
Virtual Contact Center	\$5,900.0	\$4,345.6	\$1,554.4
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Food Costs	\$4,500.0	\$4,500.0	\$0.0
Maintain the Senior Benefits Payment Program	\$1,125.0	\$0.0	\$1,125.0

FY2027 Budget Changes



Reversal of One-Time Items	Total	Federal	UGF
Reverse American Rescue Plan Act for WIC	(\$219.6)	(\$219.6)	\$0.0
Reverse Maintenance of Effort for AK Temp Asst for Needy Families	(\$210.5)	\$0.0	(\$210.5)
Salary / Rate Adjustments	Total	Federal	UGF
FY2027 AlaskaCare Rate Adjustment	\$161.4	\$85.1	\$64.2
FY2027 Salary Adjustments	\$2,503.9	\$1,393.1	\$1,049.6
Increment	Total	Federal	UGF
Extend Senior Benefits (SB147)	\$480.3	\$0.0	\$480.3

Operational Update



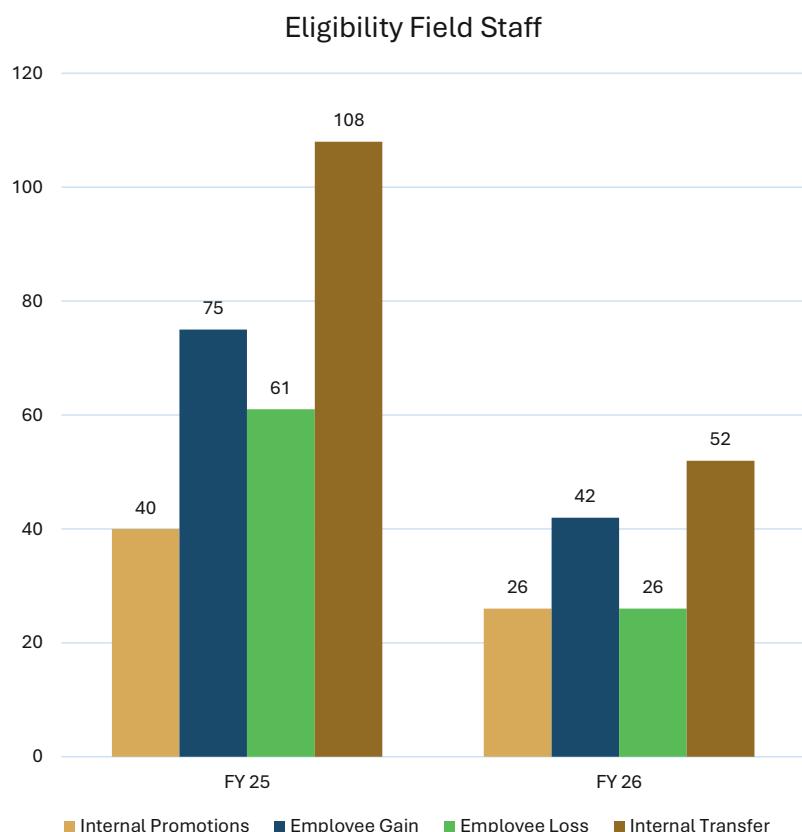
Improving Service

- Increased Number of Clients Served
- Improved SNAP Timeliness from 60 days to 43 days
- Continue to meet IT Milestones
- Work Assistance tool

Launched

- Virtual Contact Center enhancements
- DPA in a Box
- Job Class Study

Eligibility Staffing



- **FY25:** High internal mobility; net gain of 14 field staff
- **FY26:** Fewer internal transfers; higher net staffing growth
- **Outlook:** Trends point to continued staff growth and added capacity

Moving Forward



- All Program Application
- Moving Medicaid off legacy system
- SNAP Modernization Module
- Investment in Quality:
 - Workforce support tools
 - Client experience

Thank You

Questions?

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