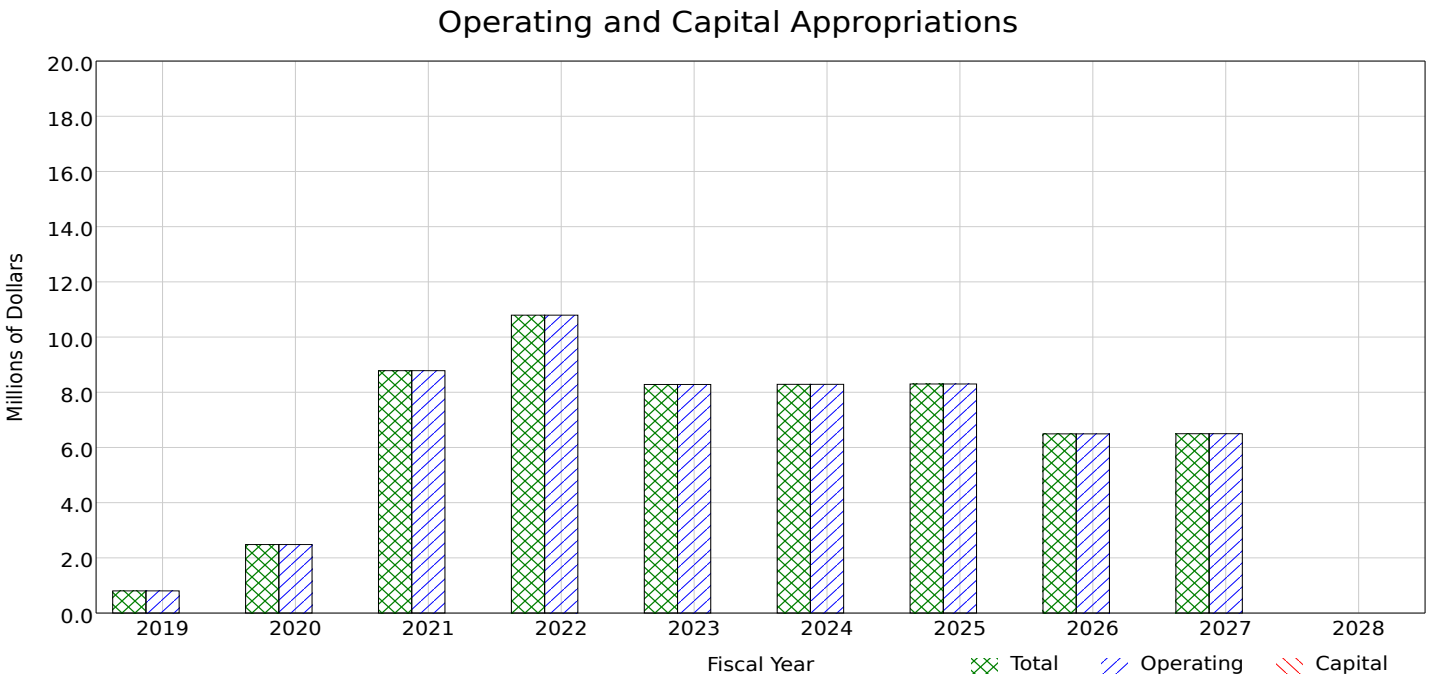
Fund Source Report

1254 MET Fund Marijuana Education and Treatment Fund

Year Authorized	Year Repealed	Active?	Mental Health?	Duplicated?	Fund Group
2019		Yes	Yes	No	Designated General



Legal Authority
AS 43.61.010(f)

Source of Revenue
25% of the excise tax on marijuana sale or transfer (section (a)) is depositied into the Marijuana Education and Treatment (MET) fund,

Restrictions on Use
The MET fund may be appropriated to DHSS for marijuana treatment and education programs established under AS 44.29.020(a)(17).

Description and History
The Marijuana Education and Treatment fund was created in Chapter 73, SLA 2018 (SB 128 was incorporated into SB 104) and consists of 25% from an excise tax on marijuana sold or transferred from cultivators to stores or manufacturing facilities. The fund is designated general funds--the legislature may use the annual estimated balance in the fund to make appropriations to the Department of Health and Social Services for the comprehensive marijuana use education and treatment program established under AS 44.29.020(a)(17). Interest earned on the fund is deposited into the general fund. Money in the fund does not lapse.

The Department of Health and Social Services administers the marijuana use education treatment program that must include:
(A) a community-based marijuana misuse prevention component that must include an after-school youth services grant program;
(B) marijuana public education designed to communicate messages to help prevent youth initiation of marijuana use, educate the public about the effects of marijuana use, educate the public about marijuana laws;
(C) surveys of (i) youth and adult populations concerning knowledge, awareness, attitude, and use of marijuana products and (ii) the need for trained professionals;
(D) a training plan for professionals working in these organizations;
(E) monitoring of population health status related to consequences of marijuana use; and,
(F) substance abuse screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment.

The Division of Public Health is responsible for components (A)-(E), while the treatment component (F) is under the Division of Behavioral Health.

Of the $2.5 million of MET funds appropriated in FY20, $2.3 million (92%) is appropriated to the Division of Public Health while $190.0 (8%) is appropriated to the Division of Behavioral Health.