

### **Senior Benefits – Restored \$20,786,100 (FY 2020) and \$800,000 (FY 2019 Supplemental)**

- The Senior Benefits Payment Program helps low-income seniors, who are at least 65 years of age, remain independent in the community by providing a cash benefit determined by the senior's gross annual income.
- The restoration of this funding recognizes the importance of Alaska's seniors and their contributions to our State.

### **University of Alaska – Restored \$110,253,100**

- Governor Dunleavy and the University of Alaska reached an agreement on a multi-year compact that preserves \$110 million in State funding for the University of Alaska for FY 2020.
- The agreement includes a multi-year step down: in FY 2020, the State's general fund budget for the University of Alaska is reduced by \$25 million from the FY 2019 level of \$327 million; in FY 2021, this funding will be reduced by another \$25 million; and in FY 2022, another \$20 million.
- By choosing a multi-year, step-down approach, we provide our communities, campuses, and students the certainty they have been asking for, while also taking on the serious challenge of reforming the University of Alaska into a more efficient system.

### **Early Learning Programs – Restored \$8,847,700**

- Includes \$6.9 million in funding for **Head Start**, which provides free and comprehensive early childhood programs for children between the ages of 0-5 that meet federal poverty guidelines
- Includes \$1.2 million in funding for **Early Childhood Grants**, which was an extension to the Moore lawsuit – allowing eligible districts to continue providing early childhood education services to students as the district continues to establish their programs.
- Also includes \$474,700 for **Parents as Teachers** and \$320,000 for **Best Beginning** Grants, which mobilizes people and resources to ensure all Alaska children begin school ready to succeed.
- These funds come in addition to the \$2 million enacted in the FY 2020 budget for **Pre-Kindergarten** Grants, as well as the \$4.2 million unspent grants carried forward from FY 2019.

### **Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC) – Restored \$759,100**

- ALSC was established in 1967 as a private, nonprofit law firm that offers free civil legal services to low income and disadvantaged people to protect their safety, their health, and promote family stability.
- Legal guidance is provided by staff attorneys and pro bono volunteer lawyers who on average help over 7,000 Alaskans per year.
- With the restoration of these funds, ALSC will work with the Department of Law to focus on helping victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

### **Online with Libraries and Live Homework Help – Restored \$809,100**

- **Online with Libraries** provides State funds that together with federal E-rate funds and local funds builds the capacity of public libraries around the state to support basic broadband internet services and supply videoconferencing capability for Alaskans.
- This ensures students who need access to computers after school hours have enhanced access at their public libraries.



- **Live Homework Help** provides online tutoring services with accomplished, vetted, and monitored tutors to help Alaskan students do well in courses, participate in statewide initiatives such as the Alaska Performance Scholarship Awards, meet goals, and prepare for post-secondary success.

### **Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA) – Restored \$3,869,600**

- ASCA promotes and fosters the development of the arts for all Alaskans through education, partnerships, grants, and services.
- ASCA State funds (20% of total) match Federal funds (20% of total) and leverage significant private contributions (60% of total).
- ASCA founded the Alaska Contemporary Art Bank in 1975, and its collection has grown to more than 700 art works in a wide variety of media, styles, and subject matter.

### **Veterans' Services Officer (VSO) – Restored \$100,000**

- The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs' Office of Veterans Affairs' (OVA) OVA's workload grew six-fold over the past decade and staffing levels have not kept pace.
- This funding will allow OVA to utilize a VSO for growing caseloads in order to support outreach to Alaska's veteran population, which is the highest per capita in the United States.
- OVA services include ensuring veterans in Alaska are enrolled with the Federal Veterans Administration, which provides an economic benefit to these individuals, and by association, the state.

### **Human Services Matching Grants and Community Initiative Grants – Restored \$2,248,700**

- The **Human Services Matching** Grants program provides grants to qualified municipalities for services they receive from nonprofit subgrantees that include: substance abuse treatment, mental health services, food and shelter for the low income, sexual assault shelters, domestic violence treatment, runaway shelters, health services for low-income housing, and rehabilitation for the physically and mentally ill.
- The **Community Initiatives Grants** program provides funds to communities that are ineligible for Human Services Community Matching Grant funds for essential human services.

### **Reopening Utqiagvik Law Office – Restored \$533,500**

- The restoration of this funding reflects the Governor's commitment to public safety.
- Utqiagvik is the state's only community with a Superior Court judge, but no full-time state prosecutor.

### **Agricultural Programs – Restored \$2,744,700**

- This funding will be used to promote and encourage development of the agriculture industry in Alaska.
- Restored services include: marketing Alaska products; inspection and regulatory programs; land management and sales; providing recommendations for erosion control, industrial hemp pilot program, seed production, and revegetation throughout Alaska; and providing information and recommendations on invasive plant and agricultural pest management.

# HOUSE BILL 2001 – FY2020 RESTORED ITEMS

## PRESS BRIEFING - ITEMS OF INTEREST



THE STATE  
of ALASKA  
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY