

Alaska Department of Health

FY2023 Governor's Amended Budget

House Health and Social Services Finance
Subcommittee

February 17, 2022

Sylvan Robb, Assistant Commissioner



FY2023 Department of Health Governor's Amended Budget

- Division of Behavioral Health

- Expand Master of Social Work Degree Program - \$200.0 GFMH
- MH Trust: Crisis Now Continuum of Care Grants - \$900.0 GFMH
 - Correcting Placement of Mental Health Trust Recommendation from Behavioral Health Prevention and Early Intervention Grant to Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery Grants

- Division of Public Health

- MH Trust: Open Beds - \$285.0 MHTAAR

Alaska Department of Family and Community Services

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Sylvan Robb, Assistant Commissioner
Clinton Lasley, Deputy Commissioner
Kim Guay, Director, Office of Children's
Services





FY2023 Departmental Support Services Governor's Amended Budget

- Add funding for two positions to facilitate the new Department of Family and Community Services information technology needs and provide administrative services oversight.
- Funding for the positions is added:
 - Full-time Division Director (ASD), range 27, located in Juneau, Office of the Governor
 - Full-time Department Technology Officer 2, range 24, located in Juneau, Dept. of Administration
- 1002 Fed Rcpts \$156.3
- 1003 G/F Match \$234.4

FY2023 Office of Children’s Services Governor’s Amended Budget

<u>Description</u>	<u>Federal</u>	<u>General Fund</u>
Workforce Stabilization	\$1,252.8	\$2,227.3
Managing Secondary Trauma		\$169.7
4 New Long-Term Protective Services Specialist 4	\$292.0	\$620.0
Field Training Compensation Program	\$211.4	\$375.8
Expand Support Positions	\$1,017.0	\$1,834.0
Vocational Opportunities for Older Youth		\$100.0
Alaska Impact Alliance		\$200.0
Complex Trauma Placement Support		\$700.0
<u>Support Foster Youth Aged 18-21</u>	<u> </u>	<u>\$1,000.0</u>
	<u>\$2,773.2</u>	<u>\$7,226.8</u>
TOTAL		\$10,000.0

*amounts in thousands



MISSION

Ensuring the safety, permanency and well-being of children by strengthening families, engaging communities, and partnering with Tribes.

VISION

SAFE CHILDREN • STRONG FAMILIES

Workforce Stabilization Bonuses for New and Existing Staff

- Cyclical turnover leads to high caseload and high caseload leads to turnover with direct impacts on clients and Alaskan families.
- Staff exit surveys cite appropriate compensation as a primary reason for leaving the Office of Children's Services.
- Retention bonuses will help stabilize existing staff, entice new staff, and provide for a cash bonus at the completion of the first and second years of employment.



Manage Secondary Traumatic Stress for Child Welfare Workers Initiative

- Child welfare staff experience direct and indirect exposure to trauma which can negatively affect how they deliver services to Alaskans.
- A Mental Health Clinician will build a critical incident debriefing program for staff to reduce distress and restore workforce performance.
- Goals of the debriefings are:
 - Mitigate the impact of traumatic incidents
 - Facilitate a recovery process in workers who are distressed by disturbing events
 - Identify staff who might benefit from additional support services or referrals to professional care

