

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

14. Public Health / Nursing

Operating/Capital Budget (CCS HB 281(brf sup maj fld H))

It is the intent of the legislature that the department direct \$520,000 UGF to recruitment and retention efforts in Public Health Nursing including a \$5,000 sign-on bonus and \$5,000 in relocation support for each of the vacant Public Health Nursing positions.

The Division of Public Health will follow the intent of the legislature and use additional funding to recruit and retain Public Health Nursing staff.

15. Senior and Disabilities Services

Operating/Capital Budget (CCS HB 281(brf sup maj fld H))

It is the intent of the legislature that the department develop a five-year plan, in collaboration with stakeholders, to eradicate the waitlist for the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities waiver and to prevent waitlists for other Home and Community Based Waivers, and submit the plan to the Co-Chairs of the Finance Committees and the Legislative Finance Division by December 20, 2022.

Through support from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, the department has engaged the services of a contractor, HCBS Strategies, for assistance in developing the plan and collaborating with stakeholders as described. The department intends to submit the plan to the co-chairs of the Finance Committees and the Legislative Finance Division by December 20, 2022.

<p>Legislative Fiscal Analyst Comment: The report was submitted on the due date as a spreadsheet. This spreadsheet is available from the Legislative Finance Division upon request.</p>
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16. Senior and Disabilities Services / Senior and Disabilities Community Based Grants

Operating/Capital Budget (CCS HB 281(brf sup maj fld H)) and Mental Health (CCS HB 282)

NON-COMPLIANCE DUE TO VETO

It is the intent of the legislature that the department distribute \$586,000 UGF, in addition to the FY22 level of grant funding for the Centers for Independent Living, to the Centers for Independent Living. It is furthermore the intent of the legislature that \$912,200, be distributed to SDS Community Based Grant recipients that provide services to Alaska seniors, in addition to their FY22 level of grant funding.

The department is unable to comply with the intent of the legislature due to the veto of these funds.

17. Senior and Disabilities Services / General Relief/Temporary Assisted Living
Operating/Capital Budget (CCS HB 281(brf sup maj fld H)) and Mental Health (CCS HB 282)

It is the intent of the legislature that the department increase the daily rate for General Relief/Temporary Assisted Living from \$70 to \$104.30 to reflect Alaska's inflation rate (according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index for Urban Alaska) since the rate was last set on July 1, 2002.

The department has increased daily rates for General Relief/Temporary Assisted Living to \$104.30.

18. Departmental Support Services / Commissioner's Office
Operating/Capital Budget (CCS HB 281(brf sup maj fld H))

COMPLIANCE MAY BE DETERMINED AT A LATER DATE

It is the intent of the legislature that Medicaid and AlaskaCare, along with Trustees and Retirees, convert claims data to a common layout and provide that data to the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.

The department is working to comply with this intent language.

19. Medicaid Services
Operating/Capital Budget (CCS HB 281(brf sup maj fld H))

COMPLIANCE MAY BE DETERMINED AT A LATER DATE

It is the intent of the legislature that the department submit the Medicaid Unrestricted General Fund Obligation Report for FY22 and the first half of FY23 to the co-chairs of the Finance Committees and the Legislative Finance Division by January 31st, 2023 and subsequently update the report as requested by the legislature.

The department intends to comply and submit the Medicaid Unrestricted General Fund Obligation Report for FY2022 and the first half of FY2023 on January 31, 2023.

20. Medicaid Services
Operating/Capital Budget (CCS HB 281(brf sup maj fld H)) and Mental Health (CCS HB 282)

It is the intent of the legislature that the department draw a minimum of 70 new individuals from the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities waiver waitlist in FY23 to receive services. The department shall submit a waiver amendment, if necessary, to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid to ensure costs for this increased draw will be matched with federal dollars.

The department anticipates no challenge in meeting the intent of this language.

In its renewal of the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities waiver for another five-year waiver cycle, the department proposed amending the language in the waiver's Appendix C, Selection of Entrants for the Waiver regarding drawing from the waitlist, to read (the newly proposed language is in italics):

“SDS routinely selects 50 individuals as new entrants each waiver year and will also select an additional number of entrants if the unduplicated count falls below the maximum due to attrition.”

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has approved the maximum annual unduplicated count for this waiver as 2,120.

In mid-June of 2021, CMS approved this language for the waiver period 7/1/21-6/30/26. With that approval, the department has the authority to draw an additional 20 new recipients from the waitlist in FY2023, and thus can implement the legislative intent language without amending the IDD waiver.

21. Medicaid Services / Medicaid Services

Operating/Capital Budget (CCS HB 281(brf sup maj fld H)) and Mental Health (CCS HB 282)

It is the intent of the legislature that the employer entities receiving the increased reimbursement rate for providing services under the Home and Community Based Service Waivers, Personal Care Assistant State Plan, Community First Choice, and the Long Term Services and Supports, Targeted Case Management programs provide a 10% increase to employee wages.

The department communicated the legislature's intent that this increased rate be used to provide a 10% increase to employee wages to the employer entities receiving these funds.