

State of Alaska FY2002 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Administration
Senior Services
Budget Request Unit

Senior Services Budget Request Unit

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BRU Mission

To maximize the independence of older Alaskans.

BRU Services Provided

Management of four grant programs, including managing numerous federal and state funding sources.

Through the Alaska Commission on Aging (AcoA), directly provide education on nutrition, elder abuse prevention and preventative health care; coordination with Alaska Native elders programs; education and training on aging; advocacy and coordination with all state health and social services to seniors; planning for a comprehensive home and community based long-term care system; and a Medicare Insurance and Senior Pension Benefits counseling service.

Management of two waivers from the federal government for Medicaid. Assist local grantee agencies to become Medicaid-billing providers; review and authorize client plans of care; and manage client care costs/admission to the program to ensure that the total waiver budget is on target.

Hold required meetings of the Alaska Commission on Aging and ensure broad-based public interaction with seniors throughout the state; write required annual reports; gather data and analyze policy issues; and integrate Commission recommendations and decisions into staff work and grants management.

Continued refinement of Adult Protective Services (APS) and Assisted Living Homes Licensing (ALHL) systems and to extend education and training to the public and all related social service, health and law enforcement agencies regarding those systems, statutes and regulations.

Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) plans and develops program strategies to address the needs of Alaskans affected by Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia (ADRD), and their caregivers. This is a statutory requirement under the terms of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority settlement.

The Long Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO), within the ACoA, investigates and resolves complaints concerning senior citizens' long term care services, and advocates to resolve problems concerning other core services upon which seniors rely.

Home Health Services - Support agencies and Independent Personal Care Attendants through the Personal Care Attendant program which helps Alaskans with activities of daily living like non-technical medical care, bathing and dressing, preparing food, shopping, cleaning and other activities that require semi-skilled care. This program is designed to prevent or reduce inappropriate or unnecessary institutional care.

The Director's office provides policy, management and administrative oversight for the Division of Senior Services, as well as a variety of administrative support functions; payments to Adult Protective Services care providers, accounts payable, travel assistance for division staff and the Commission on Aging; budget management and oversight; assistance with professional services contracts; procurement; etc.

BRU Goals and Strategies

- 1) MAXIMIZE THE INDEPENDENCE OF VULNERABLE ALASKANS BY PROVIDING CHOICES AND ACCESS TO PREVENTION, WELLNESS AND QUALITY LONG-TERM CARE SERVICES
 - Reform the long-term care system in Alaska, in conjunction with Medicaid/Medi-grant changes
 - Establish a well coordinated, comprehensive long-term care system that responds to seniors' individualized service needs and allows seniors to remain within their home and communities as long as possible

- Protect and support seniors and other vulnerable adults through the services of Adult Protective Services, Assisted Living Homes Licensing, and the Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman.
- Function as the "state unit on aging" under the federal Older American Act, and carry out mandated planning, advocacy and services provision under the Act as required to receive federal funds for community services for seniors and job placement funds for older workers

Key BRU Issues for FY2001 – 2002

- Limited state resources for adult protective services to provide coverage statewide will require increased training of community resources such as police and medical personnel to assure proper reporting of suspected abuse or neglect of elders.
- The Alaska Commission on Aging predicts that the senior population will increase from 26,000 in 1993 to more than 80,000 by the year 2015. The number of seniors requiring significant assistance from the State will likely grow proportionately. With the prospect of significant staff increases unlikely, program efficiency will have to increase proportionately to continue to support the growing seniors population.
- The Division of Senior Services programs currently rely upon numerous duplicative, labor intensive, and ineffective systems. With support from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, the division will create a functional, integrated data environment.

Major BRU Accomplishments for FY2000

Many more Alaskans now receive nutritious meals, necessary transportation and other supportive services through Grant Programs: Senior Employment Services; Senior Residential Services; Home & Community Based Care; and Nutrition and Transportation Support Services.

More Alaskans on Medicaid are now receiving Long-Term Care in their homes or in community-based settings (about 1,400) than in nursing homes (about 485).

