

# **State of Alaska FY2005 Governor's Operating Budget**

## **Department of Health and Social Services General Relief Assistance Component Budget Summary**

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**Component: General Relief Assistance**

**Contribution to Department's Mission**

This component provides a small amount of aid on behalf of persons who are extremely poor and facing an emergency need. It is the bottom tier in Alaska's welfare system.

**Core Services**

- This component primarily provides for indigent burials. A small portion is also used to meet emergency needs for food, clothing, and shelter.
- In FY04 the Alaska Senior Assistance Program became part of this component. It provides payments to needy persons age 65 or older as a transition from the end of the Alaska Longevity Bonus program. The Alaska Senior Assistance program is scheduled to end in June 2004.

FY2005 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results		
<b>FY2005 Component Budget: \$1,499,000</b>	<b>Personnel:</b>	
	Full time	0
	Part time	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>

**Key Component Challenges**

- Alaska's General Relief Assistance (GRA) program was developed as a safety net program for very low-income individuals who are not eligible for other state or federal assistance. It is used as a last resort program to meet the emergency needs of low income Alaskans who have no other resources available to meet those needs. Currently, about 80 percent of GRA program expenditures are used to pay for funeral and burial expenses of indigent deceased persons. The remainder is used primarily to assist low-income individuals and families who are facing eviction.
- Continue to serve individuals and families that represent one of Alaska's most needy and vulnerable populations. They are often marginal members of the community and may have a variety of significant barriers that preclude successful participation in mainstream society.

**Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2005**

No major change in service is anticipated.

**Major Component Accomplishments in 2003**

- Provided GRA program vendor payments for funeral and burial expenses for approximately 500 deceased indigents.
- Prevented the eviction of approximately 100 individuals and families each month.
- Successfully implemented the Alaska Senior Assistance program on very short notice so that benefits could begin the month after longevity bonus payments ended. This new program serves approximately 7600 recipients.

**Statutory and Regulatory Authority**

AS 47.25.120-300 General Relief Assistance

7 AAC 47.020-290 and 7 AAC 47.800.890

**Contact Information**

**Contact:** Janet Clarke, Director, Administrative Services

**Phone:** (907) 465-1630

**Fax:** (907) 465-2499

**E-mail:** janet\_clarke@health.state.ak.us

**General Relief Assistance  
Component Financial Summary**

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	FY2003 Actuals	FY2004 Authorized	FY2005 Governor
<b>Formula Program:</b>			
<b>Component Expenditures:</b>			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
72000 Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0
73000 Contractual	0.0	0.0	0.0
74000 Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0
75000 Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	1,145.4	1,499.0	1,499.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Expenditure Totals</b>	<b>1,145.4</b>	<b>1,499.0</b>	<b>1,499.0</b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>			
1004 General Fund Receipts	1,145.4	1,499.0	1,499.0
<b>Funding Totals</b>	<b>1,145.4</b>	<b>1,499.0</b>	<b>1,499.0</b>

**Summary of Component Budget Changes  
From FY2004 Authorized to FY2005 Governor**

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
<b>FY2004 Authorized</b>	1,499.0	0.0	0.0	1,499.0
<b>FY2005 Governor</b>	1,499.0	0.0	0.0	1,499.0