

# House Health and Social Services Finance Subcommittee

Division of Public Assistance  
February 6, 2020



To promote self-sufficiency and provide for basic living expenses to Alaskans in need.

Presented by: Director Shawnda O'Brien

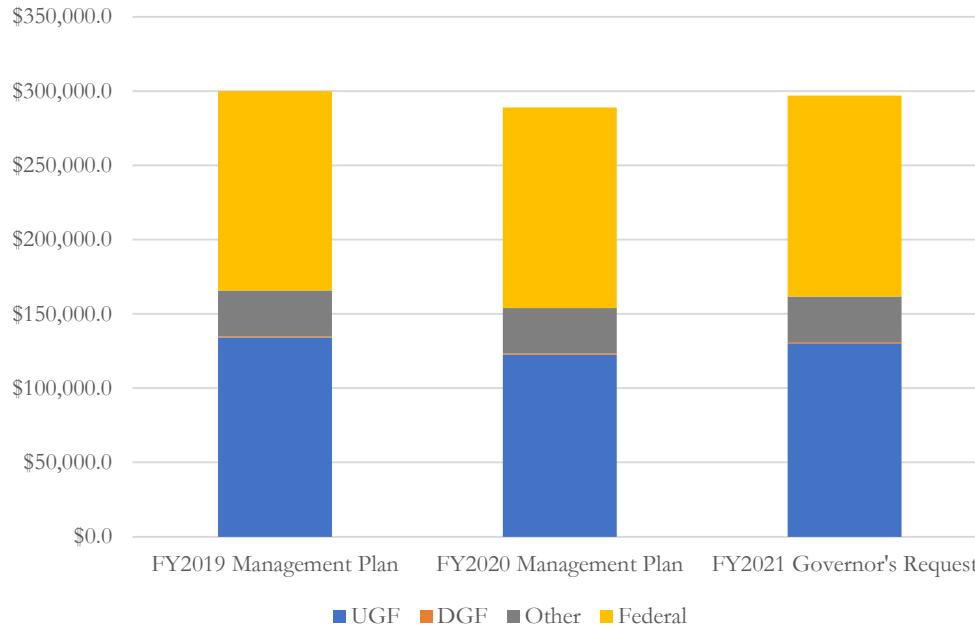
## Division of Public Assistance Overview

- Determine Eligibility for Public Assistance Programs
- Quality Control
- Fraud Investigation
- Family Nutrition and Education
- Breastfeeding and Peer Counseling
- Child Care Licensing
- Child Care Assistance
- Establish Child Care Rates
- Work Services and Employment and Training



# Public Assistance and Senior Benefits

## FY2021 Operating Budget Comparison (in thousands)



	FY2019 Management Plan	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor's Request	Difference FY19 and FY21	% Difference Between FY19 and FY21
UGF	\$ 134,021.1	\$ 122,442.7	\$ 130,207.0	\$ (3,814.1)	-2.8%
DGF	\$ 818.0	\$ 818.0	\$ 818.0	\$ -	0.0%
Other	\$ 30,876.8	\$ 30,668.2	\$ 30,679.4	\$ (197.4)	-0.6%
Federal	\$ 134,336.6	\$ 134,959.0	\$ 135,323.3	\$ 986.7	0.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 300,052.5</b>	<b>\$ 288,887.9</b>	<b>\$ 297,027.7</b>	<b>\$ (3,024.8)</b>	<b>-1.0%</b>



# Public Assistance and Senior Benefits

## FY2020 and FY2021 Operating Budget Comparison (in thousands)

	FY2020 Management Plan	FY2021 Governor's Request	Difference FY2020 and FY2021	% Difference Between FY2020 and FY2021
UGF	\$ 122,442.7	\$ 130,207.0	\$ 7,764.3	6.3%
DGF	\$ 818.0	\$ 818.0	\$ -	0.0%
Other	\$ 30,668.2	\$ 30,679.4	\$ 11.2	0.0%
Federal	\$ 134,959.0	\$ 135,323.3	\$ 364.3	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 288,887.9</b>	<b>\$ 297,027.7</b>	<b>\$ 8,139.8</b>	<b>2.8%</b>