New Assisted Living Home regulations were drafted, using information from numerous public forums. They will go through the promulgation process in FY2001.

Assisted Living Home Forums were conducted across the state, in partnership with the Dept. of Health & Social Services, Division of Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities. Public comment was received on various parts of the Assisted Living program.

120 private Alaskan care coordinators received training regarding the current choices available to Alaskans in their communities and the types of assistance needed. It also allowed for networking across various Alaskan communities and service providers.

Increased participation by 40% in the CHOICE for the elderly and adults with physical disabilities Medicaid waiver programs during FY2000. Since individuals receiving Waiver services are all eligible to receive services in a nursing home, this increase represents both a net cost savings and better service to these persons. There are currently approximately 1,600 Alaskans in active and pending status in the two Home and Community Based waivers.

Senior Services
BRU Financial Summary by Component

All dollars in thousands

	FY2000 Actuals				FY2001 Authorized				FY2002 Governor			
	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds
Formula Expenditures None.												
Non-Formula Expenditures												
Protection, Comm Svcs, & Admin	1,857.3	1,183.7	1,180.0	4,221.0	2,574.8	1,737.5	1,759.2	6,071.5	3,471.9	2,138.8	1,877.8	7,488.5
Nutrition, Trans & Support Svc	1,655.0	3,698.0	0.0	5,353.0	1,655.3	3,859.0	0.0	5,514.3	1,655.3	4,484.0	0.0	6,139.3
Senior Employment Services	198.3	1,571.2	0.0	1,769.5	198.3	1,659.3	0.0	1,857.6	198.3	1,659.3	0.0	1,857.6
Home & Community Based Care	2,973.0	0.0	625.6	3,598.6	2,973.0	0.0	1,169.5	4,142.5	2,973.0	0.0	1,822.0	4,795.0
Senior Residential Services	1,015.0	0.0	0.0	1,015.0	1,015.0	0.0	0.0	1,015.0	1,015.0	0.0	0.0	1,015.0
Home Health Services	1,628.3	0.0	108.5	1,736.8	1,630.3	0.0	160.0	1,790.3	1,630.4	0.0	160.0	1,790.4
Totals	9,326.9	6,452.9	1,914.1	17,693.9	10,046.7	7,255.8	3,088.7	20,391.2	10,943.9	8,282.1	3,859.8	23,085.8

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Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2002

An increment of three new Medicaid waiver staff is proposed for FY2002. This will help manage the 280% growth in Waiver clients that has occurred since FY97. It will bring the backlog of Alaskans awaiting Waiver status from 6 months to 1-2 months before the decision of eligibility is made. This will help Alaskans stay at home and not have to go to nursing homes. We are requesting \$118.4 interagency receipts from federal Medicaid and \$118.4 in matching general funds.

An increment of one new Assisted Living staff is proposed for FY2002. There has been a 100% growth in licensed Assisted Living beds (non state owned) since FY95. In the same time period, investigations have more than doubled. This staff person would increase the time available for technical assistance to new Assisted Living homeowners, and allow for pro-active quality monitoring of the current homes.

The final increment requested funds the statute revisions adopted last session for General Relief rates in State paid Assisted Living homes. These are for Adult Protective Services for vulnerable Alaskan adults.

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Summary of BRU Budget Changes by Component

From FY2001 Authorized to FY2002 Governor

All dollars in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2001 Authorized	10,046.7	7,255.8	3,088.7	20,391.2
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Protection, Comm Svcs, & Admin	6.3	1.3	0.2	7.8
-Home & Community Based Care	0.0	0.0	-56.1	-56.1
-Home Health Services	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Proposed budget increases:				
-Protection, Comm Svcs, & Admin	890.8	400.0	118.4	1,409.2
-Nutrition, Trans & Support Svc	0.0	625.0	0.0	625.0
-Home & Community Based Care	0.0	0.0	708.6	708.6
FY2002 Governor	10,943.9	8,282.1	3,859.8	23,085.8