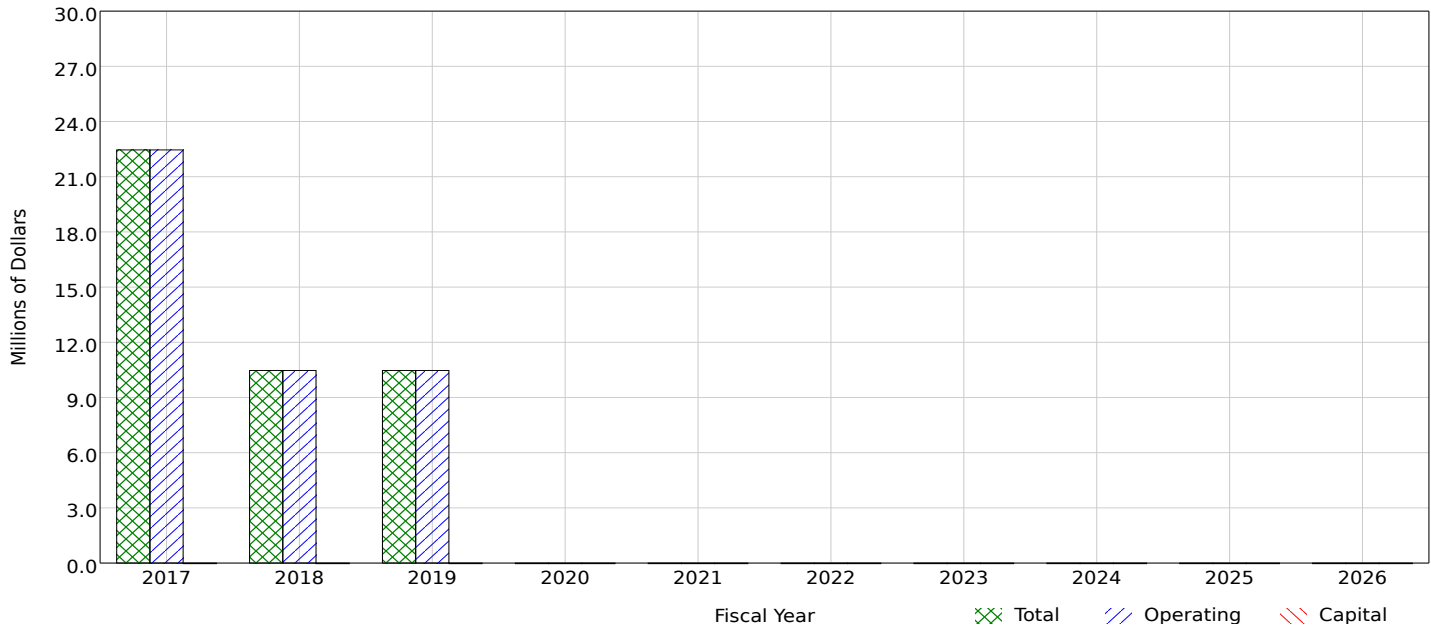


Fund Source Report

1238 VaccAssess Vaccine Assessment Account

Year Authorized 2014 Year Repealed Active? No Mental Health? No Duplicated? Yes Fund Group Other Designated

Operating and Capital Appropriations



Legal Authority

AS 18.09.230

Source of Revenue

The legislature may appropriate to the account program receipts attributable to vaccine assessments under AS 18.09.220, money from other sources, and interest earned on money in the account.

Restrictions on Use

Ch 17 SLA 2019 (SB 37) changed the statute - the commissioner may spend money appropriated to the fund for the purposes of the program without further appropriation making the fund no longer subject to the CBR sweep.

The legislature may make appropriations from the vaccine assessment account for the purchase of vaccines for the benefit of state residents and for other purposes of the program.

Description and History

Chapter 30, SLA 2014 established the vaccine assessment account as a means to reduce the cost of vaccines in Alaska. Under the program, a council and the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) set assessment rates for program participants. Participants include health care insurance providers and may include health care providers. Assessment receipts may be appropriated to the account, from which appropriations may be made to the DHSS for the purchase of vaccines--typically in bulk at a discounted rate.

The program was scheduled to sunset on January 1, 2021 (FY21).

November 2019

SB37 (2019 legislative session) reauthorized the Vaccine Assessment Program and modified the program to address two issues:

1. If more providers sign on to the program, a new vaccine is added, or there is an urgent need to respond to an outbreak, the department has to request legislative authority to purchase more vaccines.
2. The fund is subject to the constitutionally mandated year-end sweep of available fund balances into the Constitutional Budget Reserve Fund (CBR). Sweeping the funds would effectively end the program if healthcare insurers refused to pay an assessment that wasn't used for vaccine purchases.

The solution to both issues was to provide statutory authority to the DHSS to spend assessment receipts without further appropriation. This required

1. Changing the name of the account to the "Vaccine Assessment Fund" to differentiate the new funding mechanism--money appropriated to the

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fund, but not from it--from the old mechanism that required appropriations both to and from the account.

2. Appropriating the balance of the account to the new fund.

3. Deactivating the fund code for the account. No fund code is required for the newly created fund since money in the fund may be spent without appropriation.

Because money appropriated to the fund may be spent without further appropriation, the fund is not subject to the CBR sweep.