

Senate Finance DHSS Budget Subcommittee
Division of Public Assistance
Supplemental Information
March 18th, 2019



Assistance Programs

Food and Nutrition Assistance			
Program & People	Benefit	Eligibility Requirements	Authority
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) 41,945 average monthly caseload in SFY 2018	\$379.42 average monthly household allotment in FY 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alaska resident Net income of not more than \$1,265 for an individual or \$1,715 for a couple; levels increase based on household size Not more than \$2,250 in assets per household, \$3,500 for a household who has at least one member who is disabled or over age 60 	Federal / State Program PL 110-246 (2008) 7 CFR 271 – 274 AS 47.25.975 – 990 7 AAC 46.010 – 990
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Education Program (SNAP ED) 2,064 clients served by direct education (15,465 served through social marketing and direct / indirect education combined)	Social marketing, research and direct client services. Nutrition education information is targeted to SNAP eligible populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alaska resident Net income of not more than \$1,265 for an individual or \$1,715 for a couple; levels increase based on household size Not more than \$2,250 in assets per household, \$3,500 for a household who has at least one member who is disabled or over age 60 	Federal / State Program PL 110-246 (2008) 7 CFR 271 – 274 AS 47.25.975 – 990 7 AAC 46.010 – 990
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) 17,092 monthly participant average in SFY 2018	Provides nutrition education, referrals, breastfeeding support and checks to purchase supplemental foods designed to address nutrient inadequacies and nutrition education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alaska resident Must have a nutrition risk Pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women, infants and children up to five years of age Must meet income criteria or must be within 185% of poverty Yearly income of \$28,083 for a 1 person household, \$38,073 for a 2 person household (2018-2019). USDA updates income guidelines annually (April). 	Federal / State Program PL 111-296 (2010) 7 CFR 246



Assistance Programs

Program & People	Benefit	Eligibility Requirements	Authority
Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Program 11,358 contacts in SFY 2018	Provides breastfeeding support through a peer- to-peer counseling structure to WIC pregnant and breastfeeding women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must meet WIC eligibility requirements and be considered a WIC participant for enrollment in the Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Program (BFPC). • BFPC program benefits all WIC pregnant, breastfeeding, and, infant (up to one year of age) participants with breastfeeding support that augments the WIC program support through a peer-to-peer counseling structure. 	Federal / State Program PL 111-296 (2010) 7 CFR 246
Commodity Supplemental Food Program 2,600 average monthly caseload for FFY 2018	Provides supplemental foods designed to address nutrient inadequacies. Includes nutrition education. Cannot have concurrent participation in WIC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alaska resident • 60 years or older • Annual income for one person household of \$19,734 or \$26,754 for two person household • Only available in Anchorage, Mat-Su, Kenai, and Fairbanks and limited outlying areas 	Federal / State Program PL 111-296 (2010) 7 CFR 247
WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program 10,000 annual participant in FFY 2018	Provide checks for purchase of fruits and/or vegetables from Alaska farmers. Provide nutrition education materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alaska Resident • Current WIC participants • Available in Anchorage, the Mat-Su Valley, Delta Junction, Dillingham, Fairbanks area, Copper Center, Bethel, on the Kenai Peninsula, and in Haines, Petersburg, and Sitka • Yearly income of \$28,083 for a 1 person household, \$38,073 for a 2 person household (2018-2019). USDA updates income guidelines annually (April). 	Federal / State Program PL 11-296 (2010) 7 CFR 248



Assistance Programs

Program & People	Benefit	Eligibility Requirements	Authority
Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Estimated 3,000 participants in FFY 2018	Provides checks for purchase of fresh fruits and/or vegetables from Alaska farmers. Provides nutrition education materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alaska resident Age 60 or older Participation in CSFP, TEFAP, Public Assistance, NEOP, or CSFP, or Free or Reduced School Meals OR Available in Anchorage, the Mat-Su Valley, Fairbanks area, on the Kenai Peninsula, Haines, Homer and limited outlying areas. Yearly income \$28,083 for one person household, \$38,073 for two person household (as of July 1, 2018) 	Federal / State Program PL 111-296 (2010) 7 CFR 249
Medical Assistance			
Medicaid 203,107 average monthly enrollees in FY 2018	Provides medical assistance to needy individuals and families. Basically, it is intended to provide medical coverage for needy families with children, pregnant women, low income adults, and aged, blind and disabled persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be eligible, recipients must meet certain income and/or resource criteria. These criteria vary depending on the particular Medicaid category for which the recipient is eligible for Eligibility criteria for aged, blind, and disabled persons are based on eligibility criteria used for the Adult Public Assistance program Eligibility criteria for parents and other caretaker relatives, pregnant women, children under age 19, under 21 Medicaid, expansion group, and former foster children up to age 26 are based on the eligibility criteria created by the Affordable Care Act 	Federal / State Program PL 112-238 (2012) 42 USC 1396 AS 47.07 7 AAC 100.001 – 990 42 CFR 435



Assistance Programs

Program & People	Benefit	Eligibility Criteria	Authority
Chronic and Acute Medical Assistance (CAMA)	Provides emergency medical coverage for persons who do not qualify for Medicaid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 18 or older • Lack of other medical resources • Covered medical needs only include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ A terminal illness ➢ Cancer requiring chemotherapy ➢ Diabetes and diabetes insipidus ➢ Seizure disorders ➢ Chronic mental illness ➢ Hypertension • Countable income of not more than \$300 for an individual or \$400 for a couple • Assets that do not exceed \$500 	State Program AS 47.08.150 7 AAC 48.500 - 900
Assistance for Seniors & Disabled			
Adult Public Assistance (including Interim Assistance and Old Age Assistance) 19,519 average monthly recipients in SFY 2018	Maximum \$362/month; combined with SSI max is \$1,133/month (as of January 1, 2019) \$269.36 average monthly payment in SFY 2018	The Adult Public Assistance program is designed as a State supplement to the Federal Supplemental Security Income Program (SSI). As such, it confers Medicaid eligibility to its recipients. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 65 or older, blind or disabled • Alaska resident • Less than \$2,000 (single) \$3,000 (couple) in assets excluding house, one vehicle, burial fund • Monthly income below \$1,432 for an individual, \$2,121 for a couple, both eligible (as of January 1, 2019) 	State Program AS 47.25.430 – 615 7 AAC 40.020 – 900



Assistance Programs

Program & People	Benefit	Eligibility Criteria	Authority
Senior Benefits (SB) Program 11,283 average monthly recipients in SFY 2018	Monthly payment of \$76, \$175 or \$250 depending on income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age 65 or older Alaska resident Effective April 1, 2018 -- yearly income of below \$26,565 for an individual or \$36,015 for a couple 	State Program AS 47.45.300 – 309 7 AAC 47.545 - 599
Heating Assistance			
Heating Assistance Program (LIHEAP) 7,308 households served by the State in FY 2018 20,645 individuals served by the State in FY 2018	Provides help paying for home heating costs \$993.32 average benefit per State served household in FY 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual home heating costs must exceed \$200 Gross monthly income at or below \$1,882 for an individual, \$2,536 for a couple (150% of federal poverty level) for FY 2018 Household with a person age 60 or older, disabled, or under the age of 6, is considered a priority population. Households receive one additional heating point toward their benefit calculation. Value of extra point is \$90 in FY 2018 	Federal / State Program PL 97-35 (1981) 45 CFR 96.80 - 89 7 AAC 44.010 – 900
Alaska Affordable Heating Program (AKAHP) 1,374 households served by the State in FY 2016	Provides help paying for home heating costs \$565/year average per State served household in FY 2016	This program's funding was eliminated so it is not being offered in FY 2017 or FY 2018	State Program AS 47.05.010 AS 47.25.621 - 626 7 AAC 44.200 - 900



Alaska Department of Health and Social Services
Division of Public Assistance

Assistance Programs

Assistance for Families with Dependent Children			
Program & People	Benefit	Eligibility Criteria	Authority
<p>Alaska Temporary Assistance Program (ATAP)</p> <p>8,055 average monthly recipients in SFY 2018</p>	<p>Maximum cash benefit of \$821 for a family with 1 child, \$923 for a family with 2 children</p> <p>\$608.49 average monthly benefit per household in FY 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alaska resident Families with dependent children under age 18 Child support cooperation 60-month time limit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 states have a 49-60 month lifetime limit 5 states have a 37-48 month lifetime limit 3 states have a 25-36 month lifetime limit 12 states have a 13-24 month lifetime limit 1 state has a 12 month lifetime limit Participation in work activities and family self-sufficiency planning Not more than \$2,000 in assets per household, \$3,000 for a household who has at least one member who is over 60 Net income of not more than \$1,484 for a family with 1 child, \$1,670 for a family with 2 children Benefit amount based on income (lower if more income or less need) 71% include a parent and are subject to work and time limits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 36% have used less than 2 years 11% have used between 2 and 3 years 8% have used between 3 and 4 years 5% have used between 4 and 5 years 5% have used more than 5 years (on allowable extension) 	<p>Federal / State Program</p> <p>42 USC 602 – 608 45 CFR 200 – 499</p> <p>AS 47.27.005 – 990 7 AAC 45.150 – 990</p>



