



Council Report

Jena Crafton, Chair

**Patrick Reinhart,
Executive Director**

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Planner**

November 13- 14, 2024



Improving Lives Conference

The Alaska
Mental Health
Trust Authority



Recent Event Highlights

August

- ▶ Embracing Abilities

September

- ▶ FASD Breakfast
- ▶ Improving Lives Conference

October

- ▶ Disability and Aging Summit
- ▶ ACT Program Agency Night!
- ▶ IL Conference

November

- ▶ Employment First Conference
- ▶ Work Matters Task Force

Developmental Disabilities in Alaska

- ▶ State specific data unavailable on prevalence of DD- national issue
- ▶ Latest national prevalence rate of 1.58% from 2001
- ▶ Most recent data from 2023 suggests
 - ▶ approximately 11,641 individuals living in Alaska have DD

DD in Alaska continued...

- ▶ 11,641 in Alaska- is this accurate?
- ▶ This number is more than likely higher
 - ▶ FASD in Alaska being significantly underreported
 - ▶ And inaccurate FASD specific data unavailable

Beginning our 5 Year State Plan Process

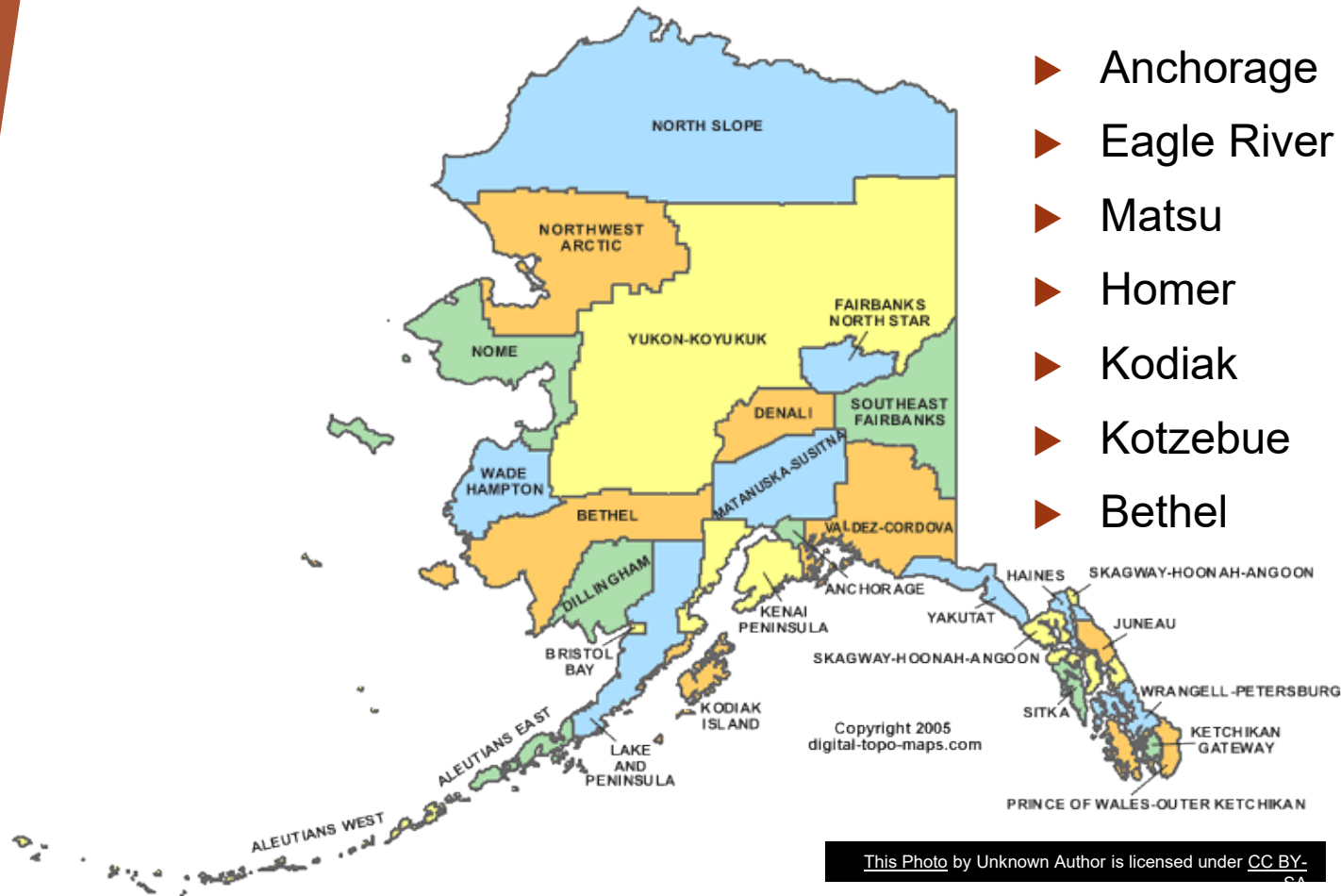
- ▶ **Public input** and analysis of all data collected
- ▶ Council decide on Values, Goals, Areas of Emphasis
- ▶ Create draft plan
- ▶ Public feedback period
- ▶ Council finalizes state plan
- ▶ Submit state plan- Summer 2026

