



SPECIAL REPORT

ALASKA
POLICY FORUM

Alaska Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Blocks

By Quinn Townsend
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Introduction

These budget blocks are a simple, straightforward way to visualize how Alaska is spending its money and from which funds that money is coming. The size of each block corresponds to the amount allocated to each state agency. The larger the dollar amount, the larger the block. All of the numbers are taken straight from the FY 2021 Enacted Operating Budget agency summaries provided to the public by the [Alaska Division of Legislative Finance](#).

Explanation of Terminology

The operating budget is what covers ongoing operations and expenses for the State of Alaska, or the day-to-day running of the government and state programs. According to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), it is “annual appropriations covering ongoing operations. Appropriations are typically made for a fiscal year, with funds lapsing at the end of the fiscal year.”

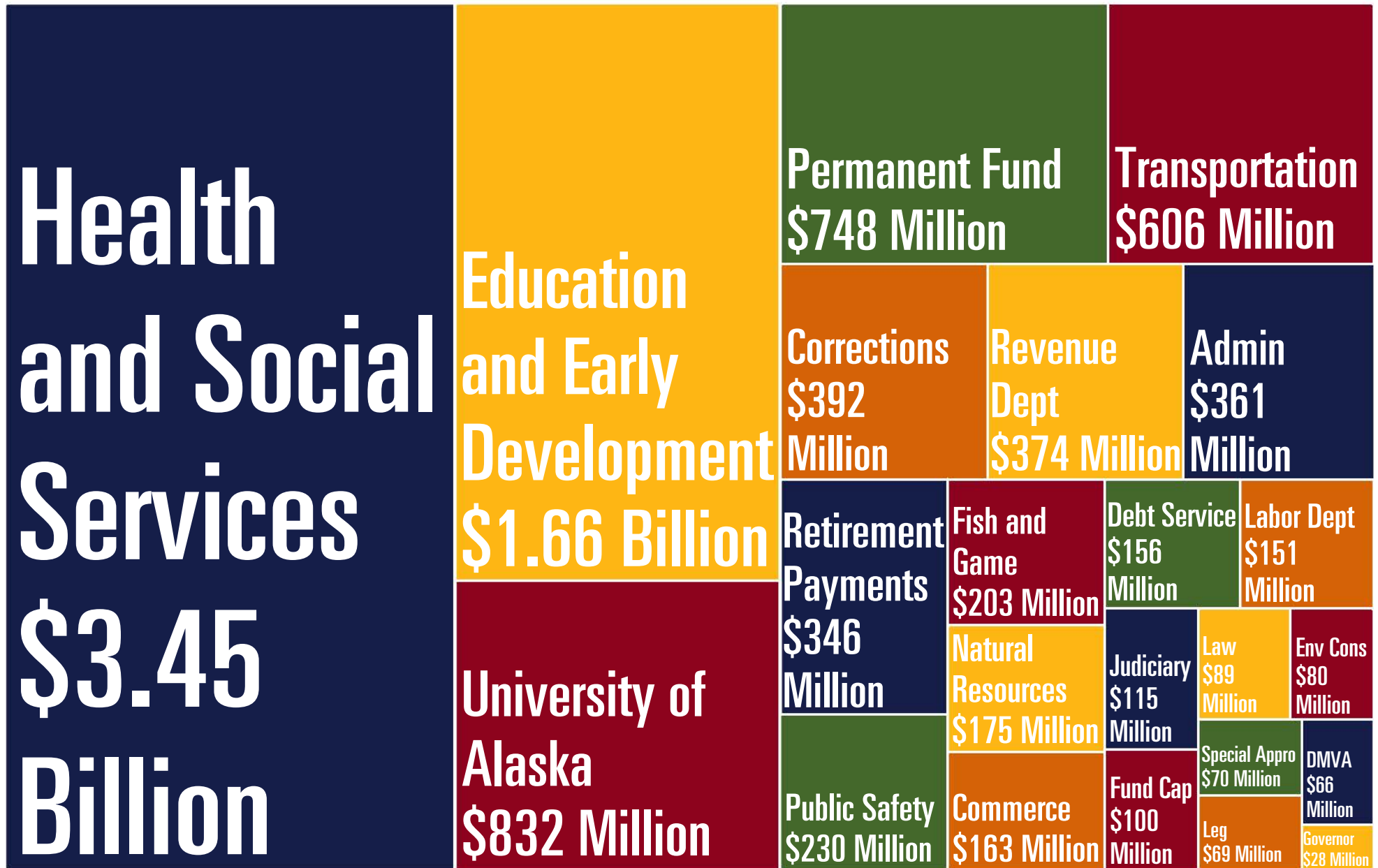
Agency or Department

- Administration (Admin)
- Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (Commerce)
- Corrections
- Education and Early Development
- Environmental Conservation (Env Cons)
- Fish and Game
- Office of the Governor (Gov)
- Health and Social Services
- Judiciary
- Labor and Workforce Development (Labor Dept)
- Law
- Legislature (Leg)
- Military and Veterans' Affairs (DMVA)
- Natural Resources
- Public Safety
- Department of Revenue
- Transportation and Public Facilities
- University of Alaska

- Debt Service – The state pays back loans or bonds that have been issued for new projects.
- Federal Receipts – Funds received from the federal government.
- Fund Capitalization (Fund Cap) – Money set aside for various funds, such as the Community Assistance Fund and the Alaska Clean Water Fund.
- Other Funds – Money the legislature has limited discretion over; includes “duplicated” funds such as interagency receipts where one state agency pays another.
- Permanent Fund – Permanent Fund Earnings Reserve Account (ERA) appropriations.
- Special Appropriations (Special Appro) – Bonds for tax credit purchases, Alaska comprehensive insurance program, and shared taxes, such as the salmon enhancement tax and the fisheries business tax.
- State Retirement Payments – Deposits to the pension fund for state and school district employee retirement obligations.
- Unrestricted General Fund (UGF) – Money with no statutory restrictions; the legislature has discretion to spend this money however it chooses.

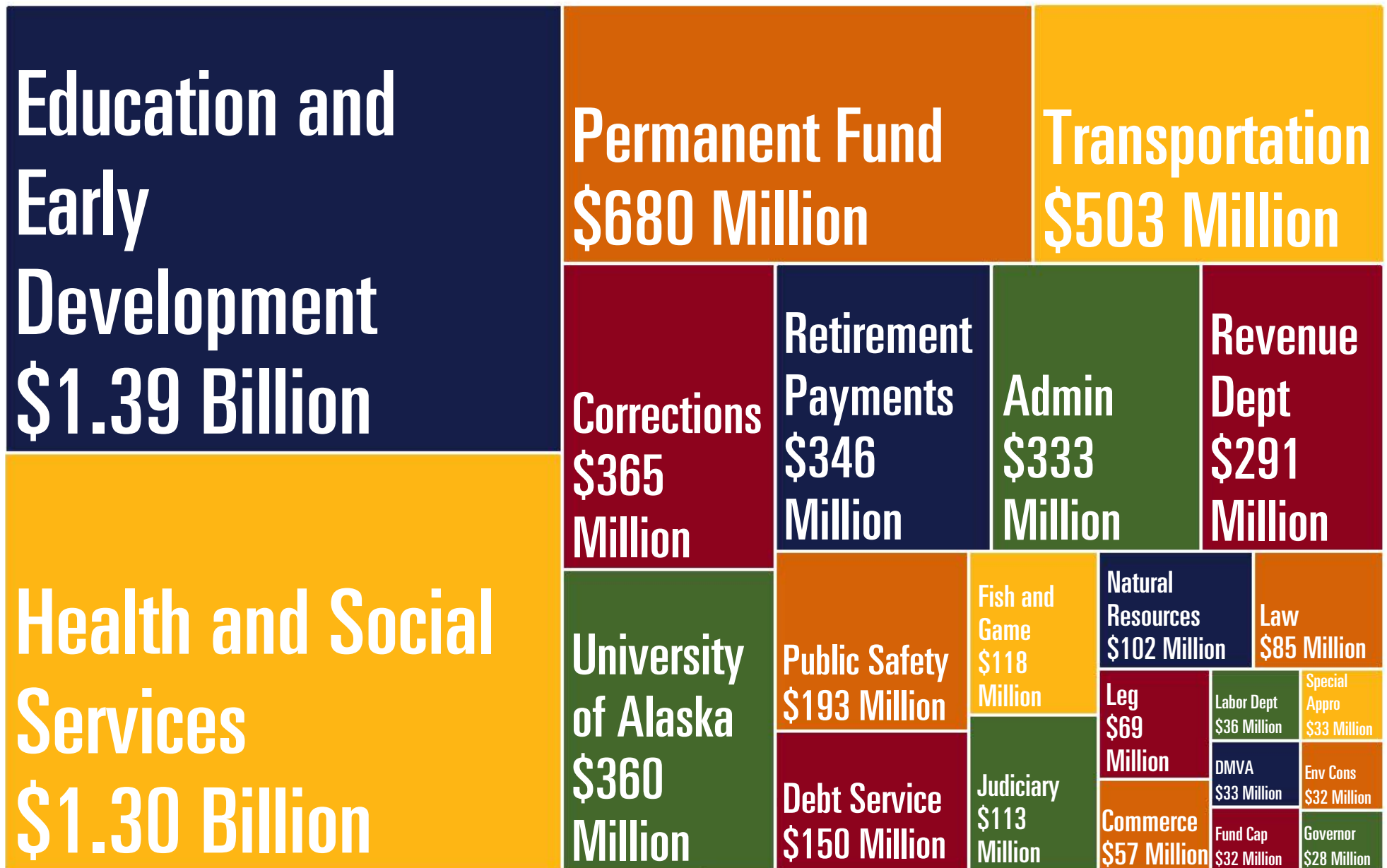
The graphic titled “Agency Totals” depicts budgeted expenses to be paid from the state’s UGF, from Other Funds, from federal receipts, and designated general funds (DGF). The graphic titled “UGF and Other” excludes Federal Receipts from the agency totals. The graphic titled “UGF” includes only unrestricted general funds. The graphic titled “Other Funding” includes only other funds. The graphic titled “Per Capita” depicts all agency budgeted expenditures per capita, based upon Alaska’s population in 2019.

Alaska FY 2021 Enacted Operating Budget — Agency Totals



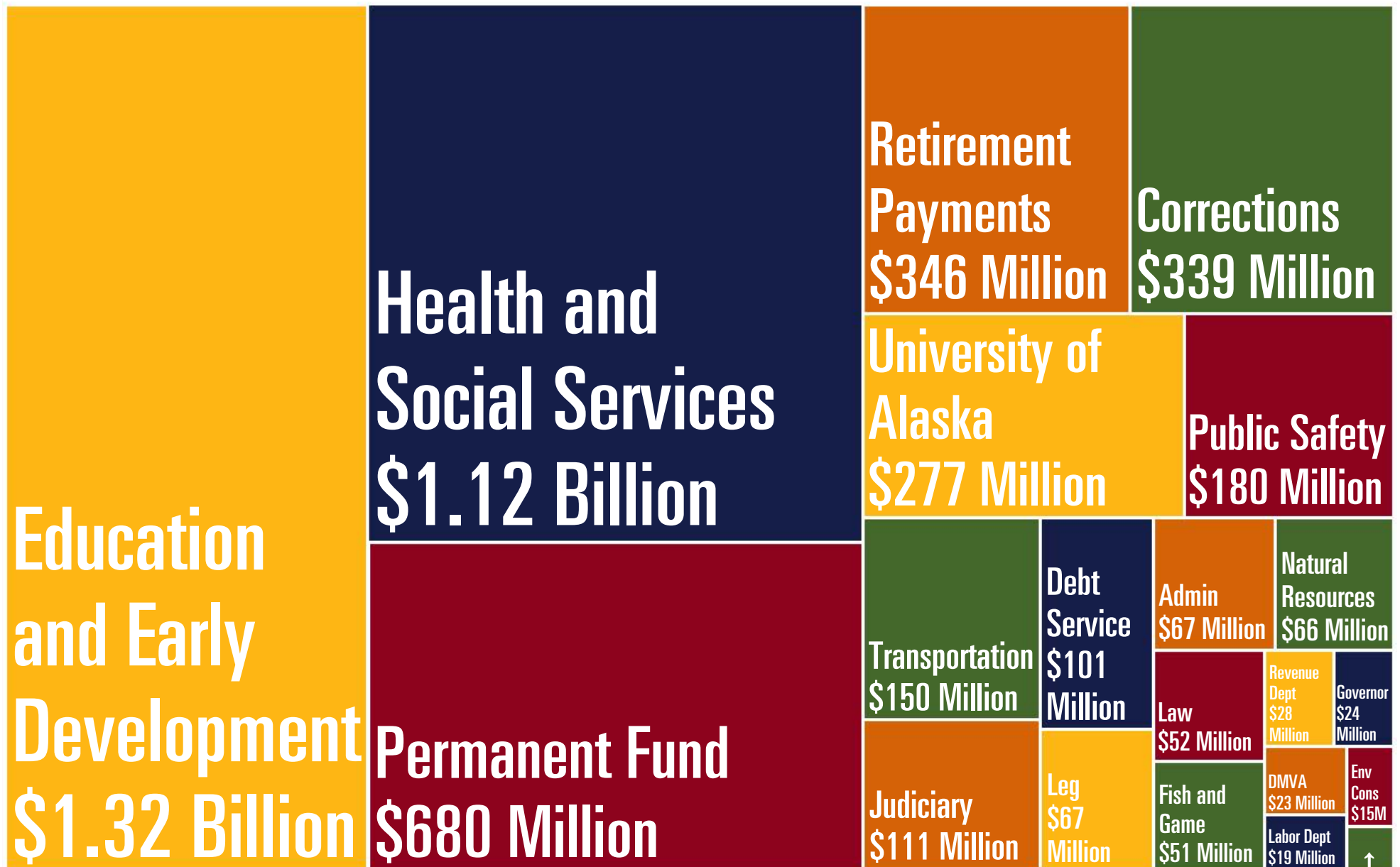
Source: Alaska Division of Legislative Finance, Agency Operating Budgets, Totals

Alaska FY 2021 Enacted Operating Budget — Unrestricted General Funds (UGF) and Other Only



Source: Alaska Division of Legislative Finance, Agency Operating Budgets, UGF and "Other" Funding