Four New Long Term Non-Perm Protective Services Specialist 4

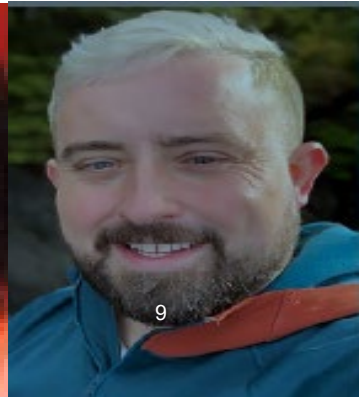
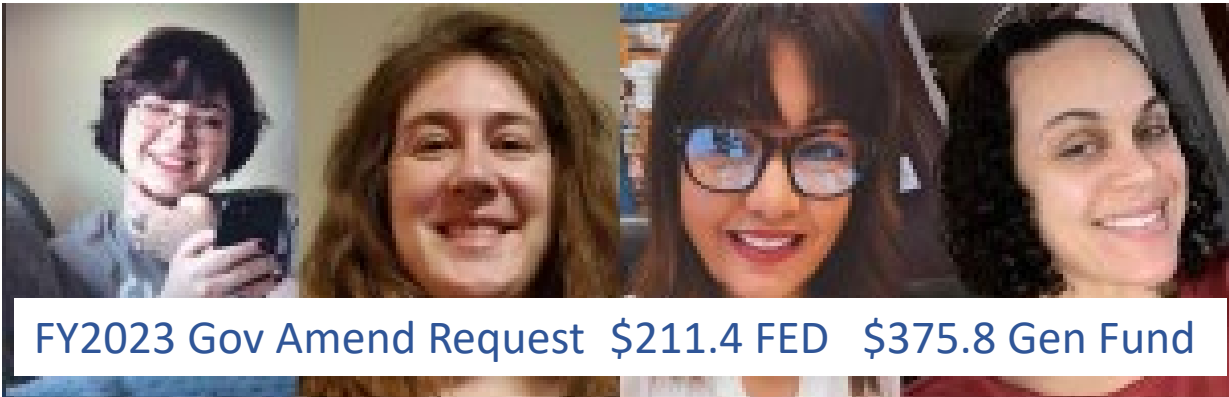
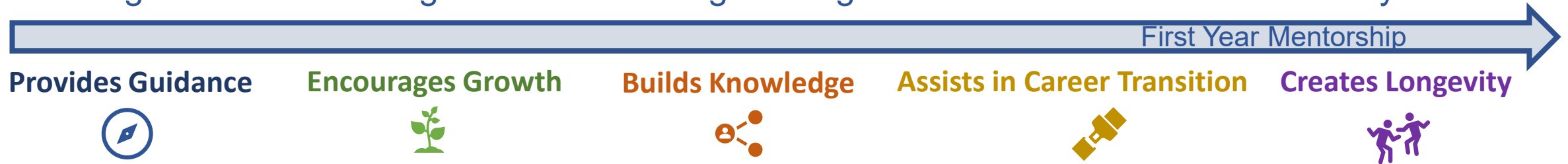
- Consistent quality supervision is necessary for staff to navigate their caseload and competing priorities.
- New long term non-permanent supervisory unit will ensure consistent supervision for new and tenured staff.
- On-call substitute supervisory positions will fill the gaps during permanent supervisor vacancies, annual leave, illness and training.
- A negotiated Letter of Agreement with the Supervisory Union will be necessary