Assistance Programs

Program	Benefit	Eligibility Criteria	Authority
Child Care Assistance 3,013 average children per month in SFY 2018	Provides monthly subsidy to help with child care expenses based on a sliding fee scale for eligible low-moderate income families. The family benefit is paid to the child care provider on behalf of the family, based on geographic location, type of care, age of children, unit of care authorized, and child's attendance at the child care facility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent(s) in the family must be participating in an eligible activity of working, attending school or a job training program, and meet non- financial and financial eligibility criteria. • Families must not exceed income limits which are set at 85% of adjusted 2016 median income for Alaska: \$5,156 for household of 3, \$6,107 for a household of 4, etc. • Child(ren) must be under the age of 13, be a US citizen or national or qualified alien, and reside with an eligible parent or parents; or be receiving or needing to receive protective services. 	Federal / State Program PL 112-74 (2011) 42 USC 9858 45 CFR 98 – 99 AS 47.25.001 – 095 7 AAC 41.010 – 990
Other Assistance			
General Relief Assistance (GRA) 1,221 cases in SFY 2018 2,455 recipients in SFY 2018	Provides for emergent basic needs for shelter, utilities, food, clothing, or burial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alaska resident • Have an emergent need for shelter, food, clothing, or burial • Assets that do not exceed \$500 • Countable income of not more than \$300 for an individual or \$400 for a couple 	State Program AS 47.05.010 AS 47.25.170 7 AAC 47.050 - 290



Assistance Programs

ACRONYM KEY

AAC	Alaska Administrative Code
ACA	Affordable Care Act
APA	Adult Public Assistance
AS	Alaska Statute
ATAP	Alaska Temporary Assistance Program
CAMA	Chronic and Acute Medical Assistance
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CSFP	Commodity Supplemental Food Program
FS	Food Stamps; now known as SNAP
GRA	General Relief Assistance
IA	Interim Assistance
LIHEAP	Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program
NEOP	Nutrition Education & Obesity Prevention - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
PL	Public Law
POMS SI	Social Security Administration Program Operations Manual System - Supplemental Security Income
SB	Senior Benefits
SNAP	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; formerly known as Food Stamps
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
TEFAP	The Emergency Food Assistance Program
USC	United States Code
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
WIC	Women, Infants, and Children

03/04/2019 Distribution of Application Age by Program for Applications in Backlog															
Program Type	0 to 30 days	31 - 45 days	46 - 60 days	61 - 90 days	91 - 120 days	121 - 150 days	151 - 180 days	181 - 210 days	211 - 240 days	241 - 270 days	271 - 300 days	301-330 days	331 - 360 days	over 360 days	Total
Alaska Temporary Assistance Program	0	5	2	4	5	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	20
Adult Public Assistance	0	49	35	39	21	13	14	15	8	5	8	4	2	12	225
Food Stamps (Expedite)	17	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
Food Stamps	0	102	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	110
General Relief Assistance (incl. Senior Benefits)	0	33	6	13	13	8	13	15	14	6	1	1	3	3	129
Interim Assistance	0	2	2	1	1	3	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	12
MAGI Medicaid - ARIES	0	411	348	1,520	1,539	656	656	569	454	296	462	267	325	1,462	8,965
Non-MAGI Medicaid	0	100	67	74	46	34	42	34	17	6	9	4	4	46	483
MAGI Medicaid - EIS	0	2	3	3	2	3	4	7	4	0	0	0	0	1	29
MAGI Acct. Transfers - EIS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Total	17	707	468	1,655	1,628	717	730	642	500	313	481	277	334	1,526	9,995



