

# Senior BENEFITS PROGRAM



## Fact Sheet February 3, 2015

The Alaska Senior Benefits Payment Program was established on August 1, 2007 and is currently set to end on June 30, 2015. It pays cash benefits to Alaskans who are age 65 or older and have low to moderate income. Cash payments are \$125, \$175, or \$250 each month depending on income.

### Recipients

- There were 11,222 Senior Benefits recipients as of December 2014.
  - ✓ Number and percent of seniors at each payment level in December 2014.
  - ✓ \$250 – 1,442 (12.9%)
  - ✓ \$175 – 4,668 (41.6%)
  - ✓ \$125 – 5,108 (45.5%)
- Average age of recipients is 75. The maximum age is 104.

### Program Expenditures

- | FY 2010    | FY 2011    | FY 2012    | FY 2013    | FY 2014    | FY 2015    | FY 2016    |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| \$19,147.9 | \$20,609.5 | \$20,893.7 | \$21,128.6 | \$21,656.5 | \$23,897.0 | \$23,964.6 |
- Projected program expenditures for FY 2015 are \$23,897.0. Projected expenditures for FY 2016 are \$23,964.6.

### Eligibility and Payment

- Eligibility and payment amount is based on gross annual income (before any deductions are taken for taxes, Medicare premiums, etc.).

Senior Household Size	Senior Benefits Program Gross Annual Income Limit (Effective 3/1/2015)		
	\$250 monthly payment	\$175 monthly payment	\$125 monthly payment
Individual	\$11,040 (\$920 per month)	\$14,720 (\$1,2127 per month)	\$25,760 (\$2,146 per month)
Married Couple	\$14,940 (\$1,245 per month)	\$19,920 (\$1,660 per month)	\$34,860 (\$2,905 per month)

- Income limits may change yearly along with Alaska's federal poverty level. The \$250, \$175, and \$125 monthly payments correspond to 75 percent, 100 percent, and 175 percent of the federal poverty level for Alaska, respectively.
- Assets, such as savings, are not counted for eligibility.

- Payments are not available to seniors living in the following institutions:
  - ✓ Prison or jail,
  - ✓ Nursing home,
  - ✓ Alaska Pioneers' Home or Alaska Veterans' Home, or
  - ✓ Public or private institution for mental disease

Geographic Distribution by Census Area, December 2014

Census Area	Number of Recipients	Census Area	Number of Recipients
ALEUTIANS EAST	24	MAT-SU	1,480
ALEUTIANS WEST	37	NOME	252
ANCHORAGE	4,114	NORTH SLOPE	35
BETHEL	538	NW ARCTIC	174
BRISTOL BAY	11	PETERSBURG	85
DENALI	15	PRINCE OF WALES	210
DILLINGHAM	134	SE FAIRBANKS	203
FAIRBANKS N STAR	821	SITKA	117
HAINES	84	SKAGWAY	9
HOONAH-ANGOON	90	VALDEZ/CORDOVA	167
JUNEAU	342	WADE HAMPTON	238
KENAI	1,129	WRANGELL	99
KETCHIKAN GATEWAY	273	YAKUTAT	17
KODIAK	224	YUKON KOYUKUK	259
LAKE AND PENINSULA	40	Grand Total	11,222

Evolution of the Senior Benefits Program	
1972 - 2003	<b>Alaska Longevity Bonus Program.</b> The Alaska Longevity Bonus Program was established in 1972. Alaska residents became eligible upon reaching the age of 65. \$250/month was issued to seniors who applied before 1994, \$200 to those applying in 1994, \$150 to those applying in 1995, and \$100 to those applying in 1996. Payments were not available to seniors who applied after 1996. The program was subsequently defunded in 2003, and final benefits were issued for the month of August 2003.
2003 - 2004	<b>Senior Assistance Program.</b> Beginning September 2003, the Governor's office used its executive authority to establish the needs-based Senior Assistance program in response to the needs of low-income Alaskans aged 65 and older who were financially impacted by the elimination of the Alaska Longevity Bonus. Payments were limited to \$120/month. The program ended March 2004.
2004 - 2007	<b>SeniorCare Program.</b> Beginning April 2004, the SeniorCare Program was established to replace the former Senior Assistance Program. The new program was expanded to include a prescription drug benefit. Low-income seniors that passed the program's income and resource limits could choose to receive either a \$120/month payment or a prescription drug benefit. The program ended July 2007.
2007 - Present	<b>Senior Benefits Program.</b> Beginning August 2007, the Senior Benefits Program was established to replace the SeniorCare Program. The program provides three payment levels that are based on the senior's gross annual income. Income limits are tied to the Federal Poverty Guidelines for Alaska and change each year as the poverty level changes. There is no asset test. The program is currently set to expire on June 30, 2015.