FY2023 Gov Amend Request \$292.0 FED \$620.0 Gen Fund

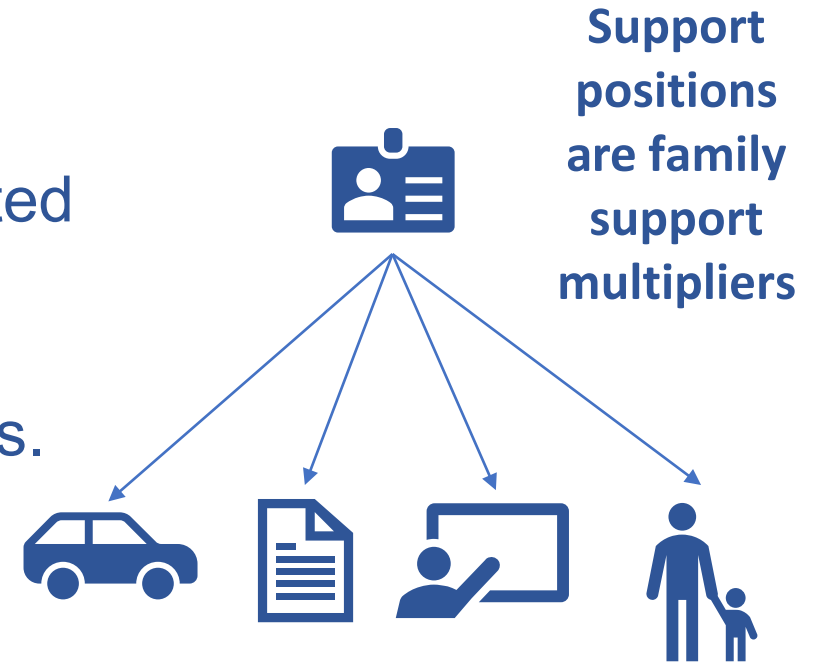
Field Training Compensation Program

- Staff exit surveys indicate that the transition from classroom learning actual field work is difficult
- Staff state the mentorship program is a great resource, but more transition support is needed from classroom to field.
- Protective Services Specialist 2 level staff will provide for support for new case workers for their entire first year of employment by providing structured field training in addition to carrying a caseload.
- A negotiated Letter of Agreement with the general government union will be necessary.

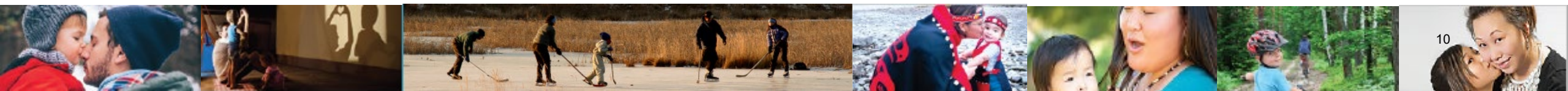


Expand Support Positions with New Social Services Associates, Administrative Assistants, and Office Assistants

- Resource families and case carrying staff have both cited the need for additional support staff.
- 26 positions will ensure appropriate Social Services Associate and administrative staff ratios to caseworkers.
- These staff will transport children in custody, provide centralized administrative services to eliminate the workload burden on front line staff, and assist with training and implementation of the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact.



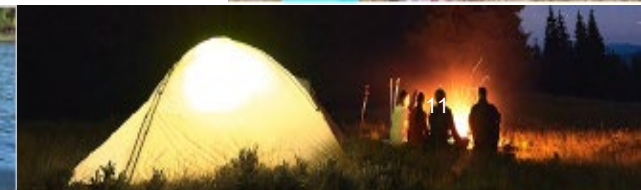
FY2023 Gov Amend Request \$1,017.0 FED \$1,834.0 Gen Fund



Vocational Opportunities for Older Youth

- OCS is committed to supporting youth aging out of foster care while they participate in vocational or career training programs.
- Increased financial support for accredited and non-accredited programs as well as housing support.

FY2023 Gov Amend Request \$100.0 Gen Fund



Alaska Impact Alliance - Support and Evidenced Based Program Development

- The Alaska Impact Alliance promotes community-based action planning through the development of local prevention programming to include evidenced based, culturally relevant programs and services with emphasis on support to diverse populations.
- The alliance will continue efforts to engage communities in developing community-specific prevention programming aimed at reducing child maltreatment.