Division of Public Assistance

January 2019
Preliminary

230,902

Alaskans receive public assistance

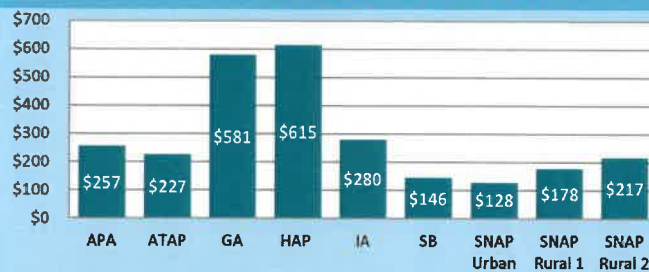
Demographics of DPA recipients

Clients	0-18	19-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
	101,283	53,598	24,125	18,288	18,734	14,874
Female	113,436					
Male		111,518				

WIC is not included in gender data

Recipients of the APA, ATAP, GA, HAP, IA, ME, SB, SNAP and WIC programs.

Average benefit per person



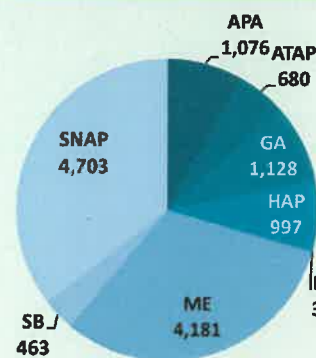
In Alaska, SNAP benefit standards are based on the cost of food in each area. Go to [http://alaskasnap.com](#) to see a list of cities in each region.

Recipients in each program

APA	19,457
ATAP	6,671
GA	243
HAP	2,386
IA	192
ME	215,716
SB	11,599
SNAP	86,054
WIC	18,518

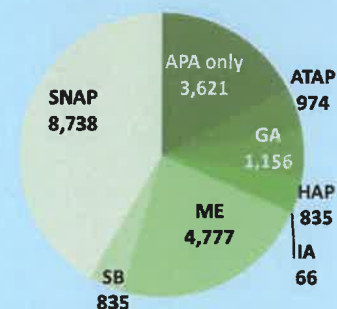
Individuals may receive assistance from multiple programs, and be duplicated here.

Applications received



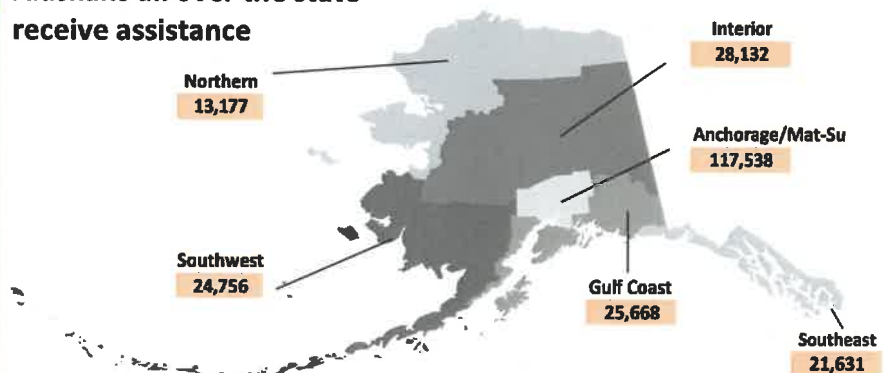
Applications are new applications for benefits received during the month.

Work completed



Work completed is case determinations made (applications and renewals approved or denied) during the month.

Alaskans all over the state receive assistance



Public Assistance Programs

- APA** **Adult Public Assistance** Gives monthly cash payments and medical assistance to eligible elderly, blind, and disabled persons.
- ATAP** **Alaska Temporary Assistance Program** Gives monthly cash payments to eligible families with children.
- GA** **General Relief Assistance** Helps eligible individuals and families with emergency rent and utility needs. Also helps with burial costs.
- HAP** **Heating Assistance Program** Helps eligible households defray their winter heating costs by issuing an annual grant to their vendor. The State administration of HAP covers 58.7% of the state with the remainder served by tribal providers.
- IA** **Interim Assistance** Provides monetary assistance on a month-by-month basis to eligible individuals undergoing temporary difficulties or one-time needs.
- ME** **Medicaid** Offers medical coverage to eligible low-income Alaskans. Also helps with Medicare Parts A and B premiums.
- SB** **Senior Benefits** Gives monthly cash payments to eligible low-income seniors.
- SNAP** **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program** Helps people buy food.
- WIC** **Women, Infants and Children** Provides nutrition education, breastfeeding support and cash payments for supplemental food to eligible women and young children.