# Alaska Temporary Assistance Program Fact Sheet



- The Alaska Temporary Assistance Program (ATAP) provides cash assistance and services to low-income families with children to help them with basic needs while they work toward becoming self-sufficient.
- ATAP is funded with a combination of general funds and federal funds under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant. The TANF block grant requires the state to meet maintenance of effort for the funding received. The expenditures in this program area are qualifying to satisfy this requirement when general funds are used.
- Benefits for families with an adult included are limited to 60-months in a lifetime.
- Adults are required to go to work, maintain employment, plan for self-sufficiency and exiting the program, and engage in activities that will help them become independent from ATAP. Failure to go to work and participate without good cause results in a reduction in case assistance, up to and including a "full family sanction" and case closure for the entire family.
- ATAP also provides cash assistance to support the needs of parentless children who are being cared for by relatives rather than the foster care system. There is no benefit time limit for parentless children and approximately 25% of the ATAP caseload is comprised of these parentless children.

State Program Expenditures	
Fiscal Year	Expenditures
SFY08	\$24,371,088
SFY09	\$24,121,327
SFY10	\$25,519,436
SFY11	\$27,799,199
SFY12	\$28,515,716
SFY13	\$27,916,125
SFY14	\$28,179,521

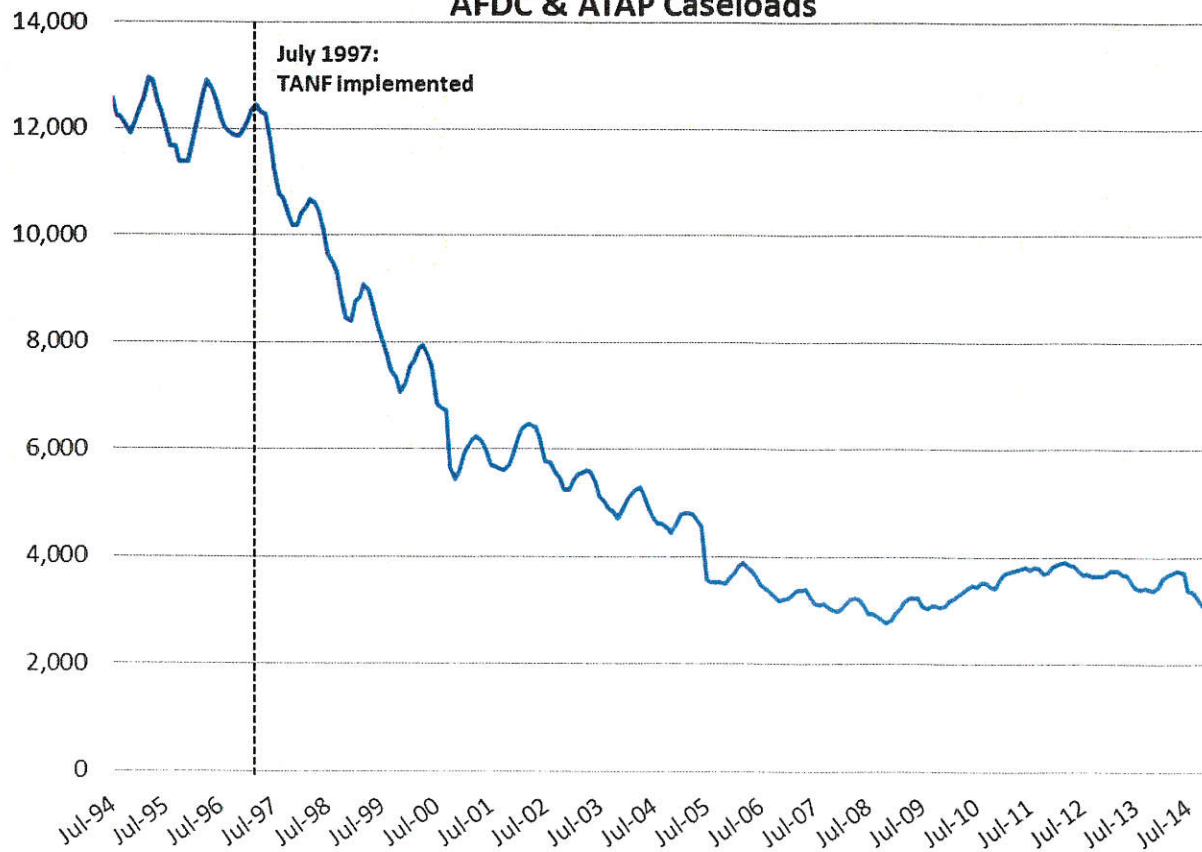
Maximum Benefit Levels	
Household Type	Maximum Benefit
Pregnant Woman	\$541
Adult Included	\$821
Each additional child	\$102
Child Only	\$452
Each additional child	\$102