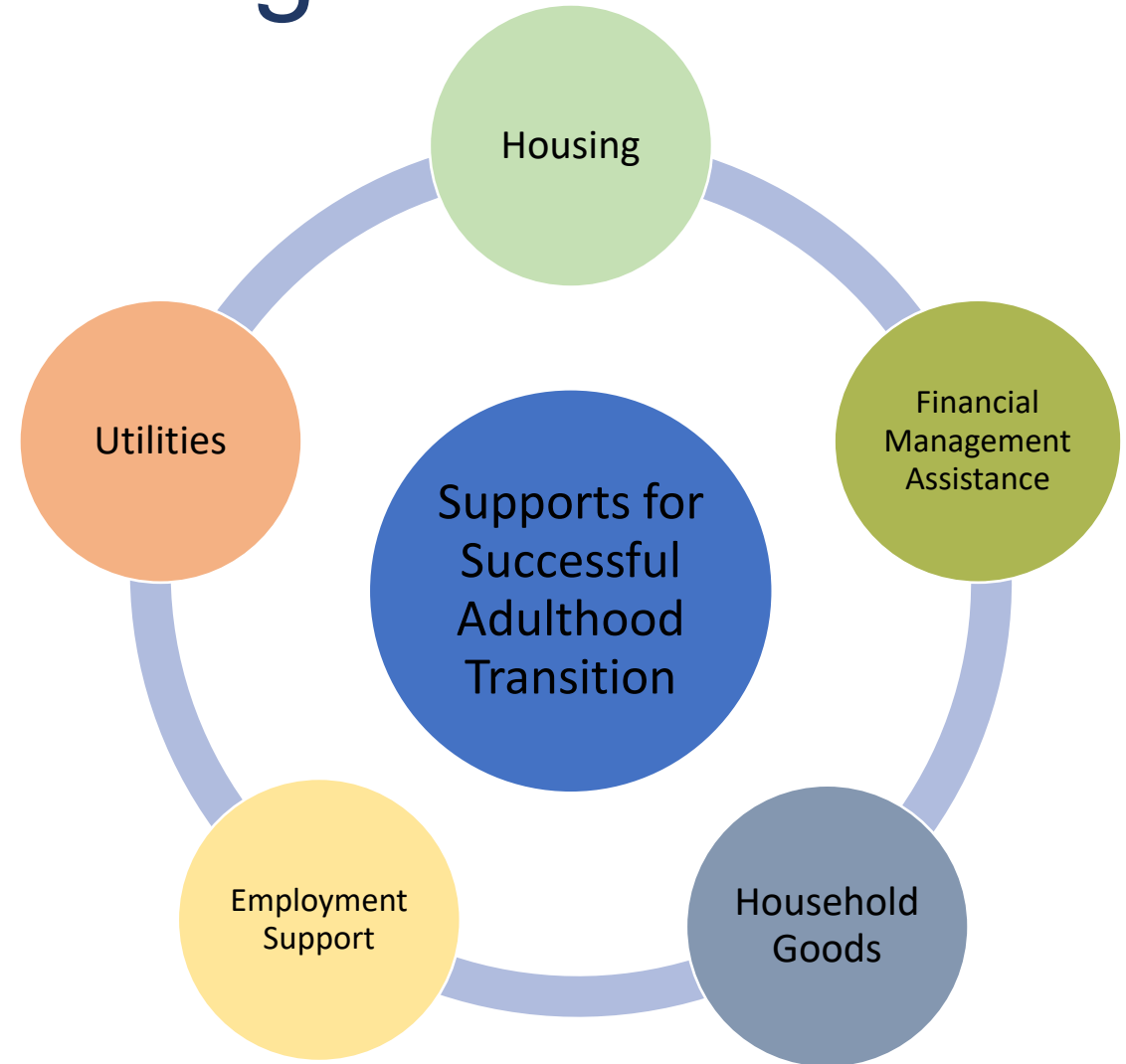
Youth with Complex Trauma Placement Support



- Increasing challenge of placing youth in extremely high-cost placements.
- Many of these youth could remain in Alaska in traditional foster homes with appropriate supports in place.
- Appropriate compensation for foster care providers caring for complex youth necessary to secure placements and keep children in Alaska whenever possible.

Support for Foster Youth Age 18-21

- Supportive funding for youth ages 18-21 that are currently in legal custody or have exited foster care at age 18 to further support successful transition into adulthood and reduce financial barriers to their success.
- These youth would be eligible for a capped annual amount for needs such as housing, household goods, employment support, transportation, utilities, financial management or other identified needs.





Safe Children, Strong Families

Questions?