Alaska FY 2021 Enacted Operating Budget — UGF



Source: Alaska Division of Legislative Finance, Agency Operating Budgets, UGF

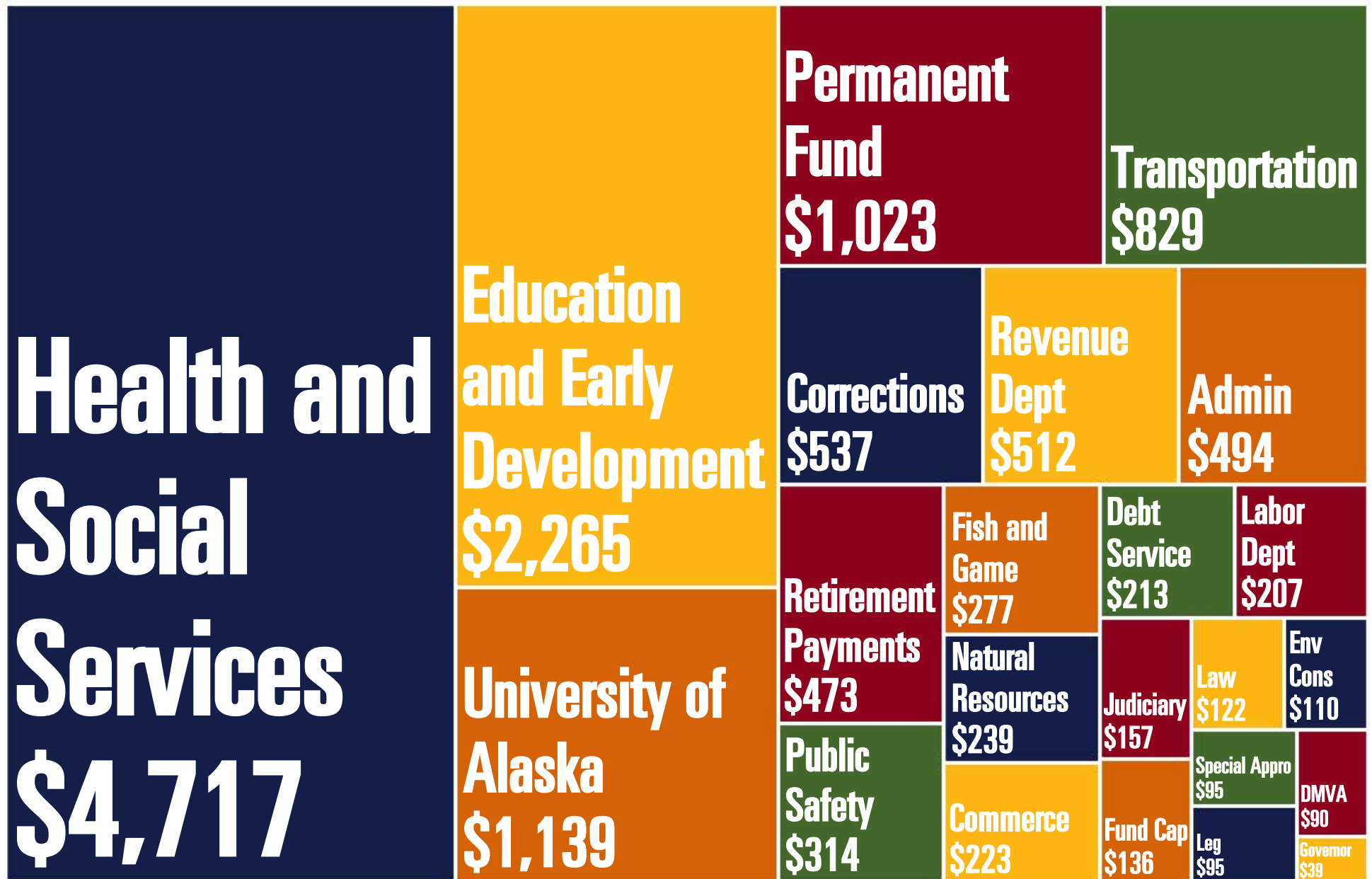
Commerce \$8M

Alaska FY 2021 Enacted Operating Budget — Other Funding



Source: Alaska Division of Legislative Finance, Agency Operating Budgets, Other Funding

Alaska FY 2021 Enacted Operating Budget — Agency Totals Per Capita



Source: Alaska Division of Legislative Finance and Department of Labor and Workforce

About the Author

Quinn Townsend is the Policy Manager at Alaska Policy Forum. Previously, Quinn worked as the Economic Research Analyst at The Buckeye Institute. She is currently finishing her M.S. in Resource Economics and Management at West Virginia University. She also has a B.S. in Economics from Brigham Young University-Idaho. When she's not working or studying, Quinn enjoys taking her dogs on hikes and convincing her houseplants to stay alive.

About Alaska Policy Forum

Alaska Policy Forum (APF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit think tank dedicated to empowering and educating Alaskans and policymakers by promoting policies that grow freedom for all. Our vision is an Alaska that continuously grows prosperity by maximizing individual opportunities and freedom. APF does not accept any form of government funding.

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