Average Monthly Caseload Demographics		
Demographics	SFY14	SFY15 YTD (through 12/14)
Caseload	3,551	3,203
Household Size	2.7	2.7
Benefit per Household	\$641.67	\$602.83
Recipients	9,523	8,606
Number of Adults	3,108	2,767
Number of Children	6,415	5,839
Earnings for Cases With Earnings	\$1,058.74	\$1,128.72
Number of Child-Only Cases	866	804

**ATAP Case Distribution by Census Area (December 2014)**

Census Area	Caseload	Census Area	Caseload
Anchorage	1,440	NW Arctic	0
Mat-Su	580	SE Fairbanks	16
Aleutians East	2	Yukon/Koyukuk	4
Aleutians West	2	Haines	1
Bethel	0	Hoonah/Angoon	5
Bristol Bay	0	Juneau	90
Dillingham	0	Ketchikan Gateway	87
Kenai	259	Petersburg	7
Kodiak	28	Prince of Wales	82
Lake and Peninsula	0	Sitka	22
Wade Hampton	0	Skagway	3
Denali	1	Valdez/Cordova	53
Fairbanks N Star	220	Wrangell	2
Nome	144	Yakutat	1
North Slope	17	<b>Statewide Total</b>	<b>3,066</b>

**AFDC & ATAP Caseloads**





# Heating Assistance Program

## Fact Sheet

Alaska's Heating Assistance Program provides a one-time (per program year) benefit to help defray home heating costs for eligible Alaska residents with incomes up to 225% of Alaska's federal poverty income guidelines. The program is funded through the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and state's Alaska Affordable Heating Program (AKAHP).

The programs are administered by the Division of Public Assistance and 13 Tribal organizations.

- Association of Village Council Presidents
- Bristol Bay Native Association
- Cook Inlet Tribal Council
- Kodiak Area Native Association
- Orutsaramiut Native Association
- Tanana Chief Conference
- Yakutat Tlingit Tribe
- Aleutian Pribilof Island Association, Inc.
- Chuathbaluk Traditional Council
- Kenaitze Indian Tribe
- Kuskokwim Native Association
- Seldovia Village Tribe
- Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority

### Recipients

In 2014 a total of \$24,893,735 in heating assistance benefits were distributed between 21,407 households across Alaska. Benefits were paid out of LIHEAP and AKAHP funds.

