

ALASKA Policy Forum

Alaska Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Blocks

By Quinn Townsend August 18, 2020

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 <u>Alaska Division of Legislative</u> 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

		Permanent Fund		Transportation			
Health	Education	\$748 Million		\$606 Million			
	and Early	Corrections \$392	Dept	Dept		Admin \$361	
Services	Development \$1.66 Billion	Retirement	ame		Million rvice Labo \$15 Milli	or Dept 1	
\$3.45	University of	\$346	latural esources	Judiciary \$115 Million	Law \$89 Million	Env Cons \$80 Million	
Billion	Alaska \$832 Million	I	ommerce 163 Million	Fund Cap \$100 Million	Special Appr \$70 Million Leg \$69 Million	O DMVA \$66 Million Governor \$28 Million	

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

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

Education and Early
Development \$1.39 Billion

Health and Social Services \$1.30 Billion

Permanent Fund \$680 Million

Transportation \$503 Million

Corrections \$365 Million

University of Alaska \$360

Retirement Payments \$346 Million

Admin \$333 Million Revenue Dept \$291 Million

Public Safety \$193 Million

Debt Service \$150 Million Fish and Game \$118
Million Leg

Judiciary \$113 Million Natural Resources \$102 Million

Law \$85 Million

Leg Labor Dept \$69 \$36 Million

DMVA \$33 Million

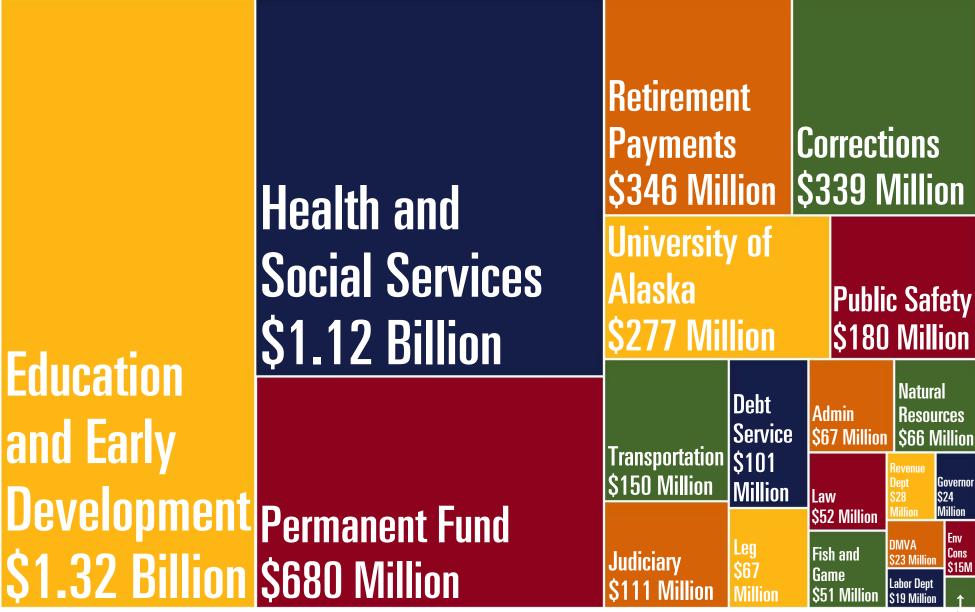
Commerce \$57 Million \$32 Million Env Cons \$32 Million

\$33 Millior

Governor n \$28 Million

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

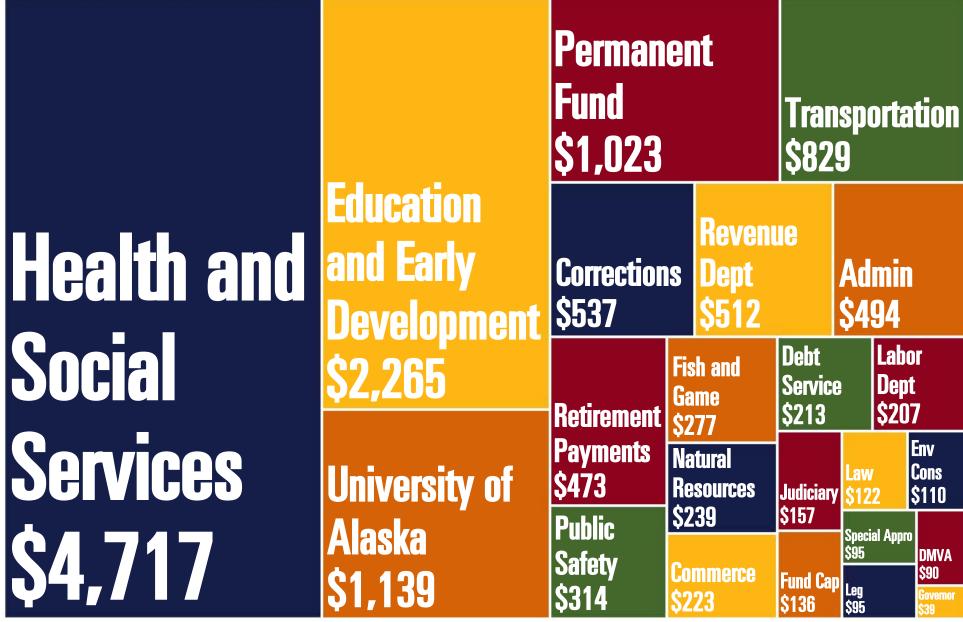
Commerce \$8M

Alaska FY 2021 Enacted Operating Budget — Other Funding

Health and Revenue Social Services Transportation \$263 Million \$181 Million \$354 Million **Natural** Commerce Resources Education **University of** \$49 Million \$36 Million and Early Alaska Development **Special** \$83 Million \$67 Million **Fund Cap Corrections** Appro Admin \$32 Million \$26 Million \$33 Million DMVA **Env Cons** \$10 Labor \$16 Million Million \$266 Million Dept \$17 **Fish and Game Debt Service** Law **Judiciary Public Safety** \$68 Million \$50 Million \$13 Million Leg \$2M

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.

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