Transforming Lives

Economic Services Administration
060 - M2 - XL - DDDS Federal Authority Increase

Agency Submittal: 2015-17 Final 2017 Sup **Budget Period: 2015-17**

SUMMARY

The Division of Disability Determination Services (DDDS) within Economic Services Administration (ESA) uses medical consultative examinations to help evaluate the eligibility of claimants. The exams are necessary to provide timely customer service. Medical examinations continue to increase in cost, making it necessary to increase the DDDS federal authority in order to spend 100 percent federal funds in this area. ESA requests $3,809,000 GF-Federal in Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17) to adequately adjust the DDDS federal authority to preserve customer service to those citizens filing for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI).

PROBLEM STATEMENT

DDDS uses medical evidence to determine whether a claimant is eligible for SSI or SSDI. The cost to acquire the medical evidence continues to rise. If DDDS does not provide competitive fees, there will be less medical sources doing the evaluations, and claimants will wait longer to get a determination.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

The increased federal funding authority will cover the anticipated medical increases in FY17. The additional authority will allow DDDS to continue scheduling consultative examinations when claimants do not have enough medical history. It will help reduce attrition from medical sources that do the examinations, and serve claimants in a timely manner.

EXPECTED RESULTS

By funding this request, DDDS will have the funding to order medical evidence that is essential in delivering customer service, in the form of an eligibility determination. This request to increase federal authority also adjusts the full authority to be more commensurate with the funding provided by The Social Security Administration.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACT

There is no known opposition.

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Program Contact: Dianna Wilks, (360) 725-4524

OTHER CONNECTIONS

Performance Outcomes/Important Connections

1. **Does this DP provide essential support to one or more of the Governor's Results Washington priorities?**
   Goal 4: Healthy & Safe Communities - Healthy People - Provide access to good medical care to improve people's lives.

2. **The decision package meets the following DSHS' strategic objectives:**
   1.1: People below 125 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) will have greater access to Basic Food assistance.

Identify other important connections or impacts below. (Indicate 'Yes' or 'No'. If 'Yes' identify the connections or impacts related to the proposal.)

a) Regional/County impacts? No

b) Other local government impacts? No

c) Tribal government impacts? No

d) Other state agency impacts? No

e) Responds to specific task force, report, mandate or executive order? No

f) Does request contain a compensation change or require changes to a Collective Bargaining Agreement? No

g) Facility/workplace needs or impacts? No

h) Capital budget impacts? No

i) Is change required to existing statutes, rules or contracts? No

j) Is the request related to litigation? No

k) Is the request related to Puget Sound recovery? No

l) Other important connections? No

3. **Please provide a detailed discussion of connections/impacts identified above.**
   N/A

Alternatives/Consequences/Other

4. **What alternatives were explored by the agency, and why was this alternative chosen?**

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ESA is asking to align the federal authority to be commensurate with the operating funds provided by the Social Security Administration. No other alternatives were explored.

5. How has or can the agency address the issue or need within its current appropriation level?

If DDDS were to stay within its current appropriation level, DDDS potentially would have to reduce the amount of medical evidence that is purchased in a fiscal year. This would lead to a backlog of examinations waiting to be performed, creating delays in delivering eligibility determinations to claimants. DDDS would eventually not be competitive with its fee for service, and would lose doctors who would perform the examinations. This would compound the growth of the backlog, and delay in service delivery.

6. Does this decision package include funding for any IT-related costs (hardware, software, services, cloud-based services, contracts or IT staff)?

- ☒ **No**
- ☐ **Yes (Include an IT Addendum)**

Fiscal Detail

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Operating Expenditures	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
001-2 General Fund-Federal	0	3,809,000	3,809,000	3,809,000
Total Cost	**0**	**3,809,000**	**3,809,000**	**3,809,000**

Staffing	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
FTEs	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Performance Measure Detail

Activity:		Incremental Changes FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Program: 060					
F110	Division of Disability Determination Services	0	0	0	0

No measures submitted for package

Object Detail

		FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
N	Grants, Benefits, and Client Services	0	3,809,000	3,809,000	3,809,000
	Total Objects	**0**	**3,809,000**	**3,809,000**	**3,809,000**

DSHS Source Detail

Overall Funding

Operating Expenditures		FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Fund 001-2, General Fund-Federal					
Sources	**Title**				
001B	Social Security Disability Ins (100%)	0	3,809,000	3,809,000	3,809,000
	Total for Fund 001-2	**0**	**3,809,000**	**3,809,000**	**3,809,000**
	Total Overall Funding	**0**	**3,809,000**	**3,809,000**	**3,809,000**