Appendix 1: Contacts

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ESA Data Resources	
ESA Management Accountability and Performance Statistics	**Shane Riddle, Director** (360) 790-0017 Shane.Riddle@dshs.wa.gov

Appendix 2: Geographical Maps

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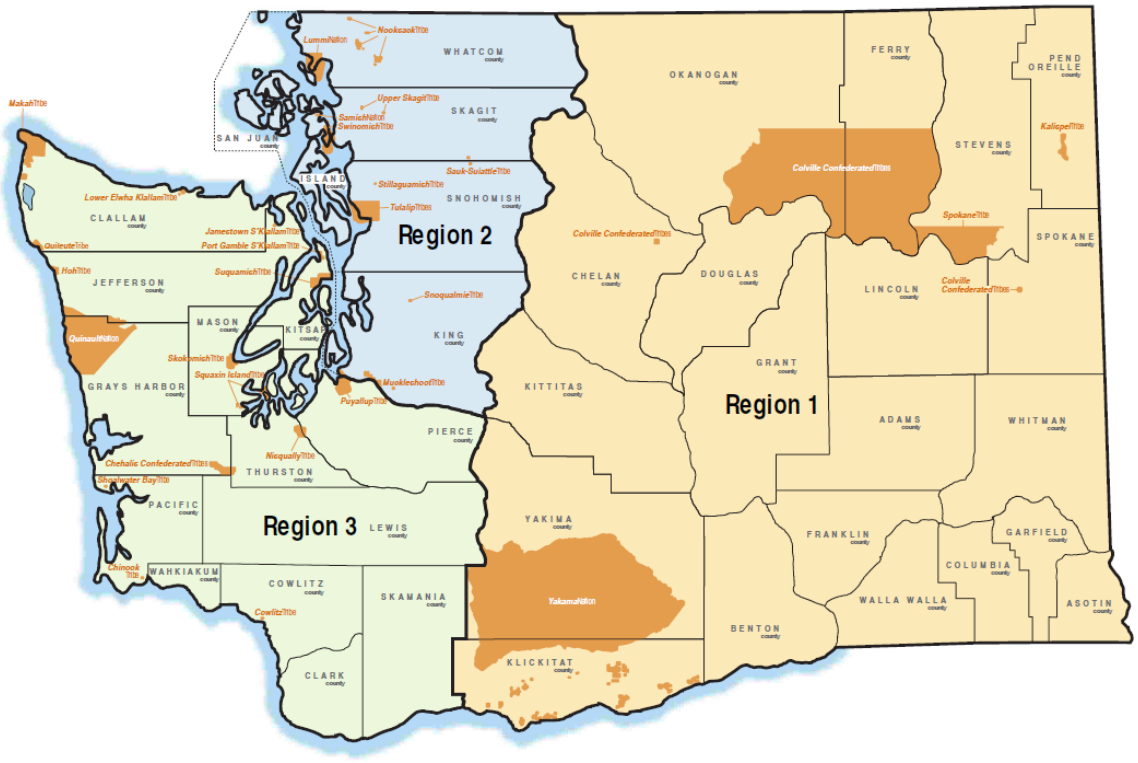
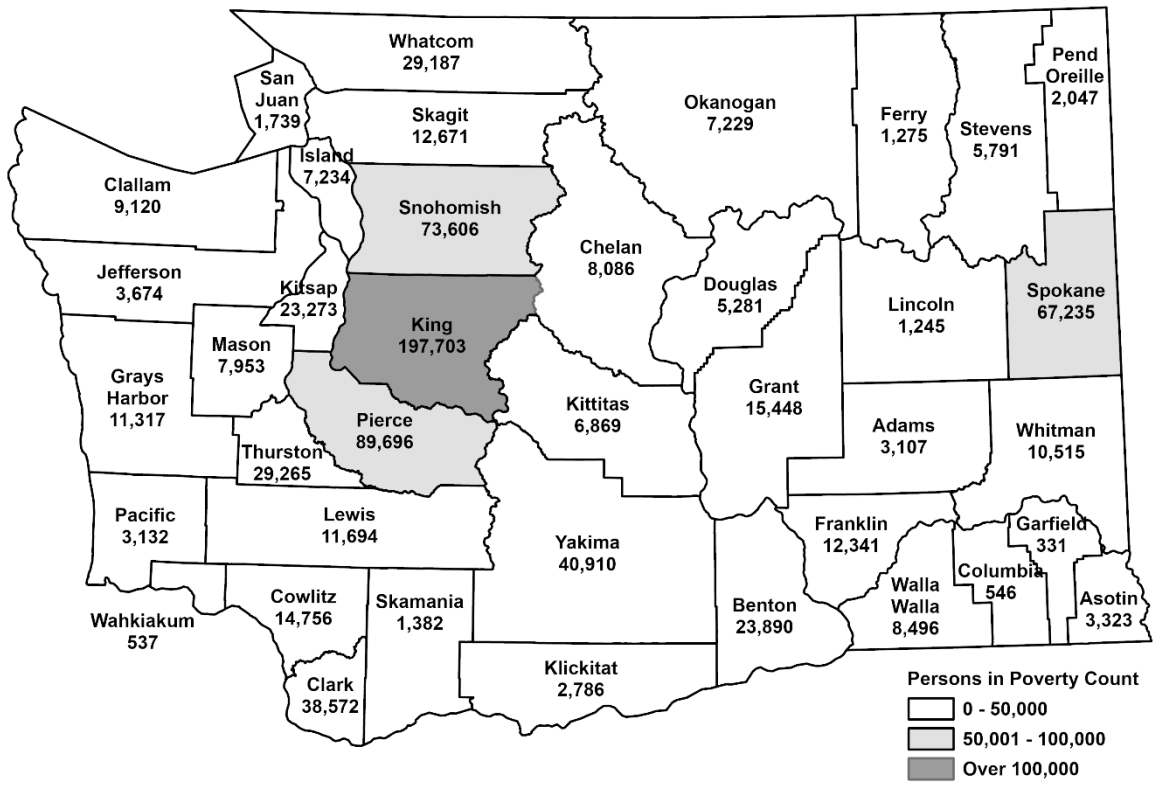
ESA provides services through its local Community Services Offices (CSOs) and local Division of Child Support Offices located in three regions. The counties within each DSHS region are as follows:



Region	Counties in Each DSHS Region
Region 1	Adams, Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman, and Yakima
Region 2	Island, King, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom
Region 3	Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, and Wahkiakum

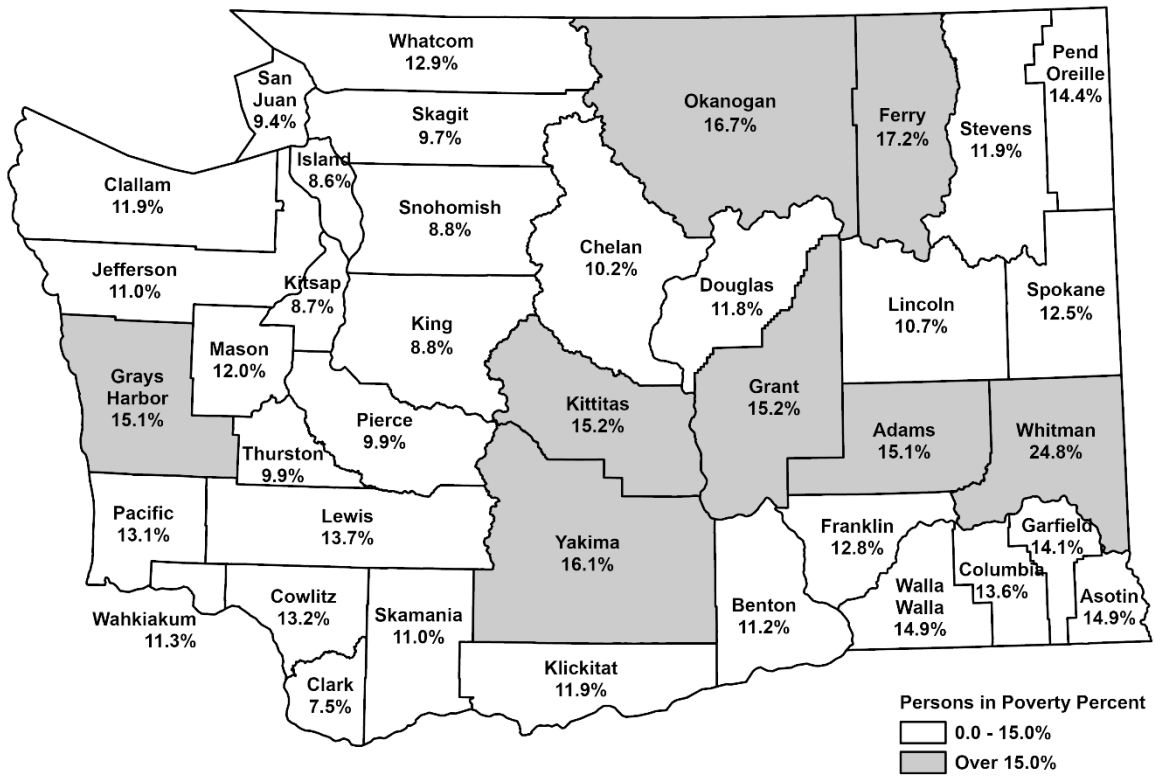
Number of Persons of All Ages Below the 100% Poverty Level by County in Washington State: 2023



Source: Estimated 2023 Poverty Population (100% Poverty Level) per U.S. Census Bureau at https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/2023/demo/saipe/2023-state-and-county.html

Provided by DSHS/ESA/OAS/EMAPS - Sep. 2025

Percentage of Persons of All Ages Below the 100% Poverty Level by County in Washington State: 2023



Note: State Percentage in Poverty = 10.3%

Source: Estimated 2023 Poverty Population (100% Poverty Level) per U.S. Census Bureau at https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/2023/demo/saipe/2023-state-and-county.html

Provided by DSHS/ESA/OAS/EMAPS - Sep. 2025

Appendix 3: Abbreviations

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Abbreviation	Description
ABAWD	Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents
ABD	Aged, Blind or Disabled Cash Assistance Program
ACA	Affordable Care Act
ACES	Automated Client Eligibility System
AREN	Additional Requirements for Emergent Needs
AU	Assistance Unit *(i.e., group of people who live together and whose income or resources may be counted in determining eligibility and benefit amounts)*
BFET	Basic Food Employment and Training
BF or BFP	Basic Food Program
CARD	Caseload Analysis and Reporting Database
CE	Comprehensive Evaluation
CEAP	Consolidated Emergency Assistance Program
CN	Categorically Needy
CC	Contact Center
CSCC	Customer Service Contact Center
CSD	Community Services Division
CSO	Community Services Office
DCA	Diversion Cash Assistance
DCAP	Disaster Cash Assistance Program
DCS	Division of Child Support
DCYF	Department of Children, Youth, and Families
DDDS	Division of Disability Determination Services
DEL	Department of Early Learning
DFFR	Division of Finance and Financial Recovery
DL-U	Disability Lifeline – Unemployable *(formerly General Assistance – Unemployable)*
DL-X	Disability Lifeline – Expedited Medicaid (*formerly General Assistance-Expedited Medicaid)*
DPI	Division of Program Integrity
DRP	Diaper-Related Payment
DSHS	Department of Social and Health Services
ESA	Economic Services Administration
ESD	Employment Security Department
ESL	English as a Second Language
EBT	Electronic Benefits Transfer
EFT	Electronic Funds Transfer *(direct deposit)*
FAP	Food Assistance Program for Legal Immigrants
FCS	Food and Consumer Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture
FNS	Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture
FFY	Federal Fiscal Year *(October 1 through September 30)*
FOI	Frontiers of Innovation
FRS	Financial Reporting System
FSP	Federal Food Stamp Program *(formally renamed the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)*
FTE	Full-time Equivalent *(the equivalent of one full-time staff)*
FY	Fiscal Year *(used in reference to state and federal fiscal years)*
GA-U	General Assistance-Unemployable *(replaced by Disability Lifeline)*
GA-X	General Assistance – Expedited Medicaid *(replaced by Disability Lifeline)*

HBE	Health Benefit Exchange
HCS	Home and Community Services
HEN	Housing and Essential Needs
eJAS	Electronic JOBS Automated System
LEP	Limited English Proficiency
LPA	Local Planning Areas
MAGI	Modified Adjusted Gross Income
MOE	Maintenance of Effort
MCS	Medical Care Services
OAR	Ongoing Additional Requirements
OFR	Office of Financial Recovery
ORIA	Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance
P-EBT	Pandemic EBT
PEAF	Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund
PRISM	Predictive Risk Intelligence System
PWA	Pregnant Women Assistance
RCA	Refugee Cash Assistance
RCW	Revised Code of Washington
RISE	Resources to Initiate Successful Employment
RRA	Refugee Resettlement Assistance
SBCTC	State Board for Community and Technical Colleges
SFY	State Fiscal Year *(July 1 through June 30)*
SNAP	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
SSA	Social Security Administration
SSI/SSP	Supplemental Security Income/State Supplement Program
TANF	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
TFA	Transitional Food Assistance
Title IV-A	Title of the Social Security Act, which contains regulations for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program
Title IV-D	Title of the Social Security Act, which contains regulations regarding child support collection and enforcement
Title IV-E	Title of the Social Security Act, which contains regulations regarding children's services, including some foster care programs
TMA	Transitional Medical Assistance
TRO	Temporary Restraining Order
USDA	U. S. Department of Agriculture
WAC	Washington Administrative Code
WCAP	Working Connections Automated Program
WASHCAP	Washington State Combined Application Project
WCCC	Working Connections Child Care
WFS	Working Family Support
WDC	Workforce Development Councils *(formerly Private Investment Councils or PICs)*

Appendix 4: Electronic Benefits & Funds Transfer

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EBT—Electronic Benefit Transfer

What EBT does

- Delivers cash and food assistance benefits through a magnetic stripe debit card.
- Enables clients to access food benefits through Point of Sale (POS) devices and cash benefits through Automated Teller Machines (ATM) and at retailers.

Who EBT Serves

Clients who receive food assistance through the Basic Food program and/or cash assistance through Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Aged, Blind, or Disabled (ABD), Pregnant Women Assistance (PWA), State Supplemental Payment (SSP), Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), Working Family Support (WFS), and the Consolidated Emergency Assistance Program (CEAP). RCW 74.04.050, Department to administer public assistance programs.

How EBT evolved

- In 1996, Washington joined the Western States Electronic Benefits Transfer Alliance (WSEA) comprised of Washington, Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, and Idaho to conduct a joint competitive procurement for EBT services. Nevada later joined the Alliance.
- In 1996, Citibank EBT Services was selected as the successful vendor for WSEA.
- In 1997, Washington stakeholders participated in EBT workgroups to solicit their input. Stakeholders included food retailers, client advocates, tribal members, the disability community, financial institutions, federal agencies, and state staff representing the union, field operations, and headquarters.
- In 1998, business and technical requirements for Washington's EBT system were developed in association with Citicorp, ACES and stakeholders.

EBT Time Frames

- April 1998 – Washington signed an EBT contract with Citicorp, Inc.
- March 1999 – EBT started pilot programs in Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Clark, Klickitat, Pacific, Skamania, and Wahkiakum counties.
- June 1999 – the first of six regional rollouts began in Region 1.
- November 1999 – the statewide implementation of EBT was completed.
- October 2002 – Federal Food Stamp rules required EBT in all states.
- June 2004 – the nationwide implementation of EBT was completed.
- March 2014 – an instructional memo was issued reminding staff of the changes to the Basic Food trafficking rules and excess EBT replacement policy.

Who Belongs to the Western States EBT Alliance (WSEA)

- In 1996, Washington joined the Western States Electronic Benefits Transfer Alliance (WSEA) comprised of six (6) states: Washington, Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, and Idaho to conduct a joint competitive procurement for EBT services. The Territory of Guam, Nevada, Wyoming, and Nebraska later joined the Alliance.
- In July 2013, Nevada officially withdrew from the WSEA Coalition, leaving eight (8) states and the Territory of Guam to begin procurement for EBT-4 service in 2014.

- In August 2013, Utah officially joined the WSEA Coalition, increasing the number again to nine (9) states and the Territory of Guam. Utah procured EBT-4 services in 2014 with the Coalition.
- In March 2014, Washington withdrew from WSEA.
- In July 2018, Washington rejoined WSEA. The current WSEA membership includes Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Nebraska, Washington, and Wyoming.

Reprocurement of EBT Services

- In December 2001, the Western States EBT Alliance (WSEA) developed and published a second-tier Request for Proposal to ensure EBT services continued without interruption. The Territory of Guam, unable to attract a bidder due to its small caseload, joined the WSEA in this procurement.
- In May 2002, Citicorp Electronic Financial Services (CEFS) was announced as the successful second-tier vendor.
- On April 28, 2003, Washington's first tier contract expired. Washington exercised the two one-year extension options under the initial contract.
- In January 2004, CEFS was sold to J. P. Morgan Electronic Financial Services (EFS).
- In April 2009, WSEA awarded the EBT Request for Proposal to the successful bidder, J. P. Morgan EFS.
- In April 2014, Washington awarded the EBT Request for Proposal to the successful bidder, J. P. Morgan EFS. The contract provided for a two-year term through April 29, 2016 with options for two extensions, one six-month and one three-month. The short contract term was due to J. P. Morgan EFS' November 2013 announcement to exit the EBT and pre-paid card business.
- In July 2015, Washington awarded the EBT Request for Proposal to the successful bidder, Fidelity Information Services. The contract provided for a five-year term with options for two one-year extensions. EBT services were successfully converted from J. P. Morgan EFS to Fidelity Information Services in July 2016.
- In November 2019, Washington and WSEA began reprocurement activities to solicit a consultant to create the next EBT services Request for Proposal.
- In October 2020, WSEA selected Maximus as the Request for Proposal consultant through a competitive procurement.
- In July 2021, the Request for Proposal for EBT services was posted nationwide and Fidelity Information Services was selected as the winning bidder.
- In June 2022, Washington began negotiations with Fidelity Information Services to execute the fifth iteration of EBT services, which resulted in a seven year contract with two optional one-year extensions.

Contract History with J.P. Morgan Electronic Financial Services (EFS)

- In March 2005, Washington signed a new seven-year contract with J. P. Morgan EFS through April 2012. An Internet Web Browser application was made available to clients for obtaining their own EBT account information at www.ebtaccount.jpmorgan.com.
- In June 2008, an amendment to the March 2005 contract was signed by J. P. Morgan EFS and the State of Washington for an

additional two-year contract extension, from May 2012 through April 2014.

- In April 2012, an amendment to the March 2005 contract was signed by J. P. Morgan EFS and the State of Washington to provide implementation and support for the Washington State Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children (SEBTC) pilot program for the summer of 2012.
- In August 2012, an amendment to the March 2005 contract was signed by J. P. Morgan EFS and the State of Washington to eliminate the $0.85 cent ATM withdrawal charge from client EBT accounts.
- In December 2013, J. P. Morgan announced they would be exiting the business of EBT and other prepaid cards; Washington was in the middle of contract negotiations at the time of the announcement and J. P. Morgan agreed to a short-term contract.
- In April 2014, Washington signed a new, limited two-year contract with J. P. Morgan.

Contract History with Fidelity Information Services (FIS)

- In July 2015, Washington awarded the EBT Request for Proposal to the successful bidder, Fidelity Information Services. The contract provided for a five-year term with options for two one-year extensions. EBT services were successfully converted from J. P. Morgan EFS to Fidelity Information Services.
- In October 2015, Washington and Fidelity Information Services agreed to and signed a five-year contract.
- In July 2016, EBT services were successfully converted from J. P. Morgan EFS to Fidelity Information Services.
- In February 2017, Basic Food monthly distribution was expanded from the first ten days of the month to the first twenty days.
- In April 2017, certain retailer MCC codes were blocked, preventing POS transactions at prohibited retailer locations.
- In July 2019, FIS launched an EBT mobile application for smartphones which allows Washington EBT cardholders to view benefit deposits and transactions from their mobile device.
- In January 2020, Washington became the 2nd state in the nation (after New York) to offer online EBT purchases for delivery. This accomplishment was made possible due to a two-year federal demonstration project with FNS and FIS to test the feasibility of internet purchased made by EBT cardholders. Amazon and Walmart were the pilot merchants.
- In February 2020, FIS activated Card Authentication Validation (CAV) for all Washington EBT cards. CAV protects EBT cards from being cloned.
- In April 2020, FIS' mobile application was updated to allow EBT cardholders to report cards as being lost, stolen, or damaged, and to request a replacement card to be sent via the US Post Office. EBT cardholders can also use the app to change their Personal Identification Number (PIN) for an existing EBT card or add a PIN to new cards.
- In June 2020, FIS rolled out a new Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) benefit type and began distributing benefits through a unique P-EBT card issued to eligible children statewide.
- In October 2021, FIS implemented security enhancements to the ebtEDGE Cardholder portal and mobile app where customers

have the ability to limit unauthorized benefit use and "Freeze Card." This feature temporarily disables the card from being used for purchases and PIN inquiries.

- In June 2022, FIS implemented *Protect My Account* where cardholders can instantly protect their benefits by enabling features to block out-of-state and internet transactions. Clients can log in to their ebtEDGE web account or mobile application to turn these features on or off when traveling.
- In May 2023, FIS implemented a healthy eating incentive option for identified retailers to offer produce rewards directly on the EBT card. This feature changed a paper-based farmer's market coupon to an electronic deposit that can be used on any SNAP eligible item at any retailer that accepts SNAP.
- In June 2023, FIS enhanced security for staff by adding Multifactor Authentication to the agency portal. The state began participating in FNS sponsored listening sessions to learn more about the new 2024 Summer EBT program.

EFT—Electronic Funds Transfer

What EFT Does

- At the client's request, cash benefits are deposited directly into their personal checking/savings account instead of being deposited into an EBT cash account.

Who EFT Serves

- Clients who receive federal or state-funded cash assistance, such as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Aged, Blind, or Disabled (ABD), Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), State Supplemental Payment (SSP), and those who have or are willing to open a savings or checking account. EFT is an optional method that clients may choose to receive their cash benefits.

How EFT evolved

- EBT Steering Committee pursued EFT through the State Treasurer's Office as more cost effective than procuring the service from Citicorp, Inc.
- In June 1999, a workgroup with staff from the EBT Unit, ACES, and State Treasurer's Office met to determine business and technical requirements.

EFT Timeframes

- In January 2000, the EFT pilot program started in two Pierce County offices: Pierce West Community Services Office and Pierce North Community Services Office.
- In May 2000, all EBT cash assistance clients statewide were given the option to use EFT.

Appendix 5: Federal & State Welfare Legislative History

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Passed During the 2025 Legislative Session, but not Implemented During SFY 2025 (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025)

House Bill (HB) 2039 (Chapter 402, Laws of 2025), ***Child support pass through***
This bill delays implementation of the 100% child support pass through enacted via SHB 1652 (Chapter 174, Laws of 2024) from January 1, 2026 until July 1, 2029.

House Bill (HB) 2040 (Chapter 403, Laws of 2025), ***The recovery of the aged, blind, or disabled assistance program***
This bill delays the implementation of the elimination of the Aged, Blind, or Disabled (ABD) interim assistance requirement enacted via SHB 1260 (Chapter 289, Laws of 2023) from October 1, 2025, to October 1, 2028.

Senate Bill (SB) 5079 (Chapter 331, Laws of 2025), ***Addressing the burden of unintentional overpayments on older adults and adults with disabilities served by DSHS***
Effective July 1, 2025, this agency request legislation allows DSHS to waive collection of unintentional overpayments for the ABD program, and clients receiving long-term care and/or developmental disability supports.

Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 5232 (Chapter 408, Laws of 2025), ***Supporting economic security by updating provisions related to the home security fund and the essential needs and housing support program***
Effective July 27, 2025, this bill:

- Expands the Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) program to elderly or disabled adults who are no longer receiving a referral to HEN from DSHS, are receiving federal benefits from the Social Security Administration, and continue to have an immediate housing need. (Formerly a pilot in six counties.)
- Requires HEN providers to verify the existence of a DSHS referral every 12 months (in former practice, per HEN grantee guidelines issued by Commerce, referrals were verified every three months).
- Strikes the prohibition that HEN benefits may not be issued in the form of direct cash assistance. Assistance may be provided through vouchers, gift cards, direct vendor payments, and other methods.

Federal Welfare Legislative History, 1935 - 2025

2025

Notice of Change of Eligibility Period (90 FR 13370). On March 21, 2025, the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement announced a change in the eligibility period for Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) in the Federal Register. The duration that a refugee or humanitarian immigrant can receive RCA was reduced from up to twelve months of assistance to up to four months of assistance for those whose date of eligibility for refugee benefits is on or after May 5, 2025.

2024

Consolidated Appropriations Act 2024 (PL 118-42). On March 9, 2024, H.R. 4366 was signed into law and became Public Law 118-42, extending certain financial provisions of the Compacts of Free Association (COFA) through 2043. The Act restored access to certain federal public benefit programs, including Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (TANF), to eligible citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau who lawfully reside in the United States. For the first time since 1996, COFA islanders were eligible for these federal benefits if they met all other eligibility criteria for the programs.

Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (AUSAA) (H.R. 7691) signed into law on April 24, 2024, extended provisions of H.R. 7691 signed into law on May 21, 2022 that allowed Ukrainian citizens or nationals paroled into the U.S. between February 24, 2022 and September 30, 2024, as well as their eligible family members paroled into the U.S. after September 30, 2024, eligibility for federal assistance and supports to the same extent as refugees.

Ukraine Security Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2024 (USSAA) (H.R. 815) signed into law on April 24, 2024, extended eligibility for federal benefits and refugee services for Ukrainian citizens or nationals and non-Ukrainians who last habitually resided in Ukraine and were paroled into the U.S. between February 24, 2022, and September 30, 2024.

2023

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (H.R.2617). Under the act, food assistance benefits stolen through card skimming or other fraudulent methods (on or after October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2024) can be replaced if the claim is valid and reported within 30 days of the date the theft was discovered. Replacements are limited to the lessor of the total amount stolen or the amount equal to twice the monthly allotment the household received immediately before the theft and cannot exceed more than two replacements during a federal fiscal year. The act also extended eligibility for federal benefits and refugee services for citizens or nationals of Afghanistan paroled into the U.S. between July 31, 2021, and September 30, 2023.

Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA), 2023 (H.R.3746) signed into law on June 3, 2023 kept the government running by raising the limit on federal borrowing, also known as the debt

ceiling. The FRA requires administrative changes to how states count and meet TANF work requirements and makes programmatically significant amendments to the SNAP eligibility rules.

Temporary SNAP changes include (*due to sunset – October 1, 2030*):

- Expanding Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs) age requirements:
    - Age of those subject to the ABAWD time limit increases to age 50 – *effective* September *1, 2023*.
    - Age of those subject to the ABAWD time limit increases to age 52 – *effective October 1, 2023*.
    - Age of those subject to the ABAWD time limit increases to age 54 – *effective October 1, 2024*.
- New work exemptions for specific groups – *effective* September *1, 2023*, allowing for expanded access to Basic Food benefits for:
    - Individuals experiencing homelessness.
    - Veterans.
    - Individuals who are 24 years of age or younger who were in foster care on their 18th birthday.

TANF mandated changes include:

- New outcome measure reporting requirements – *effective October 1, 2024.*
- Change to the base year for the caseload reduction credit (CRC) from 2005 to 2015 – *effective October 1, 2025.*
- $35 minimum for small payments to working parents included in a state's Work Participation Rate (WPR) - *effective October 1, 2025.*

FRA also included a 5-year TANF pilot program option for five states, to test a program performance approach leveraging outcome measures in lieu of the Work Participation Rate, *effective October 1, 2024.*

2022

Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (H.R. 2471) signed into law on March 15, 2022, provided supports for Afghan resettlement, such as:

- Allocated funding for Afghan resettlement operations including housing, medical, legal, and case management services.
- Expanded eligibility for federal public assistance to citizens or nationals of Afghanistan paroled into the U.S. between July 31, 2021 and September 30, 2022 and their family members who were paroled into the U.S. after September 30, 2022.

Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (AUSAA) (H.R. 7691) signed into law on May 21, 2022 allowed Ukrainian citizens or nationals paroled into the U.S. between February 24, 2022 and September 30, 2023, as well as their eligible family members paroled into the U.S. after September 30, 2023, eligibility for federal assistance and supports to the same extent as refugees.

Final rule entitled "Extending Refugee Cash Assistance and Refugee Medical Assistance

From 8 Months to 12 Months" was published in the Federal Register on March 28, 2022. The rule revised the eligibility period for Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) benefits from eight months to twelve months from date of eligibility for Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) eligible populations who became eligible on or after October 1, 2021.

2021

Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021 (H.R. 133) signed into law on December 27, 2020 and provided a number of SNAP-related enhancements including:

- $13 billion to increase the monthly SNAP benefit nationally by 15% through June 30, 2021 (later extended in the *American Rescue Plan Act*)
- A temporary expansion to student eligibility for those who are eligible to participate in state or federally funded work-study during the school year and have an expected family contribution of $0.00.
- Enhanced Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) to the 2020-2021 school year to assist those who were affected by school closures and would have otherwise received free or reduced-price school meals. In addition to children in school, P-EBT was expanded to children under the age of 6 and were enrolled in covered childcare facilities who were also affected by the pandemic.
- Restored Medicaid to Washington residents from the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated State of Micronesia (COFA Islanders).

The American Rescue Plan Act 2021 (H.R. 1319) was signed into law on March 11, 2021, and included the following provisions:

- Extending the temporary 15% increase to SNAP benefit amounts through the end of Federal Fiscal Year 21, or September 30, 2021.
- Expanding P-EBT programing through the summer period to eligible school aged children and children under six.
- The TANF section of the Social Security Act is amended to establish a $1 billion Pandemic Emergency Fund which must be spent on non-recurrent, short-term benefits. Washington received $22.7M of this Fund which must be spent by September 30, 2022.
- Providing additional Supplemental Family Violence and Prevention Services funding is to support continuity of domestic violence services and respond immediate needs of survivors connected to domestic violence and the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Final Rule entitled: "Employment and Training Opportunities in SNAP" was published to the Federal Register January 5, 2021. The new rule implemented changes, made in section 4005 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, to 7 CFR 271 and 273 including:

- Mandating SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) programs to coordinate with local Workforce Development Boards.
- Creating the "provider determination" process requiring SNAP E&T providers to refer clients back to the state when determined not a "good fit" for the program.

- Clarifying supervised job search and non-participation good cause.
- Adding "case management" to the definition of SNAP E&T.
- Updating ABAWD allowable activities and exemptions.
- Increasing Work Registration requirements including referral expectations.

2020

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law on March 27, 2020. It extended authorization for TANF and related programs through November 2020. It also provided additional SNAP funding to cover waiver authority granted in the Families First Coronavirus Relief Act (FFCRA) and the additional participation expected due to the coronavirus impact, through September 30, 2021.

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) was signed into law on March 18, 2020 and contained several provisions related to SNAP. Under this act, the following changes were implemented:

- Pandemic EBT, or P-EBT, food assistance benefits were made available to families with school-age children who are eligible for free or reduced-price meal programs, if their school closed for at least five consecutive days. This assistance was for the time period schools closed due to COVID-19 during the 2019 – 2020 school year.
- Emergency SNAP allotments allowing recipients to receive a supplemental benefit of the difference between their regular monthly benefit and the maximum amount for their household size. A household already receiving the maximum allotment for their household size did not receive additional benefits. This policy was also extended to the Food Assistance Program through support of the state's Disaster Relief Fund.
- Administrative flexibilities including extending certification periods for households with eligibility reviews for recertifications due in the months of April, May and June 2020 for six additional months. These certifications were extended through October, November and December 2020. Mid-certification review (MCR) requirements for April, May and June 2020 were also waived, so benefits continued through the end of certification periods without a mid-certification review as long as households continued to meet all other eligibility requirements.
- Allowed for continued Medicaid coverage throughout the public health emergency. Provided only limited exceptions for termination.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Requirements for Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents Final Rule Injunction. Effective March 16, 2020, a federal court injunction delayed implementation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) final rule limiting states flexibilities in waiving ABAWD work requirements. The rule was scheduled to take effect April 1, 2020. The court denied the request for a preliminary injunction related to the final rule's changes to discretionary exemptions. The final rule, including discretionary exemptions, was vacated in October 2020 by the Federal District of Columbia Court.

2019

Final rule entitled "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Requirements for Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents" was published in the Federal Register on December 5, 2019**.** The rule revised the conditions under which USDA would waive, when requested by states, the ABAWD time limit in areas that have an unemployment rate of over 10 percent or a lack of sufficient jobs. The rule also limited the carryover of ABAWD discretionary exemptions.

Final rule entitled "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Student Eligibility, Convicted Felons, Lottery and Gambling, and State Verification Provisions of the Agricultural Act of 2014" was published in the Federal Register on April 15, 2019**.** A major provision of this final rule prohibited individuals with substantial lottery and gambling winnings from receiving SNAP benefits. The remaining provisions were enacted by ESA CSD in previous years.

2018

Included under a continuing resolution to fund the federal government [PL 115-123, **the *Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018***; Section 53117], this federal act included a policy requirement that all state child support agencies increase the annual user fee to $35 and increase the threshold amount of support collections that triggers the annual fee to $550. The impact on Washington state is discussed more fully above.

