

## Department of Revenue

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

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The Honorable Adam Wool House Finance Revenue Sub-Committee Chair State Capitol, Room 501 Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

## RE: HOUSE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE FOLLOW-UP

Representative Wool and committee members, below are responses to questions posed by the committee members at the January 24, 2022, House Finance Revenue Subcommittee meeting:

1. The Department was asked for more detail about the number of audits performed between 2018 and 2021.

The Department will be presenting this information on 2/7/2022 in the subcommittee.

2. What is the total child support collected and distributed by the Child Support Services Division?

The Division's most up to date information is for the previous federal fiscal year. It shows \$97,328,316 owed to custodial parents and \$97,325,804 being collected in both arrears and current support for FY20.

3. What is the amount of federal and designated housing stimulus money that has been distributed by the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC)?

AHFC has paid more than \$230.2 million in federal funds from all sources to landlords and utility companies.

Source of funds for Rent Relief includes:

- COVID Relief & Response Act signed into law by President Trump (\$164 million; subject to reallocation at Dec. 31, 2021)
- American Rescue Plan Act signed into law by President Biden (\$125 million; program to close no later than Sept. 30, 2025)
- Municipality of Anchorage and 14 organizations representing 148 tribes (\$96 million authorized but not all to be spent by AHFC and with a combination of 2021 and 2025 expiration dates)

From a practical perspective and with an eye on Alaska, every applicant who provided required supporting materials has had their application processed and their landlord has received at least one payment that would have addressed arrearages. Many landlords will continue to receive payment from AHFC because while a family may have qualified at the outset for 12 months of assistance, funding their application requires confirmation of continued hardship and payments were never issued more than three months into the future. (If you were one month behind, AHFC would pay the landlord for a total of four months, then ask for confirmation of hardship again at months 3, 6 and 9 before issuing follow-up payments). Most landlords will not receive payment from AHFC past spring, and tenants will no longer receive the benefit of the federal assistance starting this summer.

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation reports weekly on progress using <u>the dashboard</u>, and the blog has good information like this article, "<u>Alaska Well-Positioned for End of Eviction</u> <u>Moratorium</u>" with mention of a <u>Wall Street Journal report</u> showing Alaska among the top five states leading the nation in fund delivery.

AHFC does take fraud prevention seriously and has built in a number of checks along the way to make sure that while the funding was accessible to Alaska renters, we issued payment directly to landlords and the applicant was required to provide us proof of identification and financial hardship, current rental agreements and other information so we could confirm the validity of their claim and properly issue payment.

Thank you,

Eric DeMoulin

Administrative Services Director

CC: Akis Gialopsos, Legislative Director
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Ken Alper, Subcommittee Aid
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