**Public Input collected
at Community Forums
In person/Virtual
across AK**



5 Year Plan- Community Forums

Community forums will begin in early 2025. Ideally completed by Summer, however, may wrap up in fall 2025



- ▶ Anchorage
- ▶ Eagle River
- ▶ Matsu
- ▶ Homer
- ▶ Kodiak
- ▶ Kotzebue
- ▶ Bethel
- ▶ Ketchikan
- ▶ Sitka
- ▶ Juneau
- ▶ Cordova
- ▶ Kenai/Soldotna
- ▶ Fairbanks

Employment Events



EMPLOYMENT
FIRST CONFERENCE

November 6th,
2024

#NDEAM
dol.gov/odep



Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center, Anchorage, Alaska

The Employment First Conference is for **business owners and managers**. Come network with other employers and agencies and gain information on how to manage your business's culture and growth with employment and hiring practices that are effective today in the changing workforce of Alaska.

This one day conference focusing on **diversity and workplace culture** for business is complete with presentations and resources on topics including:

- utilizing untapped labor pools
- workplace accommodations
- artificial intelligence in the workplace
- mental health in the workplace
- tax incentives
- and local business owners experience to successful business growth
- universal design

Visit EmploymentFirstAlaska.com for more information!

Access to Good Jobs for All

National Disability Employment Awareness Month



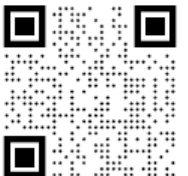
Hosted by:



Sponsored by:



Scan QR Code to
Register Now!



Disability Innovation Fund DIF/DEED Grant

- ▶ Disability Innovation Fund DIF/DEED Grant Council Employment Committee – 5 Year/\$10 M

Some of the programs supported by this grant:

- ▶ **SILC** – Youth Leadership Forum, Youth RISE (Ready in Safety and Emergency Management)
- ▶ **SAIL** – RecWORKS Southeast and RecWORKS Kenai Peninsula!
- ▶ **UAA CHD** – Alaska Native Post Secondary Transition Skills, DB 101 School and Youth Calculator, Tapestry
- ▶ **GCDSE** – Project SEARCH, Peer Power School Outreach
 - ▶ APIA Career Fair in Dutch Harbor, Unalaska

Recruiting for the DIF Grant Advisory Committee – currently 11 members, but **needs students**



Project SEARCH

Project SEARCH Current 2024-2025 Interns

- ▶ Anchorage Providence Medical Center: 6 Interns
- ▶ Fairbanks Memorial Hospital: 6 Interns
- ▶ Mat Su Regional Medical Center: 4 Interns



Project | SEARCH®
ALASKA



Microenterprise Grant Committee

- ▶ Support self-employment for Alaska Mental Health Trust Beneficiaries
- ▶ We need volunteers to review and provide recommendations on Microenterprise Grant Applications.
- ▶ Grant Applications are processed 2x per year
- ▶ Most Recent Application Period:
 - ▶ 9 applicants – 1 TBI/MI, 1 DD, 4 MI, 1 MI/Addiction, 1 DD/MI, 1 TBI
- ▶ **\$39 K requested, application reviews October 24/25, 2024**

NEXT APPLICATION DEADLINE

Spring 2025

Feature Microenterprise Grantee

EVERY SKAGGS; Abstract Expressionist Painter

Avery is an Alaskan artist and has been painting with his fingers all his life. He has had 7 solo exhibitions and has 2 upcoming shows in 2021. His pieces have been in numerous group shows both in Alaska and the Lower 48.

Each week, Avery spends 4-5 days creating with the help of staff members. With his support staff, he simultaneously works on about 10 pieces at a time, letting layers dry and selecting new colors.

Being non-verbal, Avery's art is a crucial form of his communicative repertoire. All of us who work as Avery's support staff strive to give him the opportunity to explore different mediums and styles with which to express himself. All of the original pieces are acrylic paint applied by Avery's hands on wood, unless stated otherwise.

► Written by Averyl Veliz, Avery's agent



EVERY ART

Products...

