

Fund Source Report

1116 Dis Relief Disaster Relief Fund

Year Authorized	Year Repealed	Active?	Mental Health?	Duplicated?	Fund Group
1990		No	No	Yes	Other Designated

No Appropriations during last 10 years

Legal Authority

AS 26.23.300

Source of Revenue

Consists of appropriations made by the legislature, including federal funds.

Restrictions on Use

The Governor may spend up to \$500,000 of state funds per incident, and up to \$1 million per declared disaster emergency, after submitting a financing plan the legislature. Spending is unlimited for fire disasters and for other emergencies if the legislature approves a financing plan for the incident or disaster or if the House Speaker and Senate President notify the Governor that no special session will be convened. Money may be spent for grants and loans as well as disaster relief actions.

Description and History

The Disaster Relief Fund was established in the Office of the Governor to implement provisions of law relating to disaster relief in the case of a disaster or incident, or to alleviate the effect of a disaster by making grants or loans to persons or political subdivisions on terms the governor considers appropriate.

Once money is appropriated to the fund, the Governor may, without additional legislative authorization, expend the assets of the disaster relief fund. Because no further appropriation is required to expend money from the fund, the code is not typically used in the budget process.

Per AS 26.23.050, it is the intent of the legislature and policy of the state that funds to meet disaster emergencies will always be available. In responding to an incident or disaster, money is to be used in the following order:

- money regularly appropriated to state and local agencies
- money in the disaster relief fund or oil and hazardous funds (if appropriate)
- transfers of money appropriated for other purposes
- money borrowed for a term not to exceed two years.

The Disaster Relief Fund has traditionally been used to fund unanticipated fire suppression activities and more recently for the Western Alaska Fisheries disaster.

Fund Source Report

The Department of Revenue is custodian of the fund.

See January 9, 2007 discussion of problems--inadequate funding, overly restrictive expenditure limitations, and cumbersome payment system--and options for improvement.

May 2013

Deactivate--appropriations to capitalize the fund are typically made annually, including supplemental appropriations. Because money in the fund is spent without appropriation, no fund code is required.