Prepared by DPA Research & Analysis Unit. Preliminary version does not include Child Care.

EXAMPLE APA CALCULATIONS
EFFECTIVE 1/2020

APA Need Standards (income limits) for 2020

APA Income Eligibility Standards are increased by the same percentage as the SSI COLA increase. This example is assuming a zero COLA increase for 2020.

Household Type	Need Standard	Maximum Payment
Individual, Independent Living (A1E)	\$1432	\$1033
Individual, In Another's Household (B1E)	\$1183	\$775
Individual, In Assisted Living Home (H1E)	\$1432	\$1133
Couple, 1 Eligible, Independent Living (A2S)	\$1720	\$1147
Couple, 1 Eligible, In Another's Household (B2S)	\$1359	\$842
Couple, 1 Eligible, In Assisted Living Home (H2S)	\$1720	\$1133
Couple, Both Eligible, Independent Living (A2C or A2E)	\$2121	\$1533
Couple, Both Elig., In Another's Household (B2C or B2E)	\$1765	\$1147
Couple, Both Elig., In Assisted Living Home (H2C)	\$2121	\$1519

SSI Payment (assuming zero COLA increase for 2020)

House Hold Type	
A Individual	771
B Individual	514
A Couple	1157
B Couple	771

Payment Standards

HH Type	2020
Individual, Independent Living (A1E)	$1033 - 771 = 262$
Individual, In Another's Household (B1E)	$775 - 514 = 261$
Individual, In Assisted Living Home (H1E)	$1133 - 771 = 362$
Couple, 1 Eligible, Independent Living (A2S)	$1147 - 771 = 376$
Couple, 1 Eligible, In Another's Household (B2S)	$842 - 514 = 328$
Couple, 1 Eligible, In Assisted Living Home (H2S)	$1133 - 771 = 362$
Couple, Both Eligible, Independent Living (A2C or A2E)	$1533 - 1157 = 376$
Couple, Both Elig., In Another's Household (B2C or B2E)	$1147 - 771 = 376$
Couple, Both Elig., In Assisted Living Home (H2C)	$1519 - 1157 = 362$

Living Arrangement	March 1983	January 2019	Difference
Individual, living independently (A1E)	\$262	\$362	\$100
Individual, living in another's household (B1E)	\$261	\$368	\$107
Couple, one eligible, living independently (A2S)	\$376	\$521	\$145
Couple, one eligible, living in another's household (B2S)	\$328	\$464	\$136
Couple, both eligible, living independently (A2C)	\$376	\$528	\$152
Couple, both eligible, living in another's household (B2C)	\$376	\$543	\$167
ALH	\$362	\$100	-\$262

SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI) BENEFITS

Some States supplement the Federal SSI benefit with additional payments. This makes the total SSI benefit levels higher in those States. SSI benefit amounts and State supplemental payment amounts vary based upon your income, living arrangements, and other factors.

NO STATE SUPPLEMENT

The following States or territories **do not** pay a supplement to people who receive SSI:

Arizona	Northern Mariana Islands
Mississippi	West Virginia
North Dakota	

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTERED SUPPLEMENT

Social Security administers the State supplement for the following States. You may contact us about your total benefit amount.

California	Delaware*	District of Columbia*	Hawaii
Iowa*	Michigan	Montana	Nevada
New Jersey	Pennsylvania*	Rhode Island*	Vermont

* Dual Administration State. In these States, Social Security administers some categories of State supplement payments, while the State administers other categories of supplemental payments.

STATE ADMINISTERED SUPPLEMENT

The following States pay and administer their own supplemental payments and you may contact the State for payment information.

Alabama	Alaska	Arkansas	Colorado
Connecticut	Florida	Georgia	Idaho
Illinois	Indiana	Kansas	Kentucky
Louisiana	Maine	Maryland	Massachusetts
Minnesota	Missouri	Mississippi	Nebraska
New Hampshire	New Mexico	New York	North Carolina
Ohio	Oklahoma	Oregon	South Carolina
South Dakota	Tennessee	Texas	Utah
Virginia	Washington	Wisconsin	Wyoming

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits are greatly affected by where the household lives (rural or urban), the monthly income being received, and the monthly deductions (shelter and medical expenses are the most common).