Products HOME: Disability & Creativity in a Pandemic Lockdown Original Paintings Sketchbooks & Journals

Totes & Cases Face Coverings Headbands & Scarves Leggings Home Decor



Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

- ▶ **1,947** individuals with disabilities received services
- ▶ **\$3,385,266** was spent on services to individuals in the VR program
- ▶ **320 individuals exited the VR program employed**
 - \$19.98 was the average hourly wage
- ▶ 50 students with disabilities received services from the VR program
- ▶ \$113,732 was spent on Pre-Employment Transition Services from the VR program

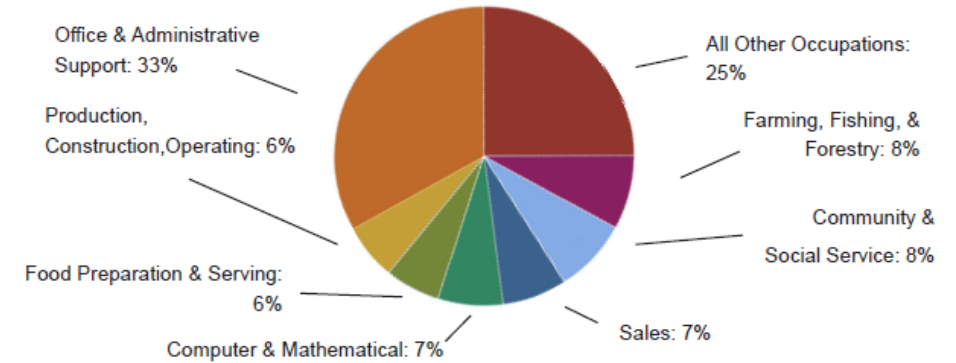
Potentially Eligible (PE) Students with a Disability Highlights

- ▶ 1,399 students with disabilities received services from the PE transition program
- ▶ 85 Alaskan cities hosted PE programs and 80% of them were held in rural Alaska
- ▶ \$1,599,051 was spent on Pre-Employment Transition Services from the PE program

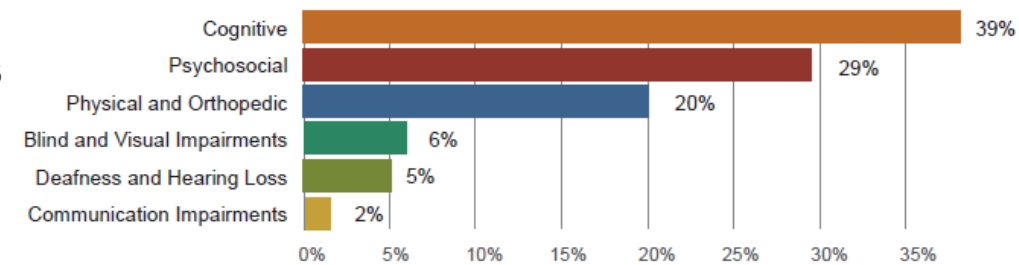
Disability Types (% includes all disabilities per participant)

- ▶ 35% Cognitive
- ▶ 35% Psychosocial
- ▶ 22% Physical and Orthopedic
- ▶ 4% Deafness/Hearing Loss
- ▶ 2% Blindness/Visual Impairment
- ▶ 2% Communication Impairment

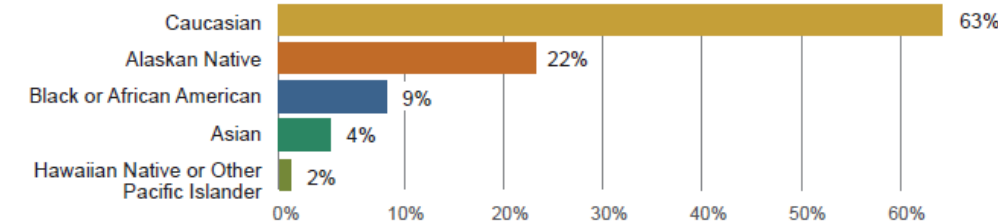
SFY 2023 Occupations of DVR Participants after Exiting the Program



Disabilities of DVR Participants SFY 2023



DVR Participants by Race SFY 2023



Community Inclusion Supports and Services (CISS) Committee

- ▶ Committee finalized revisions to Years 4 and 5 of the Workplan, FY25 and FY26
- ▶ Supporting Shared Vision 2.0 workgroups- passion to actualize the shared vision
 - ▶ Providing staff/council members to each of the 3 workgroups



CISS Committee Year 4 (FY25) Priorities



Focus on Housing activities

Goal of creating a PSA related to Housing for IDD



Creating Educational opportunities around understanding the waivers/waiver process

Are Prisons the new DD Institutions?

Olmstead v. L.C., held that unjustified segregation of people with disabilities in institutional settings constituted discrimination in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act, or ADA.

- ▶ Nationwide overrepresentation of incarcerated individuals with developmental disabilities.

“Orange is the new asylum”

Becky Crow/Christine Drew| National Library of Medicine

Are Prisons the new DD Institutions? (cont. 1)

TABLE 1

Prevalence of disabilities among all state and federal prisoners, 2016

Disability	All state and federal prisoners	
	Percent	Standard error
Any disability ^a	38.4%	0.65%
Cognitive	22.8	0.44
Ambulatory	11.5	0.42
Vision	11.4	0.39
Told had an attention deficit disorder ^b	24.4%	0.51%
Ever attended special education classes	23.8%	0.47%
Told had a learning disability ^c	14.1%	0.36%

Are Prisons the new DD Institutions? (cont. 2)

- ▶ 40% of people in state prisons have a disability.
- ▶ 23% of people on probation or parole have a disability.
 - ▶ Alaska--25% of Reentrants in the Fairbanks Economic Region have a Developmental Disability.
- ▶ Disabilities such as autism, Down syndrome, and learning disorders impact about 1/4 of incarcerated people, visual, hearing, and ambulatory disabilities are common.
- ▶ 25% of state prison inmates report a history of taking special education classes.
 - ▶ 46% of state prisons do not offer any special education classes.

SDS Registry / Waitlist #s (as of 10/2024)

- ▶ **IDD Registry Only:** 338 individuals, 312 on or offered ISW
- ▶ **IDD & ISW Registries:** 140 individuals
- ▶ **ISW Registry Only:** 41 individuals
- ▶ **Enrolled with the different waivers:** 2,128 on or offered IDD waiver, 589 on or offered ISW waiver
- ▶ **FY 2024 draws:** 33 people drawn for IDD waiver, 31 people for ISW.

Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)/Infant Learning Program (ILP) Update

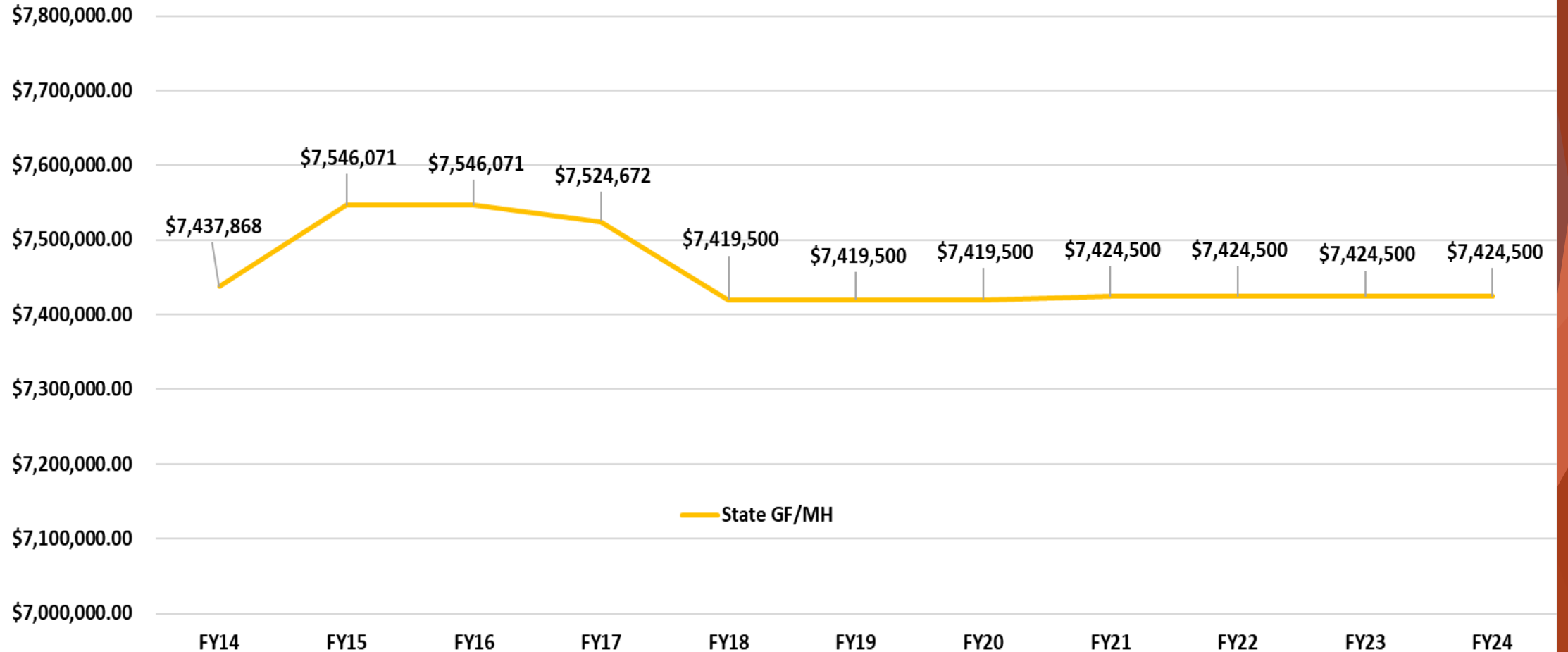
Funding concerns

- ▶ Flat funded for 11 years
- ▶ With inflation (see next slides) equals roughly a 26% cut in funding for ILP across the state.
- ▶ ILP is Federally mandated to serve all children who qualify
 - ▶ Fewer funds =
 - ▶ Less money to pay professionals to perform services =
 - ▶ Able to see children less often =

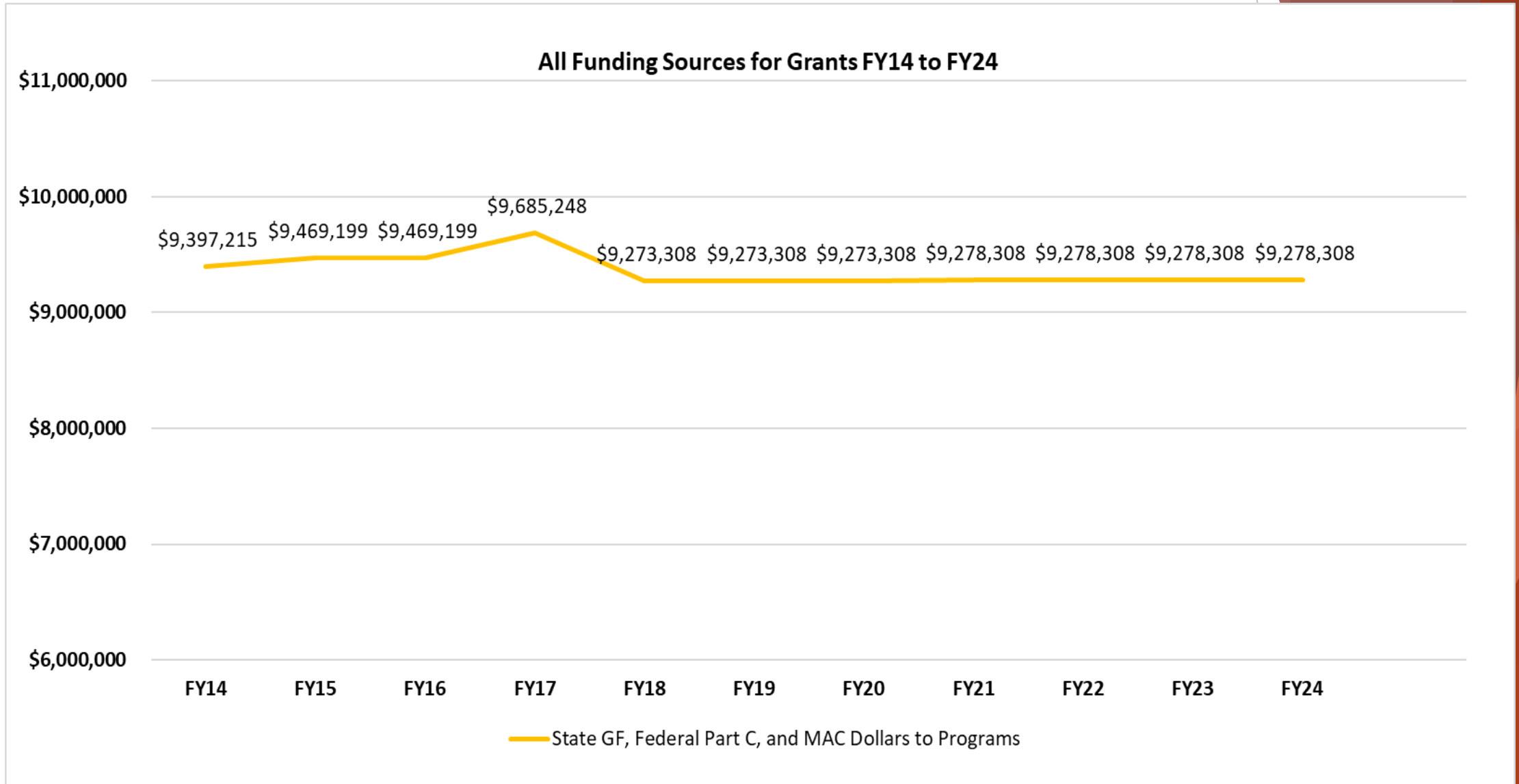
CHILDREN NOT GETTING WHAT THEY NEED TO SUCCEED