2014 LIHEAP Households Served – State and Tribes				
Program	# of Households Served by State DPA	# of Households Served by Tribal Organizations	Total Households Served	Average Benefit
LIHEAP	10,425	8,271	18,696	\$1,238
AKAHP	1,995	716	2,711	\$ 643
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,420</b>	<b>8,987</b>	<b>21,407</b>	

Clients Served By Priority Groups and Income Levels - State Data Only: (Tribal data not available)										
Program	HH's With Vulnerable Member			Households Served At Each Federal Poverty Level						
				LIHEAP Income Levels				AKAHP Income Levels		
	Elderly	Disabled	Children under 6	0-75%	76-100%	101-125%	126-150%	151-175%	176-200%	201-225%
LIHEAP	3,213	2,968	2,712	4,376	3,053	1,700	1,296	0	0	0
AKAHP	842	446	547	0	0	0	0	1,017	615	363
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,055</b>	<b>3,515</b>	<b>3,259</b>	<b>4,376</b>	<b>3,053</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>1,296</b>	<b>1,017</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>363</b>



### **Program Funding and Expenditures**

- LIHEAP funding is supplemented with state funds for LIHEAP eligible households in order to meet the benefit amount defined in state statute (AS47.25.623).
- As of February 1, 2015, the state received \$10,142,441 in LIHEAP funding for FY 2015. To date Tribal programs received \$7,315,133 in LIHEAP fund for a total of \$17,457,574 federal funding for FY 2015.
- AKAHP funding serves the higher income households and augments LIHEAP funding shortfalls. FY 2015 AKAHP funding is at \$12.6 million. AKAHP funding and expenditures includes tribal grants.

<b>State/DHSS LIHEAP Funding and Expenditures</b> <b>As Reported to the Administration for Families and Children</b> (Does not include tribal grants)					
<b>Year</b>	<b>Leveraging Incentive Awards</b>	<b>Emergency Funds</b>	<b>Block Grant Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds Received</b>	<b>Total Program Expenditures*</b>
2008	\$ 0	\$ 4,177,248	\$ 7,503,659	\$ 11,680,907	\$ 11,174,843
2009	\$ 359,009	\$ 5,100,014	\$ 16,332,944	\$ 21,791,967	\$ 20,644,506
2010	\$ 1,144,721	\$ 1,830,172	\$ 15,513,764	\$ 18,488,657	\$ 16,486,189
2011	\$ 0	\$ 646,161	\$ 14,327,158	\$ 14,973,319	\$ 14,852,401
2012	\$ 664,795	\$ 0	\$ 10,641,269	\$ 11,306,064	\$ 14,348,388
2013	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 10,149,914	\$ 10,149,914	\$ 15,933,445
2014	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 11,172,660	\$ 11,172,660	\$ 10,088,833
Source: LIHEAP Performance Measurement Web Site ( <a href="https://liheapdev.ncat.org">https://liheapdev.ncat.org</a> )					
*Includes Administration, heating and crisis benefits, and weatherization services.					

<b>AKAHP Funding and Expenditures</b> (Includes Tribes)							
<b>Year</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
Funding	\$0	\$19,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$13,500,000	\$20,864,700	\$13,600,000
Program Expenditures	\$0	\$18,219,244	\$2,024,865	\$5,007,211	\$13,472,599	\$9,972,083	\$10,142,166

### **Eligibility and Payments**

As of February 1, 2015, the state has received 10,030 applications and issued benefits to 5,784 LIHEAP households and 1,035 AKAHP households to date with, as of 2/1/2015, an average LIHEAP benefit of \$1,353 and an average AKAHP benefit of \$625.00.

### **History**

The state has participated in LIHEAP since the 1980's. AKAHP was created in July of 2008 and implemented in SFY 2009. Both programs use the same application, have the same requirements, and use the same eligibility and benefit determination formula. The "program year" runs from October 1, to September 30, however the last day to apply for assistance is April 30.



# Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

## Fact Sheet

- The State of Alaska currently has grants with seven Tribal organizations to operate Native Family Assistance Programs (NFAP).
- The state grant is a supplement to the Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program block grant each organization receives from the federal Department of Health and Human Services.
- Tribal TANF programs are comparable to the Alaska's TANF funded Alaska Temporary Assistance Program (ATAP) and are funded by the state in accordance with AS 47.27.200.
- These seven Tribal TANF programs are funded with State of Alaska General funds which are eligible for satisfying TANF maintenance-of-effort, which supports Alaska in securing federal TANF funding. Federal TANF funding is used for ATAP and other associated programs which help needy families with dependent children to prevent dependence on welfare. Grant funds received by NFAPs are used exclusively for TANF family benefits and supportive services.
- NFAP's report directly to the federal Department of Health and Human Services, because of this the Division of Public Assistance does not receive extensive data on Tribal TANF households.
- The Division of Public Assistance has partnered with the University of Alaska Anchorage, Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies to assess the characteristics of clients participating in Tribal TANF programs.