Assumptions:

- The Hold Harmless Statute is repealed and the Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) is now countable income for Adult Public Assistance (APA) and is received as a monthly payment. These examples used the last PFD amount (\$1,600 divided by 12 = \$133.33) but a larger PFD would have a greater affect
- The Senior Benefit program no longer exists
- APA benefits have not been reduced due to changing the MOE option to the level payments method

Case examples:

1. **Elderly individual living in an urban area who receives SSI benefits and is paying \$500 monthly rent**

APA: \$1,432 monthly income limit

Income Type	Monthly Income
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	\$771
Adult Public Assistance (APA)	\$362
total	\$1,133

This individual would continue to be eligible for Medicaid benefits. Although they would continue to be eligible for APA, their benefits would decrease from \$362 to \$229 monthly. Their SNAP benefits would remain \$19 monthly.

2. **Elderly individual living in another person's home in a rural area who receives Social Security Retirement benefits and is paying electricity/phone expenses**

APA: \$1,183 monthly income limit

Income Type	Monthly Income
Social Security Retirement	\$322
Adult Public Assistance (APA)	\$581
total	\$903

This individual would continue to be eligible for Medicaid benefits. Although they would continue to be eligible for APA, their benefits would decrease from \$581 to \$447 monthly. Based on these changes, their SNAP benefits would increase from \$33 to \$108 monthly.

3. Disabled individual living independently in an urban area who receives Social Security Retirement benefits and is paying electricity expenses

APA: \$1,432 monthly income limit

Income Type	Monthly Income
Social Security Disability (SSDI)	\$895
Adult Public Assistance (APA)	\$258
total	\$1,153

This individual would continue to be eligible for Medicaid benefits. Although they would continue to be eligible for APA, their benefits would decrease from \$258 to \$125 monthly. Their SNAP benefits would remain \$19 monthly.

4. Disabled individual living independently in a rural area, who receives SSI and Social Security Retirement benefits, and is paying \$257 monthly rent and electricity/phone expenses

APA: \$1,432 monthly income limit

Income Type	Monthly Income
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	\$293
Social Security Retirement	\$498
Adult Public Assistance (APA)	\$362
total	\$1,153

This individual would continue to be eligible for Medicaid benefits. Although they would continue to be eligible for APA, their benefits would decrease from \$362 to \$229 monthly. Based on these changes, their SNAP benefits would increase from \$75 to \$105 monthly.

5. Disabled individual living independently with a household size of 4 in an urban area, who receives SSI and Social Security Disability benefits, and is paying \$850 monthly rent and phone expenses

APA: \$1,432 monthly income limit

Income Type	Monthly Income
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	\$150.50
Social Security Disability (SSDI)	\$640
Adult Public Assistance (APA)	\$362
total	\$1,152.50

This individual would continue to be eligible for Medicaid benefits. Although they would continue to be eligible for APA, their benefits would decrease from \$362 to \$229 monthly. Their SNAP benefits would remain \$557 monthly.



Senior BENEFITS PROGRAM

Information & Fact Sheet
Updated January 2019

Overview

The Alaska Senior Benefits Payment Program pays monthly cash benefits to Alaskans who are age 65 or older and have low to moderate income. Payment levels depend on available state funding and how many people apply and qualify for the program. If the state budget cannot support the original amounts of \$125, \$175 and \$250, regulations allow for changes to be made for all eligible program participants. Cuts come from the highest income tier first, then the second, then the third.

The monthly payment for the highest income level was reduced to \$47 from \$125 on March 1, 2016 due to the state's limited budget for state fiscal year 2016. The budget for state fiscal year 2017 allowed full monthly payments of \$175 and \$250 to recipients with the lowest income. Those income payment levels continued through the end of that fiscal year. Funding reductions in this program must be applied to individuals in the highest income bracket. They received \$47 for July because the budget was not finalized in time to make changes for July benefits. Beginning August 1, 2016, individuals in that highest income bracket received \$76 per month based on available funding at that income bracket. These income payment levels continued for state fiscal years 2018 and 2019.