ICC/ ILP Update

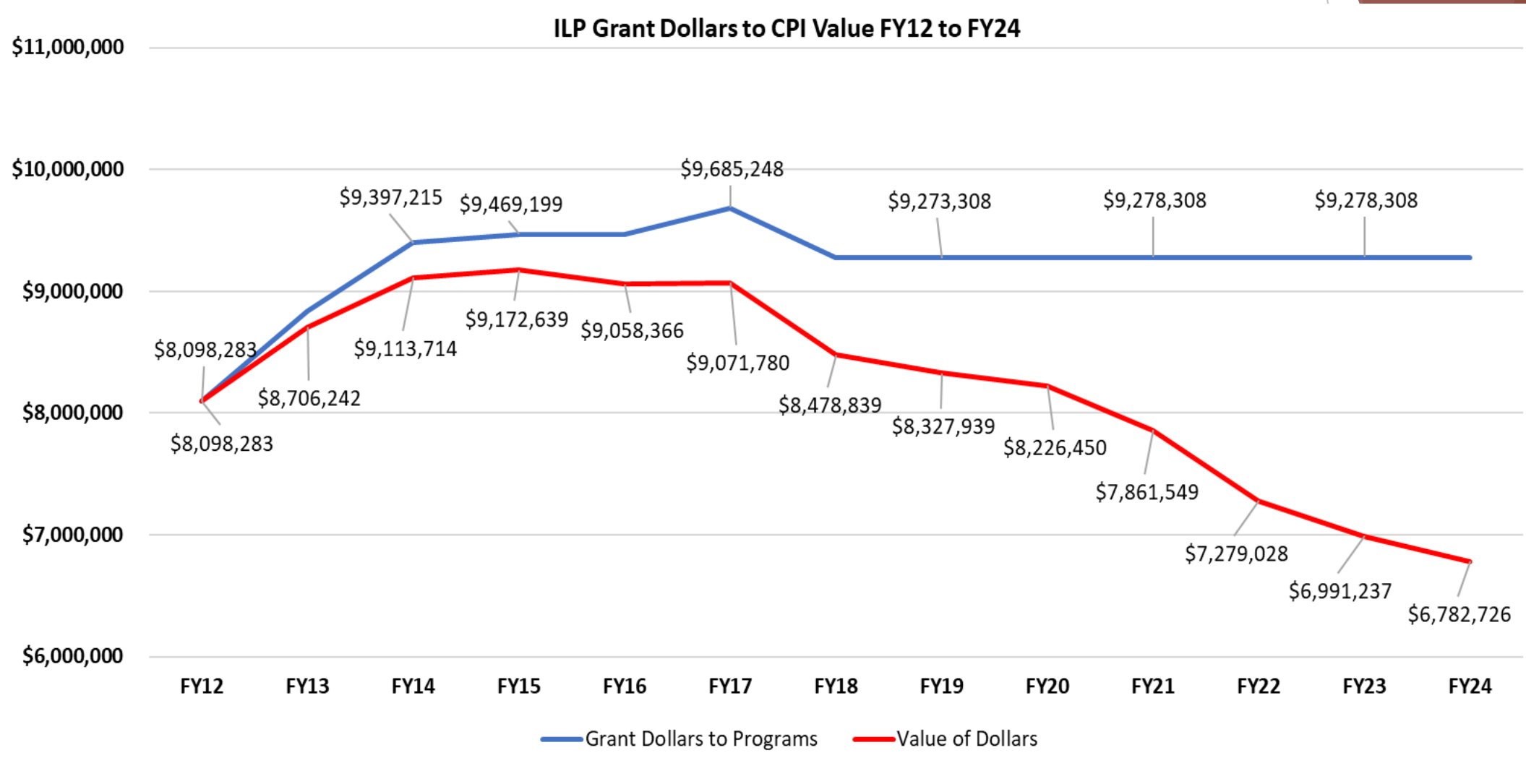
ILP State GF Grant Dollars FY14 to FY24



ICC/ ILP Update (cont. 1)



ICC/ ILP Update (cont. 2)



ICC/ ILP Update (cont. 3)

- ▶ Requesting roughly \$3 million increase for ILP to “make whole” from 11 years of flat funding.
- ▶ Introduce expansion report and plans
- ▶ Monthly ICC subcommittee meetings and weekly subcommittee leadership meetings to prepare request

Link to report:

- ▶ https://health.alaska.gov/gcdse/SiteAssets/Pages/default/Accessible_Alaska_ILP_PartC_report_final.pdf

Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) Update

- ▶ Monitoring progress of corrections from OSEP Part B audit of DEED in 2022 (FY23).
 - ▶ **Findings in the following areas**
 - ▶ District monitoring
 - ▶ Early childhood transitions
 - ▶ Grant monitoring and notifications
 - ▶ Dispute resolution and Mediation timelines
 - ▶ State Advisory Panel (SEAP) makeup
- ▶ Corrections have been made – awaiting OSEP response.

Full report can be viewed here:

- ▶ <https://education.alaska.gov/tls/sped/pdf/dms-ak-b-2023-report-final-09-25-2023.pdf>

Special Education Service Agency (SESA) Update

- ▶ Concurrently, the Low Incidence Disability (LID) Program enrollment has increased by 16% over the last 3 FYs



SESA Update (cont.)

- ▶ SESA FTEs for education specialists: 13.8
 - ▶ Maximum caseload per specialist to effectively serve students: 40
 - ▶ Maximum LID enrollment based on current FTEs and caseload: 550
 - ▶ Current number of students enrolled in LID program (end FY23 school year) 461
- ▶ At current rate of annual LID enrollment growth (16%) maximum caseloads will be exceeded in FY26
- ▶ SESA current funding level: $\text{ADM} \times \$23.13$
 - ▶ Rate does not allow addition of FTEs to serve projected growth while maintaining competitive salaries.
 - ▶ Waitlist
- ▶ SESA board passed resolution to ask for increase to formula
 - ▶ $\text{ADM} \times \$26.89$

Self-Advocacy and Leadership (SAL)

- ▶ **New Co-Chair**
 - ▶ Garrett Dominik (Self Advocate) and Christine Bohan (Parent)
- ▶ **Presentations**
 - ▶ Hopes, Dreams, and Dignity of Risk at Improving Lives Conference
 - ▶ Self-Advocacy Panel: I Have Rights at Disability and Aging Summit



2025 Legislative Priorities - Early Look

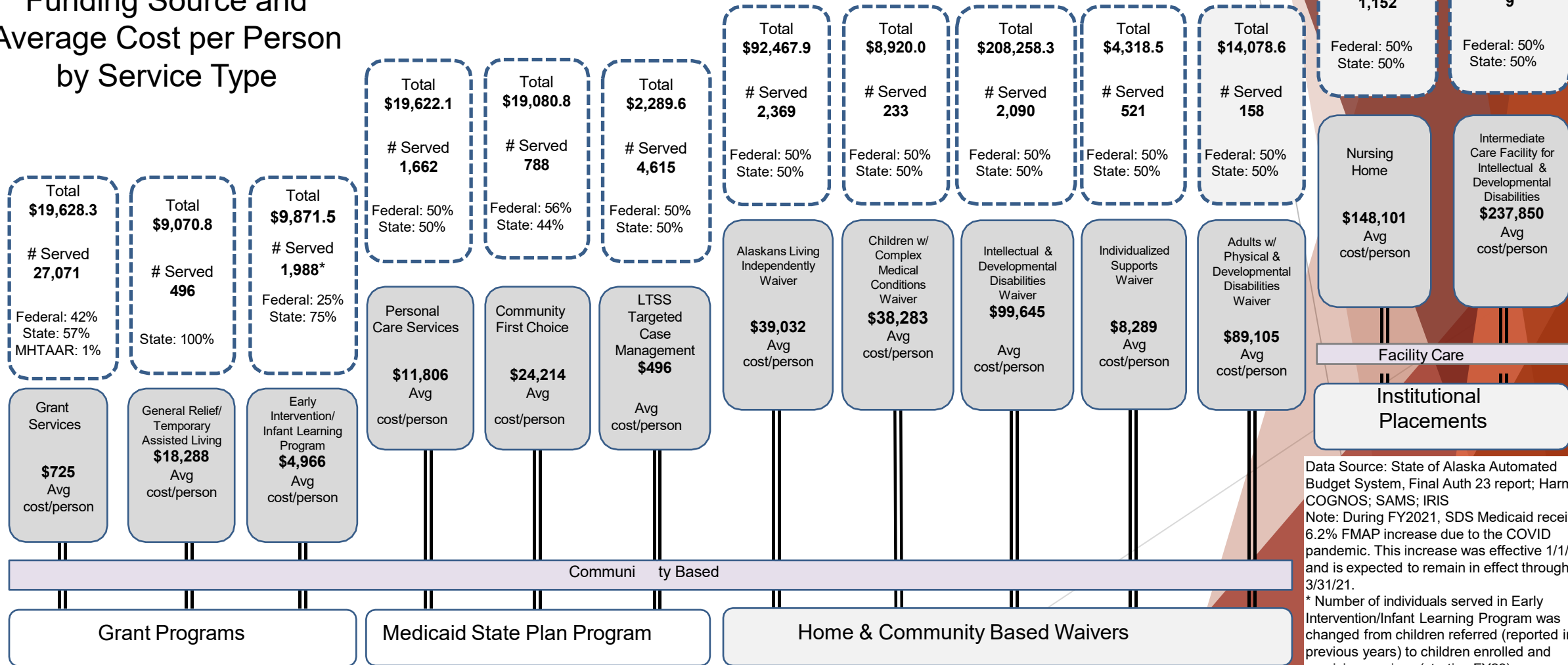
- ▶ Deaf and Hard of Hearing Bill of Rights
- ▶ Adult Changing Tables
- ▶ ILP Program Funding Increase
- ▶ SESA Funding Formula
- ▶ Shared Vision- Education
- ▶ Public and Community Transportation