The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 became public law on December 20, 2018. The act reauthorized SNAP through Federal Fiscal Year 2023. Provisions regarding SNAP included:

- Made the option to provide a shelter deduction to homeless households in which all members are homeless individuals that are not receiving free shelter throughout the month and do not opt to claim an excess shelter deduction mandatory for all states. It indexed the current value of $143 to inflation beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019.
- Changed benefit expungement due to inactivity from 12 to 9 months.

2017

"BIG RULE". On January 6, 2017, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) published the final rule, *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Eligibility, Certification, and Employment and Training Provisions of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008*, referred to as the Big Rule, because of the many regulatory changes. Some of the provisions in this rule were enacted on October 1, 2008, while the items below were effective March 7, 2017.

Mandatory provisions:

- Program name change 7 CFR Parts 271 through 285
- Changed the program name from Food Stamp Program to SNAP.
- Minimum benefit increase for small households 7 CFR 271.2 and 273.10(e)(2)(ii)(C): Increases the minimum benefit for one and two person households and allows for annual increases.
- Provided households a copy of completed non-paper applications 7 CFR 273.2(c)(1)(v). Requires state agencies to offer copies of SNAP applications completed by households regardless of the method by which the

applicant submitted the application. Households will have the option to receive the copy of their complete application in electronic format. (*Effective January 8, 2018).*

- Asset changes 7 CFR 273.8(b). Indexed SNAP asset limits to inflation, rounded down to the nearest $250, as of October 1, 2008. Excluded all tax-preferred retirement accounts, such as individual retirement accounts, from countable resources in determining SNAP eligibility. Also excluded funds in a qualified tuition program described in section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) or in a Coverdell education savings account under section 530 of the IRC. The value of funeral arrangements is also excluded from SNAP resources altogether.
- Military combat pay exclusion 7 CFR 273.9(c)(2). Excluded military combat pay from income of households that apply for or participate in SNAP. This exclusion applied only to additional pay resulting from deployment or service to a combat zone, and not to pay received prior to deployment.
- Standard deduction increase for small households 7 CFR 273.9(d)(1)(iii). Raises the minimum standard deduction for one, two, or three person households and indexes the standard deduction to inflation beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2010.
- Elimination of the cap on dependent care expenses 7 CFR 273.9(d)(4). Eliminates the cap on the deduction for dependent care expenses and provided state agencies the option to include dependent care-related transportation costs and activity fees. This final rule also clarified longstanding policy that dependent care costs are deductible for children under the age of 18 and for people with disabilities of any age.
- Changes to client reporting requirements 7 CFR 273.12. Removed restrictions that prohibited state agencies from applying Simplified Reporting systems to households with certain members including elderly, disabled, homeless and migrant farm workers. The final rule also clarified how states respond to unclear information received outside of a client report and provides procedures for following up with households in accordance with their reporting systems.

Optional Provisions:

- Transitional benefits option 7 CFR 272.2, 273.26, 273.27, 273.29, 273.32. Expands eligibility for transitional benefits to households with children when state and locally funded cash assistance ends. Previously, transitional benefits were limited to families whose TANF benefits were ending.
- Unwritten signatures option 7 CFR 273.2(c)(1), 273.2(c)(3), 273.2(c)(7). Allows SNAP applicants to sign an application over the telephone using a recorded verbal assent. Also specifies that state agencies may accept unwritten signatures, which include electronic signature techniques, handwritten signatures transmitted by fax or other electronic transmissions, and recorded gestured signatures.

- Telephone interview at initial certification and recertification 7 CFR 273.2(e)(2) and 273.14(b)(3). Allows state agencies to use a telephone interview rather than a face-to-face interview without the need for the state to ascertain hardship. State agencies must provide a face-to-face interview if requested by the household or its authorized representative.
- Average student work hours 7 CFR 273.5(b). Provides state agencies the option to determine compliance with the 20-hour minimum work requirement by averaging the number of hours worked over the month. Work hours performed during academic breaks greater than one month must not be averaged with other months.
- Employment and Training (E&T) funding for job retention services option 7 CFR 273.7(d)(3)(ix). Includes job retention services of up to 90 days as an allowable E&T service state agencies may provide to clients.

2016

The ABAWD time limit policy exemption was lifted statewide. The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) limited the receipt of SNAP benefits to 3 months in a 36-month period for ABAWDs who are not working at least eighty hours per month, participating in qualifying education and training activities at least eighty hours per month, or complying with a workfare program. An ABAWD is a person between the ages of 18 and 49 who has no dependents and is able to work.

Each year Washington could request waivers from Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) to exempt areas of our state from this rule. Areas which have an unemployment rate 20% above the national average are eligible for such a waiver. During the Great Recession and until January 1, 2016, all of Washington state was exempt.

In calendar year 2016, two counties (King and Snohomish) and most of a third county (Pierce) were not waived from the ABAWD rules. In 2017, only one county (King) was not waived.

Annual requests will continue to be submitted to Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) to exempt qualified counties from the ABAWD requirements. In non-exempt counties with SNAP recipients that fall into the ABAWD category, those recipients must work, have a personal exemption (such as pregnancy or chronic homelessness), or participate in employment and training activities to remain eligible to receive food benefits. Each ABAWD is given three safety net months in a 36-month period during which they could continue to receive food benefits even if they failed to meet the ABAWD work requirements.

Subsequent changes to the areas of the state covered by the ABAWD exemption were addressed in Appendix 8 – Major Changes in ESA Programs by Month.

2014

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-79) was signed into law by President Obama on February 7, 2014 and is commonly known as the “Farm Bill.” The Farm Bill set national agricultural, nutrition, conservation, and forestry policy. The SNAP provisions of the bill were designed to improve oversight by the

USDA and state program operations and administration.

SNAP eligibility rules and benefit levels are, for the most part, set at the federal level and uniform across the nation, though states have flexibility to tailor aspects of the program. To address concerns regarding eligibility, benefits, and inappropriate shelter or medical expenses, the deductions have been tightened up under the Act.

The Act specifies individuals who are not eligible for SNAP, such as lottery winners, affluent college students, permanently disqualified, and deceased individuals. Ex-felons convicted of particularly heinous crimes (such as murder, aggravated sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or abuse of children) who have served their sentence were also prohibited from participating in SNAP unless they complied with the terms of their parole. Further, the bill codified existing USDA policy that households with an elderly or disabled member cannot deduct legalized medical marijuana expenses as a SNAP medical deduction.

In addition, SNAP allowed deductions from gross income for certain essential household expenses. Each state sets a Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) reflecting typical utility costs for low-income households that incur heating and cooling costs apart from their rent. No longer can a SNAP recipient qualify for SUA because they receive a minimal LIHEAP benefit in lieu of showing copies of their bills. The 2014 Farm Bill required a household to receive a LIHEAP benefit of greater than $20 a year in order to qualify for the SUA. As of January 1, 2015, the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) issues a more substantial LIHEAP benefit meeting the new requirement for households who are not eligible for the SUA without receiving the payment.

The Farm Bill also had multiple provisions to strengthen program integrity by investing new resources in fraud detection and prevention, launching a new federal and state partnership on retailer fraud, and enhancing tools for fraud detection.

The Farm Bill included three major modifications to prioritize employment and training (E&T) services and program outcomes within SNAP E&T:

(1) Pilot Projects to Test Innovative Strategies;
(2) E&T Reporting and Monitoring; and Additional Funds for E&T.

2010

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 and the Health Care and Reconciliation Act of 2010 is referred to collectively as the "Affordable Care Act" or "ACA." The ACA was enacted in 2010 under two separate provisions – Public Law 114-148 and Public Law 111-152. Different parts of the ACA took effect at different times. Of most significance to public assistance programs, the eligibility rules and eligibility processes for determining Medicaid changed significantly effective October 1, 2013. Under a federal option, Washington state opted to create a state-run Health Benefit Exchange portal called the Washington Healthplanfinder. In addition to providing access to health insurance to individuals and employers, Healthplanfinder provides real-time automated eligibility determinations for most Medicaid applicants. Beginning January 1, 2014, families and pregnant individuals with

Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) below the required federal poverty level (FPL) became eligible for Medicaid. Washington also opted to participate in Medicaid Expansion, which allowed individuals with incomes below 138% of the Federal Poverty Level to qualify for Medicaid. Eligibility for most Medicaid programs under the ACA is determined using a new simplified automated system that is no longer tied to eligibility for TANF, SNAP, or other Economic Services Administration (ESA) programs; therefore, the management of medical assistance eligibility and related IT system processes were moved to the Health Benefit Exchange (HBE) and Health Care Authority (HCA). The Economic Services Administration continues to determine eligibility for some medical assistance programs (called Classic Medical), including medical programs for persons who are elderly (age 65 or older), blind or disabled.

2009

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), Public Law 111-5, was enacted on February 17, 2009. An economic stimulus bill designed to address the nation's economic crisis, this Act provided funding under Title II, Assistance for Unemployed Workers and Struggling Families, in several key areas: (1) SNAP – provided a 13.6 percent increase in maximum benefits, which equated to a $24 increase for a one-person household; (2) Unemployment Benefits – provided an extension of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program through December 31, 2009; (3) Medical Assistance – provided an extension for Transitional Medical Assistance (TMA) through December 31, 2010; (4) TANF – established a TANF Emergency Contingency Fund to provide additional funds to states that experienced an increase in their TANF caseload and expenditures, short-term non-recurring benefits, or subsidized employment programs. States were eligible to receive 80% of the increase in expenditures between FFY 2007 and FFY 2008 (whichever was less) and FFY 2009. Funding was made available for FFY 2009 and 2010 and was limited to 50% of the combined annual TANF awards for the two-year period. The Act modified the TANF carry-forward rules to allow states to carry forward unexpended TANF and emergency contingency funds to the next year without the requirement to spend the funds on assistance. It modified the caseload reduction credit calculation to use FFY 2007 or 2008, or the prior year (whichever would be most advantageous to the state); and (5) Social Security Act (SSA), State Supplemental Income (SSI), and Railroad Retirement (RR) Benefits – it allowed a one-time $250 payment to be made to recipients.

2008

Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill), Public Law 110-234, was enacted on May 22, 2008. The Farm Bill renamed the Food Stamp Program as the "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program" (SNAP). The Food Stamp Act of 1977 was now to be called the "Food and Nutrition Act of 2008."

Key changes to SNAP program eligibility and benefit levels included increases in the Standard Income Deduction (from $134 to $144) and a $16 increase in the minimum benefit for one-person and two-person households. It also removed the cap on the dependent care deduction, excluded combat pay as income, excluded retirement and educational accounts as a resource and instituted annual resource

limit adjustments to keep pace with inflation. It established state options to expand simplified reporting (for migrant/seasonal farm workers, homeless and elderly disabled households) and to provide transitional benefits for state-funded assistance programs. In addition, it established new types of disqualifications for fraud.

Key administrative changes included a state option to allow telephonic signature, a requirement for FNS to develop standards and establish state data collection and reporting requirements related to a state's major changes in program design, and new federal match requirements for automated systems related to systemic errors, access and payment accuracy. The Act also made the following changes to the Food Stamp Employment & Training program: more time to expend allocations, added job retention services as an allowable employment and training activity, and eased participation restrictions for volunteers. In addition, states that had a nutrition education program were now required to notify food assistance applicants and participants of the availability of nutrition education "to the maximum extent practicable." DSHS currently contracts with Washington State University and the Washington State Department of Health to provide Nutrition Education services.

2006

The Deficit Reduction Act (DRA), Public Law 109-171, was enacted on February 8, 2006. The TANF program was extended at the FY 2004 funding level through FY 2010. The Act made appropriations and extended the National Random Sample Study of Child Welfare through FY 2010. It revised the formula for the caseload reduction credit with respect to work participation rates and included families receiving assistance under separate state programs in the calculation of work participation rates. It directed the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary to publish regulations for determining whether activities may be counted as work activities, how to count and verify reported hours of work, and work-eligible individuals. It also provided a state penalty for failure to establish or comply with work participation verification procedures.

The Act replaced incentive bonuses to states for a decrease in the illegitimacy rate with healthy marriage promotion and responsible fatherhood grants and limited the use of funds for (1) demonstration projects designed to test the effectiveness of tribal governments or consortia in coordinating the provision of child welfare services to tribal families at risk of child abuse or neglect; and (2) activities promoting responsible fatherhood. It made appropriations for FY2006-FY2010.

Child Care – The Act made appropriations for FY2006-FY2010 for Child Care Development Fund block grants to states for childcare.

Child Support – The Act modified the rule requiring assignment of support rights as a condition of receiving TANF, revised requirements for the distribution of arrearages with respect to families that formerly received TANF, declared that states shall not be required to pay the federal government the federal share of amounts collected on behalf of a family (1) that formerly received TANF, to the extent that the state pays (passes through) the amount to the family; or (2) that currently receives assistance, to the extent a certain portion passed through to the family. It revised requirements for use of the tax refund intercept

program to collect past-due child support on behalf of children who are not minors, reduced from $5,000 to $2,500 the amount of a child support arrearage triggering referral for passport denial, and required that all child support orders include a provision for medical support for children to be provided by either or both parents, and to be enforced. It also provided for a mandatory annual fee of $25 for each case of successful child support collection for a family that had never received TANF, if the state collected more than $500.

2004

Social Security Protection Act of 2004, Public Law 108-203, was enacted on March 2, 2004 providing for a temporary extension to SSI claimants of the system under which the Social Security Administration withholds past-due benefits to pay claimants' attorney fees. This change affected how DSHS received and processed the reimbursement of interim assistance (i.e., General Assistance or other state funds-only benefits paid to or on behalf of SSI claimants).

2002

Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, Public Law 107-171, was enacted on May 13, 2002, making changes to the **Food Stamp Program** and providing program funding through fiscal year 2007. **Title IV: Nutrition Programs** – **Food Stamp Reauthorization Act of 2002** – **Subtitle A: Food Stamp Program** – The Act amended the **Food Stamp Act of 1977** to exclude the following income for food stamp program eligibility purposes:

(1) Legally obligated child support payments made by a household member on behalf of a person not a member of such household (Note: states could continue to provide a child support deduction, rather than this exclusion. The deduction must be determined before computing the excess shelter expense deduction); and

(2) Income in the form of deferred educational and veterans' educational assistance, state complementary assistance payments, and certain medical assistance not included as income under specified provisions of Titles IV and XIX of the Social Security Act.

The Act revised and increased the standard deduction by tying it to the Federal poverty income guideline, according to household size and indexed for inflation. It authorized states to give a homeless household with some shelter expenses a $143 monthly deduction rather than an excess shelter expense deduction. It also revised utility allowances, eligibility certification provisions, and quality control provisions.

The Act required states with a program website to make on-line applications available in each language in which printed applications were available. It also reduced household reporting requirements and provided high performance bonus payments beginning in FY 2003 to the six states with the highest or most improved performance. States were now authorized to provide up to five months of transitional program benefits to households moving from the TANF program. Employment and training program funding allocations were extended through FY 2006 and additional FY 2002 through 2006 amounts were allocated to states that ensure availability of specified work opportunities.

The Act repealed (1) the 80 percent set-aside for able-bodied adults without dependents; (2)

the maintenance-of-effort requirement to access new unmatched funds; and (3) the limits on the amount states were reimbursed for each work slot offered. It increased the monthly cap on the amount states may reimburse participants for transportation and other work expenses for FY 2002 through 2009 from $25 to $50.

It amended the **Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996** to make all legal immigrant children, regardless of U.S. entry date, eligible for the SSI and food stamp programs beginning in FY 2004. It also made the following individuals eligible for food stamps: (1) qualified aliens who have resided in the U.S. for 5 years and (2) blind or disabled aliens who lawfully reside in the U.S. and receive disability cash or medical benefits.

1997

Balanced Budget Act (BBA) of 1997, Public Law 105-33, was enacted on August 5, 1997 making changes and implementing numerous technical corrections to the **Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996**, Public Law 104-193. The BBA (1) established the Welfare-to-Work Block Grant, (2) limited the amount of TANF funds that can be transferred to Title XX – Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) to 10% of the TANF block grant and removed the requirement to transfer $2 to the Child Care & Development Block Grant (CCDBG) for every $1 transferred to the SSBG, (3) increased from 20% to 30% of individuals in all families (and in 2-parent families) the limitation on the number of persons who may be treated as engaged in work by reason of participation in a vocational education program, or — for teen heads of households — maintenance of satisfactory school attendance, and (4) extended the refugee/asylee eligibility period for SSI/Medicaid eligibility from 5 to 7 years, included Cuban and Haitian entrants in this category, and provided a 5-year food stamp eligibility for these aliens. The following technical corrections were also made: (1) revised the computation method for out-of-wedlock reduction bonuses, (2) modified the MOE requirements for the Contingency Fund, (3) revised work requirements so that a family with a disabled parent is not treated as a 2-parent family, allowed the minimum work requirement for a 2-parent family to be shared between both parents with a 55 hour per week minimum, allowed a caretaker of a child under age 6 to meet work requirements if working 20 hours per week, and allowed 12 weeks of job search to count as work during any period a state meets the contingency fund definition of "needy state," (4) TANF penalties were modified so that the penalty amount was now 5% in the first year, and increased by 2% per year up to 21% maximum, and (5) the drug felon disqualification rule was modified to apply to convictions for conduct that occurred after 8/22/96.