- Restore Adult Public Assistance Maintenance of Effort Requirements \$7,471.2 UGF



# Public Assistance and Senior Benefits

## FY2021 Fund Source Breakdown by Fund Category (in thousands)

Agency Operating	UGF	DGF	GF Sub Total	Other	Fed	Total	PFT
Formula	\$ 103,602.9	\$ 500.0	\$ 104,102.9	\$ 23,979.1	\$ 59,682.4	\$ 187,764.4	31
Non-Formula	\$ 26,604.1	\$ 318.0	\$ 26,922.1	\$ 6,700.3	\$ 75,640.9	\$ 109,263.3	541
*Duplicate				\$ (27,135.7)		\$ (27,135.7)	
<b>Non-Duplicate Total</b>	<b>\$ 130,207.0</b>	<b>\$ 818.0</b>	<b>\$ 131,025.0</b>	<b>\$ 3,543.7</b>	<b>\$ 135,323.3</b>	<b>\$ 269,892.0</b>	

UGF	1003 General Fund Match	\$ 107,925.4
	1004 General Fund	\$ 22,281.6
DGF	1005 General Fund Program Receipts	\$ 818.0
Other	1007 Inter-Agency Receipts (Duplicate)	\$ 8,563.4
	1050 PFD Fund (Duplicate)	\$ 17,724.7
	1061 Capital Improvement Project Receipts (Duplicate)	\$ 847.6
	1108 Statutory Designated Program Receipts	\$ 3,543.7
Fed	1002 Federal Receipts	\$ 135,323.3



# Adult Public Assistance

- State Plan Amendment (SPA) submission required by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare (CMS) –Optional State Supplemental Beneficiaries (42 CFR 435.232 and 435.234)
- Required to come into compliance effective January 1, 2020
  - “payments are equal to the difference between the income standard and an individual’s countable income”.
  - Alaska committed to lowering the income standard for the eligibility group to reflect the maximum payment levels in order to become compliant.



# Backlog

- Timely processing of applications through:
  - Reorganization of teams to match workflow needs
  - Improvements to hiring and training
  - Implementation of data quality reviews and continuous improvement
- Decrease in the number of constituent complaints to the legislature and the Governor's Office
- Meeting Federal timeliness standards
  - SNAP 96%
  - Medicaid 86.7%



# Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Rule Change

- Food Nutrition Services (FNS) final rule change effective December 5, 2019 implementing rule changes regarding waivers for Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD)
- State's have two options for requesting waivers to exempt certain areas of the state:
  - Option 1 exempts Labor Market Areas with a recent 24 month average unemployment rate 20 percent or more above the national rate and at least 6 percent unemployment.
  - Option 2 exempts Labor Market Areas with a recent 12 month average unemployment rate over 10 percent.





## Year in Review:

- Eliminated the backlog of Eligibility Determinations
- Addressed and implemented corrective action for Ombudsman's report regarding the Division of Public Assistance
- Restructured management within Field Services to align with business processes
- Restructured Training Delivery Methods in Field Services
- Policy Alignment



## Year in Review:

- Out-stationing staff to Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
- Career development and staffing stability
- Implemented federal mandate for Women, Infants and Children Electronic Benefits Transfer
- Increased 2 parent participation rates for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Work Services and Employment and Training expansion



# What's next?

- Electronic Document Management
- Virtual Contact Center
- Flex Letter
- Notices Project
- Asset/Eligibility Verification System
- Recruitment Campaign
- System Deficiencies Resolution



# What's next?

- Continued focus on Division-wide efficiencies to eliminate administrative duplication
- Collaborate with community partners
- Evaluate cost savings opportunities through expansion of Electronic Benefit Transfer uses across other programs
- Evaluate business processes across other units
- Expand Electronic Document Management to other areas in the division
- Prioritize system enhancements for eligibility systems



Questions?