Eligibility and Payment

- Eligibility and payment amount is based on gross annual income (before any deductions are taken for taxes, Medicare premiums, etc.)
- Assets, such as savings, are not counted
- Income limits may change yearly along with Alaska's federal poverty level. The \$250, \$175, and \$76 monthly payments correspond to 75 percent, 100 percent, and 175 percent of the federal poverty level for Alaska, respectively
- Payments are not available to seniors living in the following institutions:
 - ✓ Prison or jail
 - ✓ Alaska Pioneers' Home or Alaska Veterans' Home
 - ✓ A nursing home
 - ✓ Public or private institution for mental disease

Senior Household Size	Senior Benefits Program Gross Annual Income Limit Effective 4/1/2018		
	The income limit changed April 1, 2018 due to a change in the Federal Poverty Limit		
	\$250 monthly payment	\$175 monthly payment	\$76 monthly payment
Individual	\$11,385 (\$949 per month)	\$15,180 (\$1,265 per month)	\$26,565 (\$2,214 per month)
Married Couple	\$15,435 (\$1,287 per month)	\$20,580 (\$1,715 per month)	\$36,015 (\$3,002 per month)

Senior Household Size	Senior Benefits Program Gross Annual Income Limit Effective 4/1/2017 The income limit changed April 1, 2017 due to a change in the Federal Poverty Limit		
	\$250 monthly payment	\$175 monthly payment	\$76 monthly payment
Individual	\$11,295 (\$942 per month)	\$15,060 (\$1,255 per month)	\$26,355 (\$2,197 per month)
Married Couple	\$15,218 (\$1,269 per month)	\$20,290 (\$1,691 per month)	\$35,508 (\$2,959 per month)

Senior Household Size	Senior Benefits Program Gross Annual Income Limit Effective 8/1/2016 *Benefit change effective August 1, 2016 due to final state budget		
	\$250 monthly payment	\$175 monthly payment	*\$76 monthly payment
Individual	\$11,130 (\$928 per month)	\$14,840 (\$1,237 per month)	\$25,970 (\$2,165 per month)
Married Couple	\$15,015 (\$1,252 per month)	\$20,020 (\$1,669 per month)	\$35,035 (\$2,920 per month)

Senior Household Size	Senior Benefits Program Gross Annual Income Limit Effective 4/1/2016 The income limit changed April 1, 2016 due to a change in the Federal Poverty Limit		
	\$250 monthly payment	\$175 monthly payment	\$47 monthly payment
Individual	\$11,130 (\$928 per month)	\$14,840 (\$1,237 per month)	\$25,970 (\$2,165 per month)
Married Couple	\$15,015 (\$1,252 per month)	\$20,020 (\$1,669 per month)	\$35,035 (\$2,920 per month)

Senior Household Size	Senior Benefits Program Gross Annual Income Limit Effective 3/1/2016 *Benefit change effective March 1, 2016 due to budget shortfall, caseload increase		
	\$250 monthly payment	\$175 monthly payment	*\$47 monthly payment
Individual	\$11,040 (\$920 per month)	\$14,720 (\$1,227 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)

Senior Benefits recipients as of December 2018

- 11,599 recipients. Number and percent of seniors at each payment level:
 - ✓ \$250 – 1,742 (15.0%) ✓ \$175 – 5,124 (44.2%) ✓ \$76 – 4,713 (40.6%)
- As of December 2018, the average age of recipients is 75 and the maximum age is 104
- The number of Senior Benefits cases have been increasing each year until 2016. All figures are for December:
 - ✓ 2018 – 11,599 ✓ 2016 – 11,632 ✓ 2014 – 11,222
 - ✓ 2017 – 11,322 ✓ 2015 – 11,746 ✓ 2013 – 10,954

Recipients statewide as of December 2018:

Census Area	Number of Recipients	Census Area	Number of Recipients
		GRAND TOTAL	

History of the Senior Benefits Program	
1972 - 2003	Alaska Longevity Bonus Program. Established in 1972. Alaska residents became eligible at age 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	Senior Assistance Program. 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	SeniorCare Program. 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	<p>Senior Benefits Program. Established to replace the SeniorCare Program. Began August 2007; up for reauthorization in June 2018. Provides three payment levels 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.</p> <p>Regulation change finalized January 2016 described how benefits would be reduced by appropriation shortfall. Due to caseload increase, the highest income level that normally receives a \$125 benefit had the benefit reduced to \$47 effective March 1, 2016.</p> <p>The budgets for state fiscal years 2017 and 2018 allowed for a monthly payment of \$76 to recipients in the highest income level.</p>