State of Alaska Continuum of Care

Senior and Disabilities Services

SFY 2023 Costs by Funding Source and Average Cost per Person by Service Type

Grant Services	Medicaid State Plan Programs	Home & Community Based Waivers	Institutional Placements	Total Costs	Total # Served (Duplicated Counts Across some Service Types)
\$38,570.6	\$40,992.4	\$328,043.3	\$172,752.9	\$580,359.2	37,423



Data Source: State of Alaska Automated Budget System, Final Auth 23 report; Harmony; COGNOS; SAMS; IRIS
 Note: During FY2021, SDS Medicaid received a 6.2% FMAP increase due to the COVID pandemic. This increase was effective 1/1/20 and is expected to remain in effect through 3/31/21.
 * Number of individuals served in Early Intervention/Infant Learning Program was changed from children referred (reported in previous years) to children enrolled and receiving services (starting FY23).

Cost of Institutional Care without Home and Community Based Waiver Services Options

SFY 2023 Costs by Funding Source and Average Cost per Person by Service Type (based on FY 2023 Final Auth Report and number of people for whom payments were made during FY 2023)

Home & Community Based Waivers

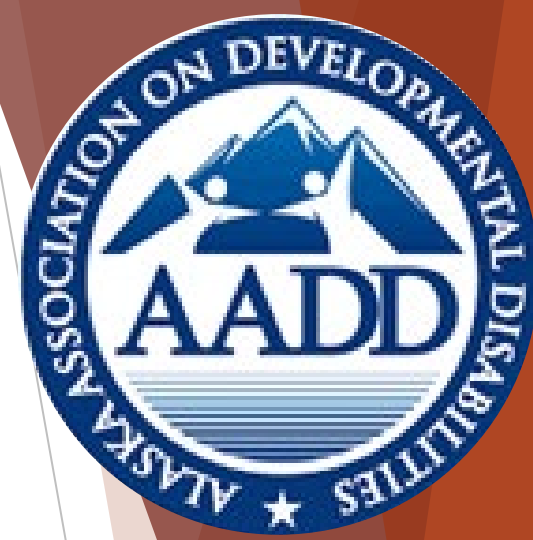
Program	# served	Avg cost per person	Total costs
ALI Waiver	2,369	\$39,032	\$92,467,947
APDD Waiver	158	\$89,105	\$14,078,594
CCMC Waiver	233	\$38,283	\$8,920,002
IDD Waiver	2,090	\$99,645	\$208,258,253
ISW Waiver	521	\$8,289	\$4,318,481
TOTAL HCB Waivers	5,276		\$328,043,276

Institutional Placements

Program	# served	Avg cost per person	Total costs
Nursing Home	1,152	\$148,101	\$170,612,264
ICF/IID	9	\$237,850	\$2,140,648
TOTAL Institutional Placements	1,161		\$172,752,912
TOTAL HCB Waivers and Institutional Placements			\$500,796,188

Institutional Placements if no HCB Waiver services existed FY2023	# served	Total cost based on average cost per person for NH and ICF/IID services
Nursing Home + ALI, APDD and CCMC Waiver service recipients	3,742	\$554,193,658
ICF/IID + IDD and ISW Waiver service recipients	2,557	\$608,181,839
TOTAL if HCB Waivers did not exist and individuals eligible for Nursing home or ICF/IID care received services in Institutional Placements (ICF/IID is based on current out of state placement).		\$1,162,375,497

Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities (AADD)



- ▶ **AADD Fall Meeting October 15-16:** 84 people attended, presentations included keynote by nationally-recognized provider GoodLife Innovations about using technology combined with outside-the-box staffing patterns to address workforce shortages and improve retention.
- ▶ **GoodLife Innovations Pilot:** AADD is coordinating a pilot with five provider organizations; pilot includes an organizational assessment, customized recommendations and implementation of a plan based on GoodLife's workforce strategies.
- ▶ **Employment Systems Retreat October 17:** 32 people including the leaders of SDS, DVR and the Governor's Council and 10 DD employment services providers. Prioritized system barriers specific to Medicaid waivers and DVR that impact beneficiary employment opportunities.
- ▶ **Medicaid Rate Survey October 11-December 13:** AADD is hosting work sessions to support providers to complete survey that will inform current rate reform work.

Upcoming Council Meetings and Events

Reducing Recidivism & Reentry Conference, Nov 18-19, 2024

- ▶ Location: Sheraton in Anchorage –Trust Sponsored

Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference (ASSEC), Feb 3-5, 2025

- ▶ Location: Hilton Anchorage

Winter Council Meeting, Feb 10 – 13, 2025

- ▶ Location: State Office Building in Juneau

Key Campaign Fly-in, March 18-19, 2025

- ▶ Location: Juneau

Spring Council Meeting, May 2025 (TBD)

- ▶ Location: Atwood in Anchorage



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**GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON
DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION**



Questions?