Fiscal Year	Average Monthly Caseload	Total State Program Expenditures
SFY08	1,546	\$12,466,755
SFY09	1,423	\$12,035,646
SFY10	1,646	\$12,542,052
SFY11	1,761	\$13,772,457
SFY12	1,644	\$13,626,599
SFY13	1,570	\$13,635,893
SFY14	1,598	\$13,762,647

### Tribal TANF Maximum Benefit Levels

Household Type	Maximum Benefit*
Pregnant Woman	\$541
Adult Included (1-parent or 2-parent families)	\$821
Each additional child	\$102
Child Only	\$452
Each additional child	\$102

*\*Tribal TANF benefit levels cannot exceed the ATAP benefit levels established in statute at AS 47.27.025(b) and regulations at 7 AAC 45.523*

<b><i>Evolution of the Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Family (TANF) Programs</i></b>	
<b>August, 1996</b>	<b>The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) was signed into law, which authorized the Tribal Family Assistance Grant for Tribal TANF Programs.</b>
<b>July, 1997</b>	<b>The State of Alaska enacted its Alaska Temporary Assistance Program (ATAP).</b> Approximately one year after the passing of PRWORA, Alaska established the ATAP, which established a framework for Tribal TANF programs.
<b>October, 1998</b>	<b>The State of Alaska partnered with the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) to pilot the first Tribal TANF program and operate the first Native Family Assistance Program (NFAP).</b> TCC has a current TANF caseload of approximately 90 families and serves the Doyon/Fairbanks region of interior Alaska.
<b>Legislative Session of 2000</b>	<b>The 21<sup>st</sup> Alaska Legislature passed The Native Family Assistance Program (AS 47.27.200 et al) as a pilot program through 6/30/2005.</b>
<b>July, 2000</b>	<b>Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA) enacted their Tribal TANF program.</b> CCTHITA has a current caseload of approximately 210 families and serves the Sealaska/Southeast region of Alaska.
<b>October, 2000</b>	<b>Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) enacted their Tribal TANF program.</b> AVCP has a current caseload of approximately 503 families and serves both Native and non-Native households in the Calista/Western region of Alaska.
<b>Legislative Session of 2005</b>	<b>The 24<sup>th</sup> Alaska Legislature reauthorized The Native Family Assistance Program (AS 47.27.200 et al) and made it permanent.</b>
<b>July, 2005</b>	<b>Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC) Inc. enacted their Tribal TANF program.</b> CITC has a current caseload of approximately 553 families and serves the Cook Inlet Region Inc./Anchorage and Matsu Valley regions of Southcentral Alaska.
<b>October, 2006</b>	<b>Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA) enacted their Tribal TANF program.</b> BBNA has a current caseload of approximately 84 families and serves both Native and non-Native households in the Bristol Bay region of Southwestern Alaska.
<b>January, 2009</b>	<b>Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA) enacted their Tribal TANF program.</b> KANA has a current caseload of approximately 21 families and serves the Koniag /Kodiak Island Archipelago region of Alaska.
<b>July, 2009</b>	<b>Maniilaq Area Native Association enacted their Tribal TANF program.</b> Maniilaq has a current caseload of approximately 135 families and serves both Native and non-Native households in the NANA/Northwestern region of Alaska.
<b>Current Works</b>	In June of 2014 University of Alaska Anchorage, Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies published a study on Tribal TANF recipients in Alaska.  The Division of Public Assistance is currently in negotiations with the Metlakatla Indian Community of Annette Islands Reserve to develop a Tribal TANF program for their service area.

*Notes: Caseload data reported is from September of 2014 and is available on DPAweb under Statewide Monthly Caseload & Benefit Summary. A copy of the Institute for Circumpolar Health's research can be made upon request.*