

**Department of Family and Community Services
FY25 Midyear Status Report**

Item No.	Appropriation / Allocation	Description	Amount / Fund Source	LFD Questions
1	Alaska Pioneer Homes / Pioneer Homes Payment Assistance	Reappropriate Alaska Pioneer Homes Payment Assistance to Pioneer Homes Deferred Maintenance	(\$1,444.3) Gen Fund (UGF) ReAprop	Please provide examples of deferred maintenance items that are planned or underway which are funded through this reappropriation.
<p>Agency Response Obligations to-date: \$189.0 - Intrix door handles throughout each home; \$224.4 - Alaska Veterans and Pioneer Home emergent roof repairs; \$ 16.5 - Anchorage Pioneer Home pharmacy drug storage area cooling.</p> <p>It is anticipated the remainder of the funds will be used to complete the install of the WanderGuard/Nurse Call electronic wander management system to protect residents from elopment, fall detection and notification, and nurse call alerts.</p>				
2	Alaska Pioneer Homes / Pioneer Homes	Increase Statutory Designated Program Receipts for Pharmacy Billings	\$500.0 Stat Desig (Other) Inc	Based on current FY25 projections, will the increased receipt authority be sufficient for the Department to fully collect reimbursement from elders' insurance?
<p>Agency Response Additional authority may be necessary to fully collect anticipated revenue and utilize the carryforward from FY2024. The department is currently evaluating available SDPR authority that may be transferred from elsewhere to accomodate this need.</p>				
3	Alaska Psychiatric Institute / Alaska Psychiatric Institute	MH Trust: Support for the Strengthening Healthcare Access Recruitment Program	\$200.0 GF/MH (UGF) IncOTI	<p>As this item is one-time funding, has the availability of reimbursement or other incentives through the Strengthening Healthcare Access Recruitment Program (SHARP-3) improved the recruitment of trained health professionals to the Institute?</p> <p>Has the Department developed a plan to continue recruiting with incentives through SHARP-3 with another fund source in the future?</p>

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<p>Agency Response It is difficult to quantify the impact of this SHARP-3 appropriation as there is not yet enough FY2025 data to inform analysis. Applicants have reported that the incentive has been a positive factor in their decision to accept/deny an offer with API.</p> <p>The department is currently evaluating the most appropriate options for continuing with the SHARP-3 incentive program.</p>				
4	Children's Services / Children's Services Management	Temporary Increase for Required Legal Services to Address Class Action Lawsuit	\$1,000.0 Gen Fund (UGF) IncOTI	Please provide a brief update on the progress of litigation since the September 28th, 2023 Order on Motion to Dismiss, as well as the current unexpended and unobligated balance of the appropriation.
<p>Agency Response Substantial discovery occurred throughout 2024. To date, the State produced over 1.1 million pages of documents to the plaintiffs in response to their requests for production. Multiple depositions have occurred already, and numerous additional depositions will occur in January 2025. The State filed one motion for summary judgment and moved to dismiss multiple plaintiffs' claims; those motions remain pending before the court. Additional dispositive motion practice will occur in early-2025. Trial is set in May 2025. Due to the scope of discovery (noted above), the initial appropriation has been fully spent.</p>				
5	Children's Services / Foster Care Base Rate	Increase Foster Care Base Rate to Align with Required Rate Review	Total: \$5,000.0 \$1,392.8 Fed Rcpts (Fed) \$1,058.3 GF/Match (UGF) \$2,548.9 Gen Fund (UGF) Inc	Has the rate adjustment gone into effect? If so, please provide the effective date of the new rate. Has the base rate adjustment improved, or otherwise impacted, the enlistment and engagement of foster parents into the foster care system?
<p>Agency Response The 30% rate increase went into effect July 1, 2024. The division has received positive reports from current foster families, and the Resource Family Advisory Board (RFAB), for taking action to address rising cost of living. The increase has been well received and appreciated. As licensing management and the ORCA Team work to improve licensing data reports to better demonstrate the impact on retention and recruitment of foster homes; the department is creating a survey to better measure the impact of the rate increase on foster parent retention and bringing in new foster parents to the program.</p>				

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6	Juvenile Justice / Various	Implement Increased Compensation Recommendations from Juvenile Justice Counselor Salary Study	\$1,658.4 Gen Fund (UGF) Inc	<p>Has the Department experienced an improvement in the recruitment and retention of Juvenile Justice Counselors (JJC's) as a result of increased base compensation?</p> <p>Current overall compensation for JJC's includes potential incentive pay (retention, hire, and temporary assignment bonuses). Does the Department analyze the impacts of base versus incentive compensation to maintain reduced vacancy in the future?</p>
<p>Agency Response</p> <p>The Department has experienced a significant improvement in the vacancy rate of Juvenile Justice Counselor (JJC) positions due to the two-pronged approach. Recruitment and retention bonuses at two locations began in March of 2024 followed by the base rate increase for all JJC's in July 2024. With both in place the vacancy rate for all JJC 1-3 positions decreased from 18% to 14% vacancy as of 10/31/24.</p> <p>Results of the Recruitment and Retention incentives at the Fairbanks and Juneau locations has proven successful:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The division reports five of the 30 staff who received retention incentives have departed the agency. • Vacancy at Fairbanks and Juneau locations which are eligible for the recruitment incentive have dropped from 44% to 33%. 				
7	Departmental Support Services / Coordinated Health and Complex Care	Small Group Home Placements for Stabilized Clients with Complex Needs (FY25-FY28)	\$750.0 Gen Fund (UGF) IncT	<p>The Department had previously stated that, initially, community home care providers will be provided funding, training, and support to meet the level of care needed for complex patients prior to their transition to group home settings. Please provide an update on how the implementation of this initiative is progressing.</p>
<p>Agency Response</p> <p>The Coordinated Health and Complex Care Systems Unit has been working with DFCS Procurement to establish a pathway to making this funding accessible to qualified providers of Home and Community Based Services for youths with significant behavioral health conditions discharging from the Alaska Psychiatric Institute. Due to barriers in placing youths who qualify for this funding, as well as the significant requirements providers must meet to successful transition these youths into the community, this funding has not yet been dispersed to providers. The Complex Care Systems coordinators are addressing these barriers and expect to discharge a stabilized youth to a qualified provider in the community in the next 3 months.</p>				