1996

Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996, Public Law 104-193, was signed into law on August 22, 1996 giving states choices in how to structure their welfare programs. Federal funding was provided in the form of the **TANF** block grant and was fixed at the same level for five years. TANF replaced the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program and ended the entitlement status of welfare benefits. PRWORA provided new federal childcare funds, reauthorized the Child Care and Development

Block Grant (CCDBG), and required these combined funds to be administered as a unified program under the **Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)**. PRWORA also allowed states to transfer up to 30% of the TANF block grant into the CCDBG and the Title XX – Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) but limited the amount transferable to SSBG to 10% of the TANF block grant and required that $2 be transferred to the CCDBG for every $1 transferred to the SSBG. In this first major overhaul of welfare in 60 years, welfare receipt was limited to 5 years. The law contained strong work requirements and penalties for states that failed to meet them, i.e., 5% of the TANF grant for failure to meet work participation rates with the amount increasing in subsequent years by up to an additional 2% up to a limit of 21%. In addition, there was a performance bonus to reward states for moving welfare recipients into jobs, state maintenance of effort requirements, comprehensive child support enforcement requirements, and supports for families moving from welfare to work, including at least one year of transitional Medicaid when a family leaves welfare for work.

1990

Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) of 1990, Public Law 101-508, was enacted on November 5, 1990. Children were not considered members of AFDC assistance units when determining eligibility for AFDC benefits. Their income and resources were not counted toward family income and resource limits when they were recipients of Title IV-E, state, or local foster care maintenance or adoption support payments or a combination of these types of payments and the inclusion of the adopted child in the assistance unit would result in lower benefits for the family. Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) was considered an exempt resource during the month of receipt and the following month by the AFDC and GA-U Programs. Any EITC remaining in the second month following the month of receipt now applied towards the Resource Ceiling. States now had the option of specifying which categories of families must report monthly and which method of income budgeting to use (prospective or retrospective budgeting). The Act excluded the income and resources of a child receiving state or local foster care maintenance payments from eligibility or payment determinations for AFDC. It also amended the AFDC program to provide childcare to low-income families not receiving AFDC benefits when the state determined there was a need for care in order to work and the family was at risk of becoming dependent upon the AFDC program.

1989

Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) of 1989, Public Law 101-239, became law on December 19, 1989 and amended the **Child Support Enforcement Amendments of 1984**, Public Law 98-378, to permanently extend the provision to continue a family's Medicaid (Title XIX) eligibility when the family became ineligible for AFDC due to the collection or increased collection of child support under Part D of Title IV (Child Support and Establishment of Paternity) of the Social Security Act. The Act established a new AFDC quality control system which imposed penalties on states based upon a sliding scale which reflected the degree to which a state's AFDC error rate exceeds the national average. It also considered overpayments and underpayments in determining error rates and established a Quality Control Review Panel for dispute

resolution between states and the federal government.

1988

Family Support Act (FSA) of 1988, Public Law 100-485, was enacted on October 13, 1988 and targeted services to those most likely to become long-term welfare recipients. The Act created the **Job Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS)** program, which focused on education and training, and provided childcare and medical assistance to recipients for 12 months after they left AFDC with employment. It made changes to the 6-out-of-13 work quarter requirement for AFDC-Employable and to the "principal wage earner" criteria. It increased the childcare disregard to $175 per child/per month ($200 for a child under age 2), the work expense disregard to $90, and disregarded EITC. The Act established the state option to require that unmarried minor parents must live with a parent, legal guardian or other adult relative, or in an adult-supervised living arrangement to be eligible for AFDC. With the enactment of FSA of 1988, states now had to revise their need and payment standards every 3 years and could create wage supplementation and community work experience programs.

1986

Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) of 1985, Public Law 99-272, enacted on April 7, 1986 formally established the two-parent AFDC-Employable (AFDC-E) program, which was previously known as the AFDC-Unemployed Father program. The Act provided that certain education or training programs might qualify as quarters of work for AFDC eligibility purposes.

1984

Deficit Reduction Act (DEFRA) of 1984, Public Law 98-369, enacted on July 18, 1984 instituted significant changes to the AFDC program. The 185% of Need eligibility test was created, the $75 work expense deduction was applied to both full- and part-time employment, the $30 and 1/3 earned income disregard was limited to 4 months followed by a $30 disregard for 8 months, and the term "earned income" was defined to mean gross income before deductions. Burial plots, funeral arrangements, and real property that a family was making a good faith effort to sell, were excluded as resources. Retrospective budgeting was made mandatory for monthly reporting households, but optional for other cases; monthly reporting was made mandatory for families with a recent work history or earned income, EITC was declared to be an excluded income, and women in the third trimester of pregnancy were excluded from participation in the Work Incentive (WIN) program. Lump sum income eligibility rules were changed to allow recalculation of the period of ineligibility when an event occurs that would have changed the family's need for that month, the money became unavailable, or the family incurred medical expenses, which offset the lump sum. Overpayment recovery was waived when the cost of recovery exceeded the debt, aliens became ineligible for 3 years when their sponsor was a public or private agency, and information disclosure to law enforcement was permitted when the AFDC recipient was a fugitive felon. The Act established the $50 child support pass-through payment and the exclusion of the earned income of a full-time child for 6 months for purposes of the AFDC gross income test.

Child Support Enforcement Amendments of 1984, Public Law 98-378, signed into law on August 16, 1984, provided four months of continued Medicaid eligibility for families that lost AFDC eligibility because of the collection or increased collection of child support.

1983

Social Security Amendments of 1983, Public Law 98-21, became law on April 20, 1983 and amended Title IV to exclude from the definition of "income" any support or maintenance assistance furnished to a family based on need, including home energy assistance.

Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1984, Public Law 98-181, became law on November 30, 1983 and declared that utility payments made by persons living in federally assisted low-income housing projects were to be considered rental payments for purposes of determining eligibility and payment amounts under the AFDC program.

1982

Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), Public Law 97-300, enacted on October 13, 1982 established participation targets for AFDC recipients, aged 16 and older, in Adult and Youth programs, and provided earnings disregards for child participants.

Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act (TEFRA) of 1982, Public Law 97-248, was enacted on September 3, 1982 and amended AFDC eligibility to allow rounding of benefits down to the next lower whole dollar, eliminated payment of benefits for a whole month when eligibility was determined later in the month, and required states to not consider a parent absent from the home due to active duty in a uniformed service. With this Act, states were now allowed to require employment search as an eligibility criterion and could prorate need and payment standards for children living with other non-applying individuals.

1981

Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) of 1981, Public Law 97-35, was signed into law on August 13, 1981 and allowed welfare-to-work demonstration projects to begin in many states. States could now require welfare recipients to go into training, job search, or unpaid work experience in exchange for their AFDC grants. It revised the method for determining earned income by changing the order in which the work expense, childcare, and $30 and 1/3 earned income disregards were applied in order to maximize the amount of countable income to be deducted from the grant. It eliminated payments for work-related childcare expenses and implemented a new childcare expense deduction to be deducted from earned income. The $30 and 1/3 earned income disregard was restricted to 4 months and the recipient was required to be off AFDC for 12 months before being eligible to receive the disregard again. The Act prohibited grant payments below $10, instituted the "principal wage earner" concept for eligibility determinations, thereby replacing references to "mother" and "father" in compliance with *Westcott v. Califano*. It permitted AFDC payments to a pregnant woman (with no other eligible child) during her last month of pregnancy or within the following three-month period if the child would be eligible for AFDC. With this Act, OBRA began determining monthly eligibility based upon the resources at hand during the month and the monthly benefit amount based upon the income and resources of the prior month.

1979

U.S. Supreme Court Decision *Westcott v. Califano* ruled in June 1979 that Section 407 of the Social Security Act regarding unemployed fathers was unconstitutional because of the discriminatory nature of the gender distinction. The court extended benefits of the AFDC-Unemployed Father program to similarly situated unemployed mothers, thereby removing the gender distinction.

1970

Federal regulations required states to guard against payments to ineligible welfare applicants. States were now required to monitor their active AFDC caseloads, compute errors made in determining eligibility, and pay penalties for high error rates.

1967

Amendments to the Social Security Act established the **Work Incentive Program (WIN)**, which added employment services to AFDC, and directed states to emphasize work rather than welfare

1963

Medicaid and **Food Stamp** programs were created; AFDC recipients were automatically eligible for both programs.

1961

Amendments to the Social Security Act led to a new emphasis on social services. Families with two parents were now able to receive AFDC based upon the unemployment of the father (AFDC-Unemployed Father). Welfare caseloads began to grow, for both one- and two-parent families.

1935

The Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) program (later known as **Aid to Families with Dependent Children or AFDC**) was created as part of the Social Security Act. AFDC supported poor children whose parents were dead, absent, or incapacitated.

Washington State Legislative History, 1987 – 2025

2025

Substitute House Bill (SHB) 1652, *Child support pass through* (Chapter 174, Laws of 2024)
Effective January 1, 2026 (though delayed in the following Legislative session by House Bill [HB] 2039 [Chapter 402, Laws of 2025]), all current child support collected each month will be passed through to families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and these amounts will also be disregarded (not counted) when determining TANF eligibility and benefit amounts.

Substitute House Bill (SHB) 2007 (Chapter 181, Laws of 2024), *Expanding time limit exemptions applicable to cash assistance programs.*
Effective July 1, 2024, families with a child under the age of two, who are eligible for the infant, toddler or post-partum WorkFirst participation exemption, can access TANF beyond 60-months.

House Bill (HB) 2415 (Chapter 154, Laws of 2024), *Expanding economic assistance for individuals who are eligible for TANF*.
Effective January 1, 2025, the Diversion Cash Assistance (DCA) maximum payment was increased to $2,000.

Substitute Senate Bill (SSB) 5950 (Chapter 376, Laws of 2024), *2023-2025 Supplemental Operating Budget*
Includes the following:

- Funding to support implementation of ESHB 1652, SHB 2007, and HB 2415 (noted above).
- Funding to implement the Summer EBT program. Known as SUN Bucks, this program will provide a total of $120 in food benefits per child to families under 185% of FPL who have school-aged children that would typically receive free or reduced meals.
- One-time funding ($25,250,000- including 5 FTE for SFY 25) provided to Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance to expand support services for individuals newly arriving to the United States who do not qualify for federal refugee resettlement program services.
- Funding to replace skimmed or cloned cash assistance up to two times in a federal fiscal year. Also supports ongoing state funded Food Assistance Program for legal immigrants (FAP) replacements. Any unspent funds are set to lapse on September 30, 2024, or on the date that the federal government ends the requirement that stolen Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits must be replaced, whichever is later. Effective July 1, 2024.
- One time reinvestment of WorkFirst Service funds to support issuance of Housing and Utility Support Services. Effective July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025.
- Funding for an additional one-time cash benefit available through the Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund. Federal funds cover a one-time cash benefit for TANF and SNAP recipients, while these state funds cover benefits for recipients of State Family Assistance (SFA) and FAP. This additional benefit was issued in April 2024.
- Funding to support full implementation of HB 1128 (Chapter 201, Laws of 2023), which increased the Personal Needs Allowance

(PNA) for individuals receiving care in a medical institution or residential setting from $70 to $100. In some circumstances, the State Supplemental Payment (SSP) is leveraged to bridge a gap between the capped SSI benefit which can be dedicated to PNA. This bill provided funding to increase in the SSP payment in these circumstances to meet the new PNA level.

- Funding for system changes, staffing, and caseload impacts associated with the federal Fiscal Responsibility Act. FRA made several changes to SNAP work requirements for ABAWDs, including work requirements for participants age 50 to 54 and new work participation exemptions.
- Funding provided to domestic violence shelters in specific counties to maintain existing service levels.

2024

Senate Bill (SB) 5187 (Chapter 475, Laws of 2023), *Biennium 23-25 Operating Budget*. Effective July 1, 2023, the budget provided funding for the following:

- Funding to support implementation of policy changes in 2SHB 1447.
- 8% payment standard increase for all ESA cash programs. Effective January 1, 2024.
- Implementation of SB 5338 from the 2023 Legislative Session, which supports a benefit specifically targeted at mitigating diaper-related costs for TANF families with a child under the age of three. Effective November 1, 2023.
- Extending Ongoing Additional Requirements (OAR) benefits to Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) Referral recipients, and adding services such as transportation, internet, veterinary costs for service animals, dentures, eye glasses and optometrist exams, hearing aids and boarding for animals (effective April 1, 2024).
- A culturally and linguistically appropriate outreach campaign to raise awareness around EBT fraud.
- Unaccompanied children sponsorship stabilization and a study to assess needs and develop recommendations for ongoing supports for this population.
- Increased ongoing support for naturalization services.
- Increased ongoing support for domestic violence victim services.

Second Substitute House Bill (2SHB) 1447 (Chapter 418, Laws of 2023), *Strengthening the ability of assistance programs to meet foundational needs of children, adults, and families.*

- Abolished the TANF time limit for households headed by a parent who is ineligible for assistance due to factors such as receipt of SSI, their legal status, or their immigration status. Effective July 1, 2023.
- Expanded good cause reasons used to determine whether a WorkFirst family should face financial sanction for situations where the parent does not engage in agreed upon activities within their service and participation plan. Effective July 23, 2023.
- Increased asset and resource limits for ESA cash assistance programs, doubling the resource limit from $6,000 to $12,000 and completely exempting one vehicle (no matter the value) and retirement/pension-related funds or accounts. Effective February 1, 2024.

- Changes to earned income disregard policy for ESA cash assistance programs, allowing for the first $500 of earned income to be fully disregarded from benefit calculations, with remaining income disregarded at 50%. Effective August 1, 2024.

Substitute House Bill (SHB) 1260 (Chapter 289, Laws 2023), Accelerating stability *for people with a work-limiting disability or incapacity.*

- Expanded good cause reasons for not participating in substance use disorder assessment or treatment as a condition of eligibility for the Aged, Blind, or Disabled (ABD), HEN Referral, and Pregnant Women Assistance (PWA) programs. Effective July 23, 2023.
- Allowed the department to determine the income standard for the ABD and HEN Referral program up to 100% of the federal poverty level. Effective July 23, 2023.
- Eliminated the requirement for ABD program recipients to repay the state for benefits received for the same period as federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits were received. The monetary value of ABD benefits paid prior to October 1, 2025, that is duplicated by the person's receipt of SSI benefits for the same period, remains a debt due to the state that is subject to recovery. Originally effective October 1, 2025, but subsequently delayed in the 2025 Legislative session per House Bill (HB) 2040 (Chapter 402, Laws of 2025).

House Bill (HB) 1128 (Chapter 201, Laws of 2023), *Raising the residential personal needs allowance.* Increased the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) for individuals receiving care in a medical institution or residential setting from $70 to $100. Because SSP is leveraged to bridge the gap between the capped SSI amount which can be dedicated to PNA, this bill requires an increase in the SSP payment to these households to meet the new PNA level. Effective July 1, 2023.

Substitute Senate Bill (SSB) 5398 (Chapter 401, Laws of 2023), *Domestic violence funding allocation*. Required the department to convene a workgroup to review and update the formula used to determine the allocation of funding for domestic violence victim services agencies, and report recommendations to the legislature. Implementation of any of the funding allocation recommendations adopted by the department must be effective July 1, 2025.

Substitute House Bill (SHB) 2368 (Chapter 153, Laws of 2024), *Assisting refugees and immigrants by describing the role of the office of refugee and immigrant assistance (ORIA) in administering federal funding regarding refugee support services and authorizing ORIA to administer services to immigrants*. Effective June 6, 2024. This bill established scope of refugee and immigrant assistance administered by ORIA, including statewide coordination of efforts to support immigrant and refugee resettlement. This bill also expanded scope of ORIA to administer services to immigrants who are ineligible for federal services and to contract with external entities to provide those services.

2023

Senate Bill (SB) 5693 (Chapter 297, Laws of 2022), *Supplemental Operating Budget.* Effective July 1, 2022, the budget provided funding for the following:

- Implementation of a state-funded employment and training program for recipients of FAP.
- Elimination of the ABD program mid-certification review (MCR). Note: The MCR was eliminated for recipients age 65 or older effective July 1, 2020.
- Continued suspension of the TANF 60-month time limit through June 30, 2023.
- Increasing the maximum monthly TANF grant from the eight-person to a ten-person standard.
- Increasing WorkFirst support service funding for housing, utility and diaper needs of families receiving TANF.
- Contracts with nonprofit organizations to provide services for refugees and immigrants that arrive in Washington state on or after July 1, 2021, and are eligible for federal refugee resettlement services, including those from Afghanistan and Ukraine.

Additionally, the following were funded effective September 1, 2022:

- Expansion of the ABD program to individuals between the ages of 21 and 64 who reside in a public mental health institution (e.g. Eastern or Western State Hospital). Eligible individuals receive a maximum monthly payment of $41.62 to cover clothing, personal maintenance, and necessary incidentals.
- Increase of the ABD cash grant standard to $417 for a single individual or $528 for a married couple. This aligns with the grant standard for TANF and other cash assistance programs.

House Bill (HB) 1748 (Chapter 208, Laws of 2022), ***Aged, Blind, or Disabled Program Eligibility for Victims of Human Trafficking.*** Effective July 1, 2022, this agency request legislation expanded ABD, HEN Referral, and PWA eligibility to victims of human trafficking who meet all other program eligibility requirements. This change also further expanded Medical Care Services (MCS) eligibility to victims of human trafficking determined eligible for ABD or HEN Referral.

House Bill (HB) 1755 (Chapter 24, Laws of 2022), ***Temporary assistance for needy families time limit extensions during times of high unemployment.*** Effective July 1, 2022, this agency request legislation created a new TANF time limit extension for situations where the last published Washington state unemployment rate is equal to or greater than seven percent.

Substitute Senate Bill (SSB) 5729 (Chapter 163, Laws of 2022), ***Creating a good cause exception to administrative hearing deadlines for applicants or recipients of certain public assistance benefits.*** Effective July 1, 2023, to the extent allowable under federal law, this bill created good cause exceptions for public and medical assistance administrative hearing request deadlines up to one year after the Department decision is made.

Substitute Senate Bill (SSB) 5785 (Chapter 98, Laws of 2022), ***Transitional Food Assistance.*** Effective January 1, 2024, this request legislation expanded Transitional Food Assistance access to non-sanctioned household members of a TANF assistance unit when TANF ends for reasons other than sanction. If the TANF household includes a sanctioned household member, the remaining household members may receive TFA.

Substitute Senate Bill (SSB) 5838 (Chapter 100, Laws of 2022), ***Providing a monthly diaper subsidy for parents or other caregivers receiving temporary assistance for needy families.*** Effective November 1, 2023, this bill allowed the Department to provide, with funds appropriated for this specific purpose, an additional monthly cash benefit to TANF households with a child under age three in order to assist with child-related expenses such as diapers.

2022

Senate Bill (SB) 5092 (Chapter 334, Laws of 2021), ***Operating Budget*****.** Effective July 1, 2021, the budget provided funding for the following:

- A 15% grant increase for the TANF, Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), and PWA programs.
- Suspension of the TANF 60-month time limit through June 30, 2022.
- Pandemic Emergency Assistance for eligible families receiving SFA or FAP.
- Continuation of the Washington Immigrant Relief Fund through SFY 2023.
- An additional $2.6 million for SFY 2023 for the Department of Commerce HEN Program.

Second Substitute Senate Bill (2SSB) 5214 (Chapter 239, Laws of 2021), ***Economic assistance programs.*** Effective July 25, 2021, this bill provided a new TANF time limit extension (TLE) when a client receives TANF during a month on or after March 2020, the state's unemployment rate was 7% or above, and the client is otherwise eligible. The new extension category is applied after all other TLE criteria have been exhausted and is equal to the number of months the recipient received TANF when the state's unemployment rate was 7% or above.

Substitute House Bill (SHB) 1151 (Chapter 9, Laws of 2021)[1], ***Bolstering economic recovery by providing public assistance to households in need.*** Effective July 1, 2022, Section 2 of this Department request legislation provided for a one-time cash benefit and five months of transitional food assistance to non-TANF families with children exiting Basic Food due to increased income or voluntary closure. Section 3 requires the Department to begin basing the cash assistance need standard on a broadly used national standard reflecting current household goods and services to meet basic needs as of July 1, 2022.

2021

Senate Bill (**SB) 5092** ***Operating Budget*** **(Chapter 334, Laws of 2021).** Effective July 1, 2021, the budget provided funding for the following:

- A 15% grant increase for the TANF, RCA, and PWA programs.
- Suspension of the TANF 60-month time limit through June 30, 2022.
- Pandemic Emergency Assistance for eligible families receiving SFA or FAP.
- Continuation of the Washington Immigrant Relief Fund through SFY23.
- Additional $2.6 million for SFY23 for the Department of Commerce HEN Program.

[1] Section 1 of this legislation was implemented in SFY 2021. See Washington State Legislative History: 2021.

Second Substitute Senate Bill (2SSB) 5214 (Chapter 239, Laws of 2021), ***Economic assistance programs.*** Effective July 25, 2021, this bill provided a new TANF time limit extension (TLE) when a client receives TANF during a month on or after March 2020, the state's unemployment rate was 7% or above, and the client is otherwise eligible. The new extension category is applied after all other TLE criteria have been exhausted and is equal to the number of months the recipient received TANF when the state's unemployment rate was 7% or above.

Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESHB) 1368 (Chapter 3, Laws of 2021), ***Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic through state actions supported by federal funding,*** appropriated over $90 million to ESA from the Coronavirus Relief Fund under the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

- $65 million toward continuation of the Immigrant Relief Fund.
- $12 million for the Disaster Cash Assistance Program, contingent on the enactment of SHB 1151.
- $4.7 million provided for January through March 2021 to increase state Food Assistance Program allotments to align with federal SNAP COVID-related benefit increases.
- $9 million provided for January through June 2021 to support increased TANF caseloads due to COVID-related policy changes.

Substitute House Bill (SHB) 1151 (Chapter 9, Laws of 2021), ***Bolstering economic recovery by providing public assistance to households in need.*** Effective March 31, 2021, Section 1 of this Department request legislation modified the Disaster Cash Assistance Program (DCAP) to allow ESA to issue DCAP assistance more than once in a 12-month period during a state of emergency, as ordered by the Governor. Effective July 1, 2022, Section 2 of this Department request legislation provides for a one-time cash benefit and five months of transitional food assistance to non-TANF families with children exiting SNAP due to increased income or voluntary closure. Section 3 required the Department to begin basing the cash assistance need standard on a broadly used national standard reflecting current household goods and services to meet basic needs as of July 1, 2022.

2020

Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 6168 (Chapter 357, Laws of 2020), ***Operating Budget- Supplemental*** **Effective July 1, 2020. The budget provided funding to:**

- Eliminate the supplied shelter grant standard for the Aged, Blind, or Disabled; TANF; RCA; and PWA programs.
- Eliminate the mid-certification review for ABD recipients age 65 years or older.
- Implement legislation passed in the 2020 session, including Child Support Pass-through (2SSB 5144), Trafficking Victim Assistance (3SSB 5164), and Revising Economic Assistance Programs (2SSB 6478 and 2SHB 2441).
- Provide implicit bias training and continuation of the Poverty Reduction Workgroup Steering Committee.
- Continue implementation of the federally compliant Asset Verification

System for asset-based Medicaid eligibility system.

- Fund a Department of Commerce housing assistance pilot program for recipients of Social Security Administration assistance in King, Snohomish, Pierce, Kitsap, Thurston, and Clark counties. This directly impacts ESA clients (e.g. Aged, Blind, or Disabled program) who transition to federal disability assistance.

Second Substitute Senate Bill (2SSB) 5144 (Chapter 349, Laws of 2020), ***Implementing child support pass-through payments.*** Effective February 1, 2021, this bill reinstated child support pass-through for families receiving TANF. Child support collections are passed through up to $50 per month for TANF families with one child, and up to $100 per month for families with two or more children. These amounts do not count against a family's TANF grant; however, it is factored into their food benefit eligibility.

Substitute House Bill (SHB) 2441 (Chapter 338, Laws of 2020), ***Improving access to TANF.*** Effective July 1, 2021, this bill removed home visits, immediate sanction closures, and WorkFirst Sanction Re-Open from the TANF WorkFirst sanction process. The bill required the department to reduce the grant of a TANF recipient by the greater of either 40% or the recipients share after two months of continuous noncompliance with WorkFirst requirements. It also required the Department to terminate the grant after twelve months of continuous noncompliance (formerly could be closed immediately or up to two months). This additional time provided recipients with more opportunities to reengage prior to facing financial penalties.

Second Substitute Senate Bill (2SSB) 6478 (Chapter 320, Laws of 2020), ***Revising economic assistance programs.*** Effective July 1, 2021, this bill expanded the 60-month TANF time limit extension criteria to include homelessness as defined in the McKinney-Vento Act. It also required DSHS to submit an annual report regarding racial demographics of recipients terminated from TANF due to sanctions or time limits, including the Department's plan to remedy any racial disproportionality reflected in the data.

Third Substitute Senate Bill (3SSB) 5164 (Chapter 136, Laws of 2020), ***Providing public assistance to victims of human trafficking*****.** This bill expanded eligibility for state-funded public assistance programs including the Food Assistance Program, State Family Assistance, and Medical Care Services to noncitizen victims of human trafficking, as they are defined by the bill, and their qualifying family members, effective February 1, 2022.

Substitute Senate Bill (SSB) 6495 (Chapter 322, Laws of 2020), ***Essential needs and housing support eligibility.*** This Department request legislation allowed individuals determined eligible for the PWA program to receive a referral to the HEN program for 24 consecutive months from the date their PWA eligibility is established. The bill also allowed the Department to set the income eligibility standard for the PWA program. This bill took effect June 11, 2020.

Senate Bill (SB) 6136 (Chapter 64, Laws of 2020), ***Updating restrictions on electronic***

benefit cards, resolved a discrepancy between federal and state EBT policy. This change enabled state licensed beer and/or wine specialty stores, federally authorized as SNAP retailers, to accept EBT cards; no longer requiring disablement of ATM and point-of-sale machines located on the premises. This bill took effect June 11, 2020.

Second Substitute House Bill (2SHB) 1603 (Chapter 343, Laws of 2019), *Revising economic assistance programs by updating standards of need, revising outcome measures and data collected, and reducing barriers to participation,* provided for a new time limit extension for families experiencing homelessness. Families that are homeless and have used up all 60 months of TANF assistance now qualify for additional months of TANF. For purposes of this TANF program change, homelessness means:

- Living outside,
- Living in a building or other location not meant for human habitation,
- Living in a building or other location that you have no legal right to occupy,
- Living in an emergency shelter, or
- Living in a temporary housing program, which may include a transitional or supportive housing program with a limited duration of stay.

This bill also eliminated permanent disqualification from the TANF program due to reoccurring non-compliance with WorkFirst participation requirements. Families who have struggled to meet participation requirements in the past, and as a result were permanently disqualified from receiving TANF and WorkFirst support services, may now reapply for TANF. The legislation also included additional reporting requirements.

Second Substitute House Bill (2SHB) 1893 (Chapter 407, Laws of 2019), *Providing assistance for certain postsecondary students,* required DSHS to consult with the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) and the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) to seek a waiver from the USDA allowing students to use their electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card at on-campus food retail establishments of Washington's public and private institutions of higher education and report quarterly to the Legislature regarding these efforts through January 1, 2020. This legislation also required the Department to provide written notice to specified parties if federal approval of such waiver is not obtained by January 1, 2020.

Additionally, 2SHB 1893 required DSHS and SBCTC to identify educational programs at the community and technical colleges that would meet the requirements of state-approved employment and training programs for student eligibility for the Washington Basic Food program, with a focus on programs related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). DSHS was required to seek federal approval of such programs by the USDA, if needed. This legislation also required DSHS to maintain and regularly update a list of the identified educational programs.

The bill also permitted, to the extent allowed by federal law, students who are “anticipating participation” in the work-study program to qualify for the Washington Basic Food program. 2SHB 1893 also required DSHS, SBCTC, and WSAC to identify options that could confer categorical eligibility for federal assistance

programs for students who receive the State Need Grant (since replaced by the Washington College Grant) and report those options to the appropriate committees of the Legislature by January 1, 2020.

Lastly, the bill required institutions of higher education to provide written notice to State Need Grant (Washington College Grant) and work-study program recipients of possible eligibility for SNAP and how to apply for SNAP.

2019

Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESHB) 1109 (Chapter 415, Laws of 2019), Biennium 2019-2021 Operating Budget, was signed into law on May 21, 2019. The budget funded the following:

- Implementation of TANF program policy changes (see 2SHB 1603 – Chapter 343, Laws of 2019).
- Implementation of Automatic Voter Registration as a result of 2018's HB 2595 (Chapter 10, Laws of 2018).
- Increased naturalization services administered through the Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance (ORIA).
- Initial implementation work for a federally-compliant Asset Verification System required for certain Medicaid eligibility decisions.
- PWA maximum grant increase from $197.00 to $363.00.
- Continuation of the Working Family Support (WFS) program.

2018

Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 6032 (Chapter 299, Laws of 2018), 2018 Supplemental Operating Budget, was signed into law on March 27, 2018. A number of policy changes were funded in the operating budget, including:

- A 6.8 percent cash grant increase (in addition to the 2.5 percent increase in the 2017-19 enacted budget) for TANF, and RCA. The cumulative cash grant increase effective July 1, 2018 is 9.3 percent.
- A reduction in funding for TANF/WorkFirst partner contracts; $886,000 in SFY17 and $1.1 million in SFY19.
- Funding to increase the public assistance program vehicle exemption to a value of no more than $10,000 (from $5,000) and all other assets to $6,000 (from $1,000) (see ESSHB 1831).
- Funding to provide for staff and incapacity exam costs as a result of the increased HEN referrals (see SHB 2667).
- An increased Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) for recipients of SSP who are in an institutional setting to $70 (from $58.43) per month effective January 1, 2019. Effective January 1, 2020, the PNA for these recipients will be adjusted annually by the percentage cost-of-living-adjustment for federal Social Security benefits (see SHB 2651).

Substitute House Bill (SHB) 2651 (Chapter 137, Laws of 2018), *Increasing the personal needs allowance for people in residential and institutional care settings*, took effect on January 1, 2019. This bill increases the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) to $70 (from $58.43) per month for clients in medical institutions and

certain community residential settings. Beginning January 1, 2020, the PNA for these recipients will be adjusted by the percentage of the cost-of-living-Adjustment (COLA) for federal benefits as published by the Social Security Administration.

House Bill (HB) 2816 (Chapter 52, Laws of 2018), *Transferring all aspects of Working Connections Child Care and Seasonal Child Care service delivery to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families*, took effect July 1, 2019. This bill transferred all aspects of Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) and Seasonal Child Care (SCC) service delivery to the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) and followed the recommendations of a report submitted to the Legislature on December 1, 2017, in accordance with HB 1661, Section 103. The transfer includes all tangible property used in carrying out the program functions, including office equipment, reports, records, and files; any appropriations made to DSHS for the programs' administration; employees engaged in performing program functions; and all rules and pending business before DSHS pertaining to the programs are continued and to be acted upon by DCYF. DCYF assumes all program responsibilities for the WCCC and SCC programs, including determinations of program eligibility, providing services to parents applying for or receiving benefits, making payments to providers, and establishing and monitoring program outcome measures.

Engrossed Third Substitute House Bill (E3SHB) 1482 (Chapter 126, Laws of 2018), *Establishing the legislative-executive WorkFirst poverty reduction oversight task force*, took effect on June 7, 2018. This bill modified the current WorkFirst Legislative Executive Task Force to create the Legislative-Executive WorkFirst Poverty Reduction Oversight Task Force and an Intergenerational Poverty Advisory Committee to lay the groundwork in Washington for advancing intergenerational prosperity and reducing poverty. The task force must make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature. DSHS is required to develop a five-year plan to address intergenerational poverty, subject to oversight and approval by the task force. Upon approval by the task force, the Department must submit these plans to the Governor and the appropriate committees of the Legislature by December 1, 2019. The task force must review the five-year plan by December 1, 2024, and direct DSHS to update the plan as needed.

Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill (E2SHB) 1831 (Chapter 40, Laws of 2018), *Revising resource limitations for public assistance*, took effect on February 1, 2019. This bill increased the resource limits for cash assistance program eligibility to $6,000 (from $1,000) and exempted the value of one vehicle up to $10,000 (from $5,000).

Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESHB) 2667, *Improving housing stability for people with disabilities and seniors,* was signed into law and became effective due to an emergency clause on March 13, 2018. The bill expanded eligibility for the HEN program to include recipients of the ABD cash assistance program and expanded eligibility for the HEN Referral program by removing the restriction that disqualified individuals who are primarily incapacitated due to a substance use disorder (Sections 1 and 2). The bill also required the Department to share demographic data of those persons determined

eligible for a referral to the HEN program with Commerce on a monthly basis (Section 3 took effect on June 7, 2018).

2017

Substitute House Bill (SHB) 1624 (Chapter 9, Laws of 2017), ***Concerning Working Connections Child Care Eligibility for Vulnerable Children*****,** took effect on December 1, 2018. This bill made certain populations of vulnerable children eligible for the Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) subsidy program for a minimum of twelve months. Effective December 1, 2018, a child will be eligible for WCCC if: (a) the child received child protective services (CPS), child welfare services (CWS) or services through a family assessment response (FAR) within the prior six months; (b) has been referred for childcare as part of the family's case management; and (c) is residing with a biological parent or guardian.

Second Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill (2E2SHB) 1661 (Chapter 6, Laws of 2017), ***Creating the Department of Children, Youth and Families*****,** took effect on October 19, 2017. This bill allowed for the creation of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) by merging Department of Early Learning (DEL) with the Department of Social and Health Services' (DSHS) Children's Administration (CA) effective July 1, 2018, and DSHS Juvenile Rehabilitation (JRA) effective July 1, 2019. The bill required DSHS, DEL, and DCYF to prepare a plan for transferring Working Connections Child Care eligibility to DCYF effective July 1, 2019. This bill recodified RCWs pertaining to the current departments and transfers control to the new department.

Senate Bill (SB) 5118, (Chapter 270) , Laws of 2017*), Increasing the Personal Needs Allowance for Persons Receiving State-Financed Care*, took effect on July 1, 2017. This bill allowed for a personal needs allowance (PNA) increase to reflect the cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) made to federal Social Security benefits for Medicaid-eligible residents in institutions and community-based residential settings receiving long-term care, developmental disabilities, or mental health services.

Second Substitute Senate Bill (2SSB) 5347 (Chapter 156, Laws of 2017), ***Concerning the Definition of Work Activity for the Purposes of the WorkFirst Program***, took effect on July 23, 2017. This bill amended RCW 74.08A.250 to allow for expansion of vocational education as an approvable work activity from 12 months to 24 months.

Substitute Senate Bill (SSB) 5883, the 2017-2019 Operating Biennium Budget was signed into law on June 30, 2017. A number of policy changes were funded in the operating budget, including:

- TANF, and Refugee Cash Assistance program grants will increase by 2.5 percent beginning in SFY 2019;
- Means tests for kinship caregivers will be repealed (see 2ESSB 5890);
- Working Family Support received funding to continue the program through the biennium, and;
- Infant exemptions from work, for TANF parents, was extended for children up to 24 months

Second Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (2ESSB) 5890 Chapter 20, Laws of 2017),

Concerning Foster Care and Adoption Support, took effect on October 19, 2017. This bill facilitated and supported permanency for children in the foster care system, including through promoting adoption. Section 16, as of July 1, 2018, repealed income means testing for nonparent caregivers applying for or receiving Child-Only TANF grants on behalf of the children in their care.

Engrossed Second Substitute Bill (ESSB) 5898 (Chapter 21, Laws of 2017), *Concerning Eligibility for Public Assistance Programs*, took effect on October 19, 2017. This bill removed outdated WorkFirst suspension dates and amends RCW 74.08a.260 to suspend WorkFirst participation for TANF recipients with a child under age two. It modified the good cause reasons for failure to participate by adding in the recipients with a child under age two. It adds language that parents with a child under age two and claiming good cause exemption may still be required to participate in the activities noted in subsections (2a-d) and (3). Subsection (5) limits a good cause exemption under subsection (1)(b) to a maximum of twenty-four months in a parent's lifetime. Subsection (3) notes the Department shall work with a parent claiming good cause exemption to participate in programs and services regarding parenting skills and promote child well-being, including but not limited to home visitation programs.

2016

Second Substitute House Bill (2SHB) 2877, *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Benefit Distribution Dates*, was signed into law on March 29, 2016. It required the Department to expand distribution dates for SNAP benefits from the 1st to the 10th of every month to the 1st through the 20th of every month, beginning February 1, 2017.

Substitute Senate Bill (SSB) 6430, *Medical Assistance Programs – Continuity of Care*, was signed into law on March 31, 2016. It required the Health Care Authority (HCA) and the Community Services Division (CSD) of the DSHS Economic Services Administration to suspend, rather than terminate, medical assistance benefits for persons who are incarcerated or committed to a state hospital, beginning July 1, 2017. HCA must allow a person to apply for medical assistance during incarceration, whether or not the release date of the person is known; eligibility is suspended until the individual is released.

2015

Second Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill (2E2SHB) 1491, *the Early Start Act*, was signed into law on July 6, 2015. The Act required the Department of Early Learning (DEL) to establish and implement Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) policies that promote stability and quality of care for children from low-income households, focus on school readiness for young learners, and use outcome measures that promote stability, quality and continuity of the early care and education program. It promoted stability by maintaining authorizations for WCCC subsidies for 12 months regardless of most changes in family employment, other approved activities, schedule, or income, beginning July 1, 2016. To receive subsidy payment for care of children below school age, existing licensed childcare providers must enroll (August 2016), progress (August 2017) and meet standards (December 2019) set under Early Achievers, the state quality rating and improvement system for childcare. New

providers must follow a similar timeline for meeting standards. The Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program, the state's comprehensive pre-kindergarten program for three- and four-year-old children from low-income families, is to expand to serve all eligible children by the 2020-2021 school year.

Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 6052, the 2015-2017 Operating Biennium Budget was signed into law on June 30, 2015. Several policy changes were funded in the operating budget, including:

(1) Elimination of the Washington Telephone Assistance Program (WTAP) funding;
(2) Increase in TANF grant standards by 9%; and
(3) Increase in FAP benefit amount to 100% of the SNAP benefit amount.

2014

House Bill (HB) 2585, TANF – *Benefits for a Child* was signed into law on March 27, 2014. The bill created greater parity for non-parental caregivers by amending RCW 74.12.037 to allow a 50% unearned income disregard for TANF child-only cases involving non-parental caregivers, many of whom are kinship caregivers (such as a grandparent, aunt, uncle or other relative). This change was intended to ease the financial burden for these families, as many non-parental caregivers live on fixed incomes. The effective date for implementation of the 50% unearned income disregard for non-parental caregivers was November 1, 2014.

Senate Bill (SB) 6573, *Changing the Effective Date of Modifications to the ABD cash assistance and the Housing and HEN programs* was signed into law on April 3, 2014. A statutory change in 2013 directed DSHS to determine program eligibility for the ABD program using less restrictive standards for the duration of a person's disabling condition (from 12 months to 9 months) and consideration of past work (from 15 years to 10 years) during the period of January 2014 through June 2015. Enacting SB 6573 into law changed the date for reverting to the more restrictive standards for program eligibility from July 1, 2015 to July 1, 2014.

Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 6002, the 2014 Supplemental Operating Budget, was signed into law on April 4, 2014. Several WorkFirst policy changes were funded through the supplemental operating budget:

1) Implementation of a 15% incentive payment, beginning April 15, 2015, to WorkFirst households that participate in their Individual Responsibility Plan (IRP) for 20 hours or more a week;
2) Implementation of a TANF home visiting service for at-risk expectant parents, families with newborns and young children under age 5, and families receiving Rapid Rehousing services. These home visits promote healthy child development and address issues such as maternal and child health, positive parenting, and safe home environments.
3) Increased funding for work study through the community and technical colleges for WorkFirst clients;
4) Modified the Additional Requirements for Emergent Needs (AREN) program to a maximum of $750 per household in a

12-month period rather than in a lifetime;

5) Modified the WorkFirst sanction policy from a four-month period to a two-month period and implemented a home visit program for clients who do not attend an in-person meeting regarding their IRP prior to termination for non-compliance;
6) Adjusted funding for the Diversion Cash Assistance (DCA), Tribal TANF Maintenance of Effort (MOE), and WorkFirst contracts;
7) Gave one-time funding to complete Lean process projects and technical assistance visits to local Community Service Offices (CSOs); and
8) Implemented a mandatory Orientation for WorkFirst clients.

2013

Substitute House Bill (SHB) 2069, *Continuation of Safety Net Benefits for Persons Determined to Have a Physical or Mental Disability*, was signed into law on June 30. The bill redefined eligibility for the ABD program by making it less restrictive than SSI disability criteria, reducing the minimum incapacity duration from 12 to 9 months, and reducing consideration of an individual's ability to perform past work from 15 to 10 years. The less restrictive disability standard will be in place for 18 months only, from January 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. After that, the program will revert to the more restrictive standards now in place. The bill also replaced the current mechanism for determining potential eligibility HEN. To be potentially eligible for HEN currently, an individual must receive Medical Care Services (MCS). SHB 2069 replaced the MCS requirement for HEN with an incapacity determination by DSHS intended to identify individuals who are "eligible for referral" to HEN services. MCS eligibility was also narrowed to only ABD and HEN recipients who are ineligible for Medicaid expansion. The effective dates for these changes range from January 1, 2014 to July 1, 2015 (Section 2 only).

Second Engrossed Substitute House Bill (2ESSHB) 1971, *Concerning Communications Services Reform*, was signed into law on June 30. The bill repealed the excise tax that funds the Washington Telephone Assistance Program (WTAP) and required the program to be funded by a biennial State General Fund appropriation. It prohibited WTAP enrollment from exceeding appropriated funds for the program and required DSHS to close WTAP if there was a danger of overspending. The effective date for the legislation is August 1, 2013.

Second Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (2ESSB) 5595, New Customer Service Standards for Working Connections Child Care, was signed into law on May 23. The bill required the Department to provide training on professionalism to employees working with parents who apply for or are receiving WCCC; return WCCC-related telephone calls to parents within two business days; develop an electronic process by which WCCC parents can submit required forms and information; provide 10 day advance notice to providers and parents of loss of WCCC benefits; and provide parents with easy to understand information on the services they are eligible for, hearing rights, and the parent's responsibilities in obtaining and maintaining eligibility for WCCC. The effective date for the bill is July 28, 2013.

Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill (E2SHB) 1723, Expanding and Streamlining

Early Learning Services and Programs, was signed into law on May 21. The bill put into statute the 200% FPL income eligibility threshold for the Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) program. It also required an increase in the base rate for WCCC providers, provided tiered rate enhancements to providers who meet specific requirements, and increased the subsidy rate for WCCC providers who enrolled in Level 2 of the Early Achievers program. The effective date for the rate changes is September 1, 2013.

2012

Third Engrossed Substitute House Bill (3ESHB) 2127, the supplemental budget, was enacted and made the following changes: **(1)** TANF Payment Standard – the maximum TANF cash grant increased from $726 to $941 for families of 6 or more; **(2)** FAP – funding was provided at 50% of the benefit level for the federal SNAP; **(3)** Child Care Subsidy Program eligibility increased from 175% to 200% FPL and certifications increased from 6-month to 12-month periods; **(4)** WorkFirst Services – funding was reduced by about $821,000 (1.1%); **(5)** Division of Child Support – funding was provided for 16 additional FTEs in SFY 2013 (effective July 1, 2012) to increase the amount of child support collected and retained by the state; and **(6)** Department of Early Learning – provided $100,000 for contracts with independent consultants to evaluate and recommend the optimum system for the eligibility determination process for childcare, with a report due to the Office of Financial Management and Legislature by December 31, 2012.

2011

Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 5921 was enacted to make fundamental reforms to the WorkFirst program. This legislation: **(1)** suspended work participation for parents of one child under age two or two children under age six from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012; **(2)** created a Legislative-Executive WorkFirst Oversight Task Force to oversee implementation of the WorkFirst TANF redesign; **(3)** established an income eligibility of 300% FPL for non-parental Child-Only TANF cases and established a sliding scale benefit standard for a child when the caregiver's income is above 200% but below 300% FPL; **(4)** prohibited DSHS from counting SSI income when determining TANF eligibility; **(5)** imposed the 60-month time limit on all parents of children who receive Child-Only TANF, provided this was "consistent with federal funding requirements and makes hardship extensions available to these parents effective September 1, 2011;" **(6)** allowed DSHS to implement a permanent disqualification for adults who had been terminated due to a WorkFirst noncompliance sanction three or more times since March 1, 2007; **(7)** added voluntary service at a licensed childcare, preschool or elementary school where the parent's child is enrolled as an allowable work activity and allowed parenting or life skills education; **(8)** made it a condition of eligibility for childcare subsidy programs that the applicant or recipient must seek child support enforcement services from the DSHS Division of Child Support, unless DSHS finds that the applicant or recipient has good cause not to cooperate; **(9)** required DSHS and the Department of Early Learning to develop a plan for monitoring WCCC attendance, to be implemented by January 2013, and conduct an assessment of current

subsidized childcare eligibility, reporting on both to the Legislature by December 31, 2011; **(10)** required DSHS, in consultation with its Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) contractor and others, to strategize how to help recipients maintain bank accounts, increase their financial literacy and financial management skills, and minimize their ATM fee costs with a report due to Legislature by December 1, 2011; **(11)** required DSHS, in its EBT contracts, to require that any surcharge or transaction fee be disclosed to clients at the point of transaction; **(12)** expanded prohibitions on use of EBT cards, limited use of card to recipients, forbade sale of cards, and made violators subject to a possible civil penalty; **(13)** required certain businesses to disable ATMs and point-of-sale machines by January 1, 2012; **(14)** established an Office of Fraud and Accountability (OFA) in the Secretary's office, with responsibility to: conduct independent investigations; refer to law enforcement when appropriate; maximize overpayment collections; recommend new policies and procedures to mitigate the risk of fraud and abuse; analyze alternatives to the cash benefit delivery system; determine appropriate deployment of investigative resources; and report to the Legislature by December 31, 2011; and **(15)** DSHS was directed to establish an incentive pilot that would give staff who work directly with clients an additional eight hours of paid leave for helping clients reach outcomes to be determined by DSHS. While the Governor vetoed Section 3 of the bill regarding competitive performance-based contracting, the Governor directed the Department of Social and Health Services and the WorkFirst Subcabinet to act on the Legislature's direction in 2ESHB 1087 to competitively contract all work activities under the 1997 law.

Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESHB) 2082 was enacted to make fundamental reforms to the Disability Lifeline program. The key provisions included: **(1)** all components of the Disability Lifeline program were terminated effective October 31, 2011; **(2)** ABD, PWA, and Essential Needs and Housing Support programs were created effective November 1, 2011 (to be eligible for the ABD program, a person must be aged 65 or older, blind by SSA standards, or determined likely to meet the SSI disability standard); **(3)** individuals who were eligible for Medical Care Services (MCS) would be referred to the Essential Needs and Housing Support program (no cash grant was provided under this program); **(4)** the Department of Commerce was required to provide services under the Essential Needs and Housing Support program; **(5)** individuals who were eligible for the ABD and PWA programs would now be eligible for cash assistance and medical benefits; **(6)** ESHB 2082 allowed the Health Care Authority (HCA) to freeze new MCS enrollments and establish a waiting list if it appeared that continued enrollment would result in MCS expenditures exceeding the appropriated level for a particular fiscal year; and **(7)** DSHS was now required to review the cases of all persons who received MCS benefits for 12 months and annually thereafter to determine whether they would meet the standards for the ABD program.

2010

Substitute House Bill (SHB) 2684 was enacted to establish an Opportunity Employment and Education Center (OCEE) within the Seattle Community College District, which would house various educational and social services providers to integrate access to benefit programs and services. The bill also required the State Board for Community and Technical

Colleges (SBCTC) to make recommendations on the location of an additional center by December 1, 2010. The center is required to provide services including Basic Food, TANF and WorkFirst, general assistance, and SSI facilitation. This bill became effective June 10, 2010. The OCEE is located on the campus of the North Seattle Community College.

Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill (E2SHB) 2782 was enacted containing three distinct provisions: **(1)** it required the creation of an "Opportunity Portal," a web-based universal application/benefit portal that would make it easier for low-income families and individuals to apply for and access a broad array of services and benefits. Creation of the "Opportunity Portal" was contingent upon the state securing private funding by December 2010; **(2)** it required the expansion of the Basic Food Employment and Training program to three additional community colleges or community-based locations and increased capacity at existing locations, subject to federal approval. Recipients of Basic Food, unless exempt, were required to participate in the program, which included job search workshops and assistance with job placement; **(3)** It required DSHS to end the General Assistance program and create the Disability Lifeline program. Major changes to the program included a new name; implementing time limits of 24 months out of 60 months, effective September 1, 2010 through June 13, 2013; creating a housing voucher program that will be administered by the Department of Commerce; requiring the development and use of a new assessment tool, which must be used to determine whether Division of Vocational Rehabilitation programs could assist Disability Lifeline recipients in returning to work; requiring DSHS as part of the application process to ask the applicant if they ever served in the US military and if so, DSHS was required to confer with the state or federal Department of Veterans Affairs to determine whether the applicant was eligible for any benefits or programs offered to veterans; and requiring DSHS to contract with a managed health care system or other qualified entity to operate a project aimed at screening and quickly transitioning individuals with a disability who are likely to qualify for federal disability benefits into the Disability Lifeline Expedited Program, previously known as GA-X. The pilot began in King, Pierce, and Spokane counties on July 1, 2010 and was to be expanded statewide by October 1, 2011. This bill became effective March 29, 2010.

Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill (E2SHB) 3141 was enacted requiring a 12-month childcare authorization period for children in the Working Connections Child Care program who were enrolled in the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), Head Start, and Early Head Start. The change was effective July 1, 2010. The Governor vetoed other sections of the bill, including the section requiring a proposal for implementing three pathways for WorkFirst, Washington's TANF program, which focused on employment, education and training and disability support. With the signing of the bill, the Governor directed the WorkFirst Subcabinet to develop a redesign plan for WorkFirst that meets the needs of WorkFirst families to obtain employment and achieve family self-sufficiency. The target date for completing the TANF Redesign plan was December 2010. This bill became effective June 10, 2010.

Substitute Senate Bill (SSB) 6893 suspended the child support pass-through effective May 1, 2011.

2009

House Bill (HB) 1270 was enacted allowing DSHS and HCA to adopt electronic signatures for online applications for benefits. This provision became effective July 26, 2009.

Substitute Senate Bill (SSB) 6024 eliminated the 45-day processing timeframe for General Assistance applications filed by a person confined in a correctional facility or institution. The provision became effective November 1, 2009.

Substitute House Bill (SHB) 2071 allowed DSHS to continue to decide whether education and training (including higher education) for a WorkFirst recipient was appropriate. SHBS 2071 encouraged DSHS to make more use of education and training opportunities but referred to moving the recipient into full-time WorkFirst activities as quickly as possible; giving DSHS the latitude to make the decision on what would be the best activity for the recipient. The Bill required DSHS to describe services available to the recipient either during or after WorkFirst to enable the recipient to not only obtain and keep employment but advance in the workplace and increase wage earning potential over time. This bill became effective July 26, 2009.

Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESHB) 1244, the operating budget, r*equired DSHS to make the following changes:* **(1)** in regions with high numbers of GA-U clients, coordination with local workforce development councils to expedite access to worker retraining programs; **(2)** identify GA-U clients who would be eligible for federal disability benefits if they became a naturalized citizen, and give them priority to naturalization services funded through DSHS; **(3)** work with the Washington State Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) to develop a process for referring GA-U clients who may be eligible for veteran's services; **(4)** outstation DVA staff in selected Community Services Offices in King and Pierce counties to facilitate applications for veteran's services; **(5)** intensively evaluate persons who have received GA-U for more than 12 months. For those with an impairment that would not qualify for federal disability benefits, the Bill allowed expedited referrals to services that can eliminate or minimize barriers to employment, like mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, and vocational rehabilitation services that are available through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; **(6)** implement 50% earned income disregard for GA – the same as TANF; and **(7)** provide ten additional SSI Facilitators.

2008

Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESHB) 2687, the operating budget, was enacted effective July 1, 2008. Section 207 of the budget: **(1)** provided a 3% grant increase to TANF/CEAP households for increased housing costs; **(2)** increased the gross income limit for Basic Food eligibility to 200% FPL; and **(3)** provided five additional SSI Facilitators for the General Assistance program.

Senate Bill (SB) 6950 provided a limited waiver or suspension of statutory obligations during officially declared emergencies. Section 201 expanded eligibility for Consolidated Emergency Assistance Program (CEAP) benefits to individuals without children during a Governor-declared state of emergency. The Bill provided

the foundation for the Disaster Cash Assistance Program.

2007

Second Substitute Senate Bill (2SSB) 6016 was enacted allowing a parent to be exempt from WorkFirst participation requirements while a child was under 12 months old but limiting the exemption to 12 months in the parent's lifetime (the federal limit). The bill allowed DSHS to require the parent to participate in part-time mental health, alcohol or drug treatment, domestic violence services, or parenting education or skills training during the exemption period if indicated by an assessment. Parenting skills training could now include voluntary home visitation services, if available.

Substitute Senate Bill (SSB) 5830 directed DSHS to work with the Washington Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (WCPCAN), Department of Health, Department of Early Learning, and Family Policy Council to coordinate or consolidate home visitation services for children and families. These services were now required to address risk factors for child abuse and neglect and poor education outcomes for children, including family poverty and lack of parental education and job skills.

Second Substitute House Bill (2SHB) 1088 required DSHS to collaborate with county juvenile court administrators and the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration to conduct expedited medical determinations and restore medical assistance upon release for youth confined in a JRA or county-run juvenile detention facility. Youth to be served were any who received medical assistance prior to entering the institution or detention facility or who were "likely to be eligible upon release."

Second Substitute House Bill (2SHB) 1201 provided Medicaid coverage to individuals between the ages of 18 and 21 who aged out of foster care or an out-of-home placement at age 18. It required DSHS to help youth approaching age 21 to apply for the Basic Health Plan.

Substitute Senate Bill (SSB) 5093 was enacted as part of the Governor's plan for all children in Washington state to have health care coverage by 2010 and to improve access. It required DSHS to simplify and streamline applications and review processes to avoid breaks in coverage, expand coverage to include children in families at higher income levels and to cover children not eligible for Medicaid, charge premiums or make unsubsidized coverage available to children in higher income families, participate with the Department of Early Learning, Department of Health, local public schools and others, in education and outreach efforts, and develop a feasibility study and implementation plan for an online medical assistance application integrated with the Automated Client Eligibility System (ACES). It allowed DSHS to freeze enrollment for non-Medicaid-eligible children and for children in higher income families. The SFY 2008 budget provided ESA with funding for increased workload and to out-station eligibility workers in support of outreach efforts.

Pathway to Engagement Budget Proviso required DSHS to collaborate with community partners and represented staff to identify additional services for WorkFirst parents in sanction status and families whose WorkFirst cash benefits had ended as a result of a non-compliance sanction. Services were required to be complementary to services already provided by DSHS, voluntary for parents, and delivered

through performance-based contracts with community-based organizations.

WorkFirst Career Services Budget Proviso authorized DSHS to establish a post-TANF work transition program.

2006

Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill (E2SHB) 1290 was enacted requiring expedited eligibility determinations and timely access to medical assistance for persons with mental disorders being released from confinement. Additionally, it required collaboration with the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC), the Department of Corrections (DOC), and the Social Security Administration (SSA) to develop processes and procedures for coordination. DSHS was directed to phase in the new procedures on a statewide basis and continue to evaluate funding needs as the program was implemented.

Substitute House Bill (SHB) 2394 required the Department of Social and Health Services to start assessing WorkFirst parents for financial literacy during the comprehensive evaluation effective January 1, 2007. The Bill directed DSHS to offer referrals to financial literacy services available in the local communities to all WorkFirst parents to assist them in becoming self-sufficient and financially stable.

Medicaid Treatment Child Care (MTCC) Budget Proviso required DSHS to contract for MTCC services and authorize care for eligible children referred by TANF caseworkers and public health nurses.

2005

Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill (E2SSB) 5213 exercises the state option to exempt individuals convicted of a drug-related felony from the TANF ban on receipt of benefits. The statutorily mandated effective date was September 1, 2005.

2004

Senate Bill (SB) 6411 required DSHS to implement simplified reporting for the Basic Food program beginning October 2004. In addition, Basic Food eligibility restrictions for persons convicted of a drug-related felony were removed effective July 2004. The restriction prohibiting fleeing felons from receiving Basic Food is still applicable.

2003

Substitute House Bill (SHB) 1624 was signed into law on May 7, 2003 permanently Authorizing the Washington Telephone Assistance Program (WTAP), which was scheduled to expire on June 30, 2003. In addition to permanently authorizing the WTAP program, effective July 1, 2003, the program was expanded to include Community Service Voice Mail (CSVM) as a component. DSHS was directed to enter into an agreement with the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development to provide a portion of the WTAP budget for operation of CSVM, which will provide homeless individuals with a community service voice mail box.

1997

Engrossed House Bill (EHB) 3901, the **Washington WorkFirst TANF Act**, was signed into law on April 17, 1997. It established the **WorkFirst** program in Washington state and replaced the Aid to Families with Dependent

Children (AFDC) program. The Success Through Employment Program (STEP) Waiver 48 of 60-Month Time Limit was repealed and replaced with a five-year lifetime limit for cash assistance. The earned income exemption was increased to 50% of gross wages, overpayments due to retrospective budgeting were eliminated, and the 100% of Need test was eliminated. The vehicle equity limit was raised to $5,000, a vehicle used to transport a disabled individual is totally exempt, and savings accounts up to $3,000 are allowed. Pregnant teen and teen parent requirements for education went into effect. Diversion services were implemented as an alternative to cash assistance. The Division of Child Support (DCS) non-cooperation sanction was replaced with a 25% grant reduction and eligibility review cycles were extended from six to twelve months. Various child support enforcement remedies required by PRWORA were adopted. The bill created the DCS license suspension program for delinquent child support obligors and provided for license suspension as a sanction for a person who, or entity which, fails to comply with a DCS withholding notice, lien or subpoena.

1995

As required by E2SHB 2798, the **Success Through Employment Program (STEP)** waiver application was submitted to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) on January 30. The proposed project start date was July 1, 1995, end date June 30, 2005, and project area was statewide. The waiver requested permission to establish length of stay grant reductions and elimination of the 100-hour rule.

1994

Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill (E2SHB) 2798 Welfare System Reform was enacted on April 2, 1994, and addressed the issues of lengthy stays on welfare, lack of access to vocational education and training, inadequate emphasis on employment by the social welfare system and teen pregnancy as obstacles to achieving economic independence. DSHS was instructed to (1) reduce AFDC grants by 10 percent per year for some families that received welfare for 48 out of 60 months, (2) waive the 100-hour rule for AFDC recipients, (3) train staff to emphasize the expectation that recipients will enter employment, and (4) determine the most appropriate living situation for unmarried pregnant teens who receive public assistance. Target populations included applicants and recipients who received AFDC for 36 of the preceding 60 months, custodial parents under the age of 24 who have not completed high school or who had little or no work experience, and families in which the youngest child was within 2 years of being ineligible for AFDC because of age. DSHS was directed to seek approval from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) for implementation of the time limit provisions, waiver of the 100-hour rule for recipients, and statewide implementation (known as the STEP Waiver). The Employment Partnership Program (EPP) was modified to allow contracting out to public or private nonprofit organizations. In addition, authority to establish wage subsidy projects to enable AFDC grants to be paid as wage subsidies was moved from the Employment Security Department to DSHS. It established authority for a child's irrevocable trust account, with a limit of $4,000, for future educational use. DSHS was directed to actively develop mechanisms to

refer disabled persons currently receiving AFDC to the federal SSI program.

1993

House Bill (HB) 1197 instructed DSHS to (1) "segment" the AFDC population, (2) match services to the needs of each segment, (3) focus AFDC on employment, and (4) seek federal waivers that allowed families to keep more of their earnings from employment while receiving AFDC.

1990

Washington implemented the federal Family Support Act of 1988, Public Law 100-485, establishing the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS) program. Participation was voluntary for welfare recipients.

1987

The Family Independence Program (FIP), a 5-year welfare reform demonstration, began in 1987. FIP provided (1) financial incentives to obtain education, training, and employment, (2) cash rather than Food Stamps, (3) social services during FIP participation, and (4) childcare and medical coupons for 12 months after exiting, if the recipient left FIP with employment.

Appendix 6: Changes in Federal Cash Grant Assistance Programs

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Overview

On August 22, 1996, President Bill Clinton signed into law the *Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996* that created the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, thereby replacing the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS) programs. Under PRWORA, each state is required to operate a Title IV-D Child Support program in order to be eligible for TANF funds. On April 17, 1997, Governor Gary Locke signed into law the *Washington WorkFirst Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Act*, creating the WorkFirst program, Washington state's TANF program. The WorkFirst program went into effect in August 1997. These two federal and state laws resulted in major program and funding changes.

On August 5, 1997, President Clinton signed into law the *Balanced Budget Act (BBA) of 1997*, which made numerous technical corrections to PRWORA. Funding and spending requirements included: (1) limiting the amount of TANF funds that can be transferred to Title XX – Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) to 10% of the TANF block grant, and removing the requirement to transfer $2 to the Child Care & Development Block Grant (CCDBG) for every $1 transferred to the SSBG; (2) modification of the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirements for the Contingency Fund; and (3) modification of TANF work participation penalties so that the penalty amount is 5% in the first year, and increasing by 2% per year up to 21% maximum.

On February 8, 2006, President George Bush signed into law the *Deficit Reduction Act of 2005* reauthorizing the TANF program with a renewed focus on work, program integrity and strengthening families through healthy marriage promotion and responsible fatherhood. Work activities were defined along with procedures for counting and verifying reported hours. The reauthorization was scheduled to expire on September 30, 2010.

On February 17, 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)* of 2009, which provided funding in several key areas:

(1) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) - providing a 13.6% increase in the maximum benefits (Basic Food);

(2) TANF – making numerous changes to the TANF program by establishing a TANF Emergency Contingency Fund to provide additional funds to states that experience an increase in (a) their TANF caseload and expenditures, (b) short-term non-recurring benefits, or (c) subsidized employment programs. States were eligible to receive 80% of the increase in expenditures between Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2007 and FFY 2008 (whichever is less) and FFY 2009. Funding was available for FFY 2009 and 2010 and was limited to 50% of the combined annual TANF awards for the two-year period; and

(3) modifying the TANF carry-forward rules to allow states to carry forward unexpended TANF and emergency contingency funds to the next year without the requirement to spend them on assistance.

On March 11, 2021, President Joe Biden signed the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021*, which aimed to address pandemic related hardship through additional supports such as education, food assistance, housing, unemployment, and

emergency funds for families. The bill included $1 billion for a related Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund, providing dollars to support households with non-recurrent, short-term benefits. The funds could support families receiving TANF as well as those with higher incomes, who were still working to make ends meet.

On June 3, 2023, President Biden signed into law the *Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA) of 2023,* which kept the government running by raising the limit on federal borrowing. The FRA contained several administrative changes to the TANF statute regarding how Work Participation Rates (WPR) are calculated. The mandates include a change to the base year for the caseload reduction credit (CRC) from 2005 to 2015, and a new $35 minimum for small payments to working parents included in the state's WPR, and new outcome-based reporting requirements.

Key Changes as a Result of Federal Law

Program and Policy Changes

1. Welfare ceased to be an entitlement (as it was under AFDC and JOBS); instead, participation in TANF required a five-year limit. The five-year limit affected the first clients in Washington in August 2002.
2. The Economic Services Administration of DSHS works with three primary partner agencies, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, Employment Security Department and Department of Commerce, to provide services to WorkFirst clients.
3. Native American Tribes were granted an option in the federal law to operate their own TANF program, including cash grants and employment and training. The tribes are required to apply to the federal government and, if certified, receive federal funds. The state identifies and negotiates Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funding for each tribe.
4. Federal assistance to some legal immigrants was barred or restricted. The State Family Assistance (SFA) and Food Assistance Program (FAP) were created by the Washington State Legislature to help legal immigrants.
5. Child care subsidy programs for welfare and low-income families were consolidated into the Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) program. Child care requires a co-payment.

Funding Changes

1. The TANF block grant replaced Title IV-A (AFDC and CEAP) and IV-F (JOBS) entitlement-based federal funding.
2. The Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) consolidated child care funding that was previously provided to the state through the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and Title IV-A of the Social Security Act.
3. A requirement to spend an amount of state dollars, known as MOE, replaced previous federal requirements to match a percentage of program costs with state funds. There is a MOE requirement for TANF and the CCDF block grant. Federal matching funds still exist in SNAP, Medicaid and one CCDF child care funding stream.

Funding Details

Washington's TANF block grant was initially $404,331,754 per year. The amount of the block grant is based on the amount of the Title IV-A and Title IV-F funds, AFDC Assistance, Emergency Assistance (EA), JOBS, and AFDC administration claimed by Washington state in FFY 1994, plus a portion of the increase of FFY 1995 EA over FFY 1994 EA.

The block grant amount was lowered by penalties or awards to Tribes electing to operate a Tribal TANF program. Since the initial grant award of $404,331,754, Washington's TANF grant amount was reduced by $25,478,052 in Tribal TANF awards to $378,853,702.

[1] See Appendix 8 for a chronological listing of the detailed changes.

The TANF program has a cost-sharing requirement referred to as MOE. States must expend state funds equal to a specific percentage of the state's 1994 expenditures for the AFDC, EA, AFDC-related child care, transitional child care, At-Risk Child Care, and JOBS programs. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has set the amount at $362,747,765. In FFY 2017, the base MOE level was reduced by $21,542,170, for Tribal TANF programs operating in the state, to $341,205,595.

In general, states must spend state funds in an amount equal to at least 80% of the amount spent on these programs in FFY 1994, as adjusted for Tribal TANF programs; however, if a state meets the required work participation rates, then it only needs to expend 75% of the amount spent in FFY 1994, as adjusted for Tribal TANF programs.

For FFY 2024, Washington's MOE requirement was 75% of the adjusted FFY 1994 spending level, or $255,904,196.

Similar to the TANF block grant, the TANF Contingency Fund has a MOE requirement based on the state's 1994 expenditures, except these expenditures cannot include those made for child care and separate state programs.

The MOE level, equal to 100% of the historic amount, was initially set by HHS at $362,747,765. Beginning with FFY 2017, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) reduced this amount to $341,205,595.

HHS also set the MOE requirement for the CCDF block grant, based on state expenditures in FFY 1994. The CCDF MOE amount was $19,792,341 for FFY 2023.

Appendix 7: Federal & State Child Support Legislative History

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Passed During the 2025 Legislative Session, but not Implemented during SFY 2025 (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025)

Engrossed House Bill (EHB) 1014 (Chapter 227, Laws of 2025) – Implementing recommendations of the 2023 child support schedule work group. This bill enacts several consensus recommendations of the 2023 child support schedule workgroup. It increases the self-support reserve to 180% of the one-person federal poverty guideline, expands the economic table to combined net monthly income of $50,000, effective January 1, 2026. It also creates an abatement of child support for incapacity, effective April 1, 2027.

House Bill (HB) 2039 (Chapter 402, Laws of 2025) – Concerning child support pass through. This bill delays implementation of the 100% child support pass through enacted via ESHB 1652 (Chapter 174, Laws of 2024) until July 1, 2029.

Child Support Federal Legislative History, 1950 – 2025

2025

Public Law 118-258 **"Supporting America's Children and Families Act",** Title II, permits tribal child support agencies to access the Federal Tax Refund Offset Program to collect past-due child support payments from the federal tax refunds of non-custodial parents. Title II also explicitly authorizes state and tribal child support agencies to disclose certain tax return information to contractors to establish and collect child support obligations from, and to locate, individuals owing child support obligations.

The Final Rule entitled **"Employment and Training Services for Noncustodial Parents in the Child Support Program"** was published on December 13, 2024, in the Federal Register, Volume 89, Number 240, on page 100789, effective January 13, 2025. The rule allows state and tribal child support agencies the option to use federal financial participation available under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act to provide employment and training services to eligible noncustodial parents, as long as requirements around eligibility and non-duplication of services are followed.

2024

The Final Rule entitled **"Modifications to Performance Standards During National Disasters and Other Calamities"** was published on March 4, 2024, in the Federal Register, Volume 89, Number 43, on page 15475. Effective March 4, 2024, the final rule provides the Secretary of HHS with ongoing authority to provide targeted and time-limited relief to states from certain child support program performance penalties when natural disasters and other calamities impact program operations. The rule sets the process by which states request and OCSS may adjust performance standards to avoid imposing financial penalties on states and modify requirements to avoid imposing penalties due to adverse data reliability audit findings.

The Final Rule entitled **"Elimination of the Tribal Non-Federal Share Requirement"** was published on February 12, 2024, in the Federal Register, volume 89, Number 29, on page 9784. Effective federal fiscal year 2025, tribal child support agencies do not have to pay the non-federal share of program expenditures.

2023

The Final Rule entitled **"Privacy Act; Implementation"** was published on July 28, 2023, in the Federal Register, Volume 88, Number 144, on page 48736, effective July 28, 2023. This rule establishes a Privacy Act exemption for records marked with the Family Violence Indicator (FVI) in the Federal Case Registry of Child Support Orders system of records. It aligns the Social Security Act restriction on disclosure with the federal Privacy Act requirement that exemptions from disclosure be established by regulation.

2022

The Final Rule entitled **"Paternity Establishment Percentage Performance Relief"** was published on May 27, 2022, in the Federal Register, Volume 87, Number 103, on page 32090. Effective May 27, 2022, the final rule modifies the Paternity Establishment Percentage performance threshold from 90% to 50% for federal fiscal years 2020, 2021, and

2022. The relief period ends with federal fiscal year 2023 when the rate returns to 90%.

2021

Public Law 116-315, the "Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020", included provisions that authorized the Secretaries of Labor and Veterans Affairs to access the National Directory of New Hires for purposes of tracking employment of veterans.

Public Law 117-2, the "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021," section 9601, provided economic impact payments of up to $1,400 for qualifying individuals. The economic impact payments under **ARPA** were exempt from intercept for past due child support. Section 9611 of the Act provided advance child tax credit monthly payments of up to $250 to 300 per child for qualifying taxpayers.

2020

The Final Rule entitled "Child Support Technical Corrections" was published on June 9, 2020, in the Federal Register, Volume 85, Number 111, on page 35201. The rule went into effect on July 9, 2020. The rule removed outdated regulatory requirements and made technical fixes to rule language, addresses, outdated references, and so forth. It also made clarifying technical amendments to the Flexibility Rule (originally published on December 20, 2016) regarding compliance dates, case closure reasons, and timeframes must follow when reporting wage information to the National Directory of New Hires.

Public Law 116-136, the "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security [CARES] Act", section 2201, provided qualifying individuals with a recovery rebate of up to $1,200 (or $2,400 if married and filing jointly), plus up to $500 for each qualifying child.

While the Act intentionally exempted these rebates from reduction or offset against certain debts, it did not exempt child support debt. As a result, the economic impact payments made to eligible individuals who owed past-due child support and who were subject to intercept under the Federal Income Tax Refund Offset Program were offset by the amount of past-due child support. Because these economic impact payments were treated as a tax refund offset, and not an administrative offset, the Act did not provide state child support programs the option to suspend federal tax refund offset in cases meeting the eligibility criteria under section 464 of the Social Security Act and 45 CFR 303.72.

2018

Public Law 115-123, the "Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018", included a policy requirement that all state child support agencies increase the annual user fee from $25 after the first $500 is sent to the family in the federal fiscal year to $35 after the first $550 is disbursed to the family in the federal fiscal year.

2016

The final rule entitled "Flexibility, Efficiency, and Modernization in Child Support Enforcement Programs", known as the "Flexibility rule," was published on December 20, 2016 in the Federal Register, Volume 81, Number 244, on page 93492, and took effect on January 19, 2017. The Flexibility Rule contained both mandatory and optional provisions to be adopted by states, with differing implementation dates. These requirements may have been implemented by statute or policy, according to each state's process.

Highlights of the changes under the Flexibility Rule included:

- Notice requirements regarding "continuation of services" when a family is no longer eligible for assistance under the state's title IV-A, IV-E foster care, and Medicaid programs.
- Clarification of who is and is not allowed to receive child support collections.
- New considerations for the determination of child support amounts which are more focused on the circumstances of the individual family for whom support is being established; these considerations also apply to modification and adjustment of orders.
- New guidelines for the use of civil contempt for nonpayment of child support, including screening for information regarding the noncustodial parent's ability to pay or otherwise comply with the order.
- Providing that incarceration of the obligor for more than 180 calendar days is a basis for modification or adjustment of existing child support orders (not a guarantee of a change in support, but a guarantee of a chance to ask for it).
- New and modified criteria for case closure.
- Requirement that a parent who provides "public health care coverage" is considered to be in compliance with the requirement to provide health care coverage for a child.

2015

The IRS Interim Final Rule entitled Offset of Tax Refund Payments to Collect Past-Due Support was published on December 30, 2015, in the Federal Register, Volume 80, Number 250, page 81463. The interim final rule went into effect on January 1, 2016 and amended 31 CFR 285.3. Under the interim final rule, the Bureau of the Fiscal Service has a 6-month period in which they can recover and recoup erroneous offsets from states. After the 6-month period, Fiscal Service may not deduct the amount of an erroneous payment from a state's future collections if the state has already forwarded the offset funds to the family.

2014

Public Law 113-183, the "Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act", made changes to Title IV-D of the Social Security Act to require states to adopt verbatim the 2008 version of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA), as well as other changes intended to improve interstate and international child support recovery. This law grants Indian tribes access to the Federal Parent Locator Service and expresses the sense of Congress that establishing parenting plans (child custody arrangements) when obtaining child support orders is "an important goal which should be accompanied by strong family violence safeguards," and that states should use existing funding sources to support the establishment of parenting time arrangements. This law also made changes to Title IV-E (Foster Care and Adoption Assistance) regarding children or youth in state care or in kinship care, which may have child support impacts.

2013

Public Law 133-37, the "Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2013", including provisions renewing the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to access the National Directory of New Hires to obtain information on individuals applying for certain veteran benefits and services. The authority started September 30, 2013, and ended 180 days later.

2011

Public Law 112-40, the "Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension Act of 2011", amended Section 453 of the Social Security Act to provide a definition of the term "newly-hired employee," a term which was not previously defined in the federal laws concerning employer reporting.

2010

Public Law 111-291, the "Claims Resolution Act of 2010", made changes to employer reporting requirements. Under this new provision, employers were now required to report, among other elements, the date that an employee first performs services for pay.

Public Law 111-148, the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act", enacted health insurance coverage requirements for parents without making corresponding amendments in the medical support requirements under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act.

The Final Rule entitled "Intergovernmental Child Support" was published on July 2, 2010, in the Federal Register, Volume 75, Number 127, page 38612. It went into effect on January 3, 2011. It revised federal requirements for establishing and enforcing intergovernmental support obligations in IV-D cases.

The Final Rule entitled "Safeguarding Child Support Information" was published on December 29, 2010, in the Federal Register, Volume 75, Number 249, on page 81894. The rule went into effect on December 30, 2010. It (1) prohibits disclosure of confidential and personally identifiable information to private child support collection agencies, (2) addresses release of information to IV-B and IV-E agencies to assist state child welfare agencies in carrying out their programs, and (3) allows disclosure of information, including child support payment records, to the SNAP program.

2009

Public Law 111-5, the "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)", temporarily restored states' ability to claim federal matching funds for federal performance incentives earned. States could request matching funds from October 1, 2008, to September 30, 2010.

2008

Public Law 110-351, the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, added child welfare programs authorized in Titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act to the list of programs that have access to the National Directory of New Hires and Federal Parent Locator Service databases. This change effectively allowed IV-B and IV-E programs to include requests for locate services for information about relatives of children placed in the child welfare system, not just people with known or alleged parental rights to the children.

The Final Rule entitled "Final Rule on the Child Support Provisions in the Deficit Reduction Act

of 2005" was published on December 9, 2008, in the Federal Register, Volume 73, Number 237, page 74898. The rule went into effect on February 9, 2009. The final rule addresses: (1) use of the Federal Tax Refund Offset program to collect past-due child support for children who are not minors; (2) mandatory review and adjustment of child support orders for families receiving TANF; (3) change to federal reimbursement rates for some services; (4) state options to pay more collections to former-TANF families; and (5) the mandatory $25 annual fee.

The Final Rule entitled "State Parent Locator Service; Safeguarding Child Support Information" was published on September 26, 2008, in the Federal Register, Volume 73, Number 188, on page 56422. The final rule prescribes requirements for state parent locator service responses to authorized location requests and state IV-D agency safeguarding of confidential information and authorized disclosures of this information.

The Final Rule entitled "Child Support Enforcement Program Medical Support" was published on July 21, 2008, in the Federal Register, Volume 73, Number 140, page 42416. It went into effect on July 21, 2008. It addresses: (1) the definition of medical support; (2) requires that all support orders in the IV-D program address medical support; (3) requires states consider health insurance available to either parent; (3) redefines health insurance that is available at "reasonable cost"; (4) requires health insurance coverage to be "accessible"; (5) allows states to close child-only Medicaid cases under certain circumstances; and (6) makes changes to compliance requirements for audit purposes.

2007

Public Law 110-157, the "Dr. James Allen Veteran Vision Equity Act of 2007", allows the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to access data in the National Directory of New Hires to obtain information on individuals applying for certain veteran benefits and services. This authority initially expired on September 30, 2011.

2006

Public Law 109-250, the "Returned Americans Protection Act of 2006", granted access to data in the National Directory of New Hires to the state agencies that administer the Food Stamp program (pre-cursor to SNAP) for the purposes of administering that program.

Public Law 109-171, the "Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA)", made major funding and program changes to the child support and TANF programs. Significant provisions of the DRA included: the elimination of pre-assistance assignment, no longer requiring families to assign all of their past-due support rights to the state when they receive TANF; requirements that all child support orders include a provision that either or both parents must provide medical support; and that states may enforce medical support obligations against the custodial parent. Additionally, states were also required to provide services to collect co-pays, deductibles, and un-reimbursed medical expenses collected on behalf of a child. IV-D agencies were also required to impose an annual fee of $25 on cases where the custodial parent has never received TANF and at least $500 has been sent to the family. States were also allowed to choose to pass-through support to families on public assistance, eliminate pre-1997 and post-1997 assignments, and eliminate the distribution exception to intercepted IRS

collections, in order for more money to go directly to families. The DRA also eliminated states' ability to claim federal matching funds for performance incentives earned. In addition, the DRA created a new federal grants program available for fatherhood and marriage initiatives.

2005

Public Law 109-8, the "Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005" (effective October 17, 2005), contained several provisions which allowed child support to continue to be enforced even if a debtor had filed bankruptcy. Child support claims were given priority. Proceedings related to child support for income withholding, license suspension, credit bureau reporting, tax refund intercepts, and enforcement of medical obligations were made exempt from automatic stay provisions. Bankruptcy trustees were required to notify the claim holder and the child support agency of the debtor's last known address.

2004

Public Law 108-295, the "SUTA Dumping Prevention Act", directed the Secretary of HHS to disclose information on individuals and their employers in the National Directory of New Hires to a state agency that, for purposes of administering state or federal unemployment compensation law, sends those individuals' names and social security numbers to the Secretary, but only to the extent that disclosure would not interfere with effective operation of the Title IV-D program.

Public Law 108-199, the **Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2004**, provides for limited information sharing between the National Directory of New Hires and specified housing assistance programs in order to determine the employment and income of housing program participants.

1999

Public Law 106-169, the "Foster Care Independence Act of 1999", narrowed the hold harmless provision for state share distribution of collected child support.

Public Law 106-113, the "Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2000", contained several provisions affecting child support. Section 454A of the Social Security Act was amended requiring state child support automated data processing and information retrieval systems to disclose to Private Industry Councils (PICs) certain information on noncustodial parents for the purpose of contacting them regarding their participation in the welfare-to-work program. The Act also provided that if a state plan would be disapproved for failure to establish a disbursement unit for child support payments, but the state had submitted, by April 1, 2000, a corrective compliance plan acceptable to the Secretary, then the Secretary would not disapprove the state plan for spousal and child support, but the amount otherwise payable to the state would be reduced as a penalty.

The Act also required the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to submit a report to Congress on the feasibility of lowering the threshold amount of an individual's support arrearage from $5000 to $2500 before the Secretary of State would refuse to issue a passport to such an individual.

1998

Public Law 105-306, the "Noncitizen Benefit Clarification and Other Technical Amendments Act of 1998", included technical amendments to CSPIA that reduced by 20% the penalty for state failure to meet the deadline for compliance with child support data processing and information retrieval requirements. This law also amended the effective date for state enactment of certain medical support requirements.

Public Law 105-200, the "Child Support Performance and Incentive Act of 1998", known as CSPIA, provided penalties for failure to meet data processing requirements, reformed incentive payments and provided penalties for violating inter-jurisdictional adoption requirements. Incentive payments were based on paternity establishment, order establishment, current support collected, cases paying past due support, and cost effectiveness and on a percentage of collections. Incentive payments had to be reinvested in the state's child support program.

Public Law 105-187, the "Deadbeat Parents Punishment Act of 1998", established felony violations for the willful failure to pay legal child support obligations in interstate cases.

1997

Public Law 105-89, the "Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997", made the Federal Parent Locator Service available to child welfare services for enforcement of custody and support orders.

Public Law 105-34, the "Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997", amended the Social Security Act by requiring, beginning October 1, 1999, the Federal Case Registry of Child Support Orders to include the names and Social Security Numbers of children on whose behalf child support is owed, and that such information also be included in state case registries. Furthermore, the Secretary of the Treasury would have access to the Federal Case Registry of Child Support Orders for the purpose of administering the tax provisions that grant tax benefits based on support or residence of a child.

Public Law 105-33, the "Balanced Budget Act of 1997", made a number of amendments to the Social Security Act, including creating the Children's Health Insurance Program in Title XXI to help provide medical coverage to children of working poor families, who were not eligible for private health insurance and who were earning too much to receive Medicaid. The Balanced Budget Act also amended section 454 of the Social Security Act regarding cooperation/good cause, and the Federal Parent Locater Service language in section 453 to clarify the authority permitting certain re-disclosures of wage and claim information. Also, this Act authorized for the first time the direct funding of Tribal support programs, with Congress giving the Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) greater flexibility in providing direct funding for such programs and requiring OCSE to make known regulations before issuing grants directly to Tribes.

1996

Title III of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996 (Public Law 104-193) abolished Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and established Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Each state was required to operate a **Title IV-D child**

support program to be eligible for TANF funds. States had to comply with numerous changes in child support services. Many of those changes included enhanced child support enforcement tools, such as license suspension for non-payment of support; the financial institution data match; requiring states to adopt the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA) of 1996; and the adoption of federal withholding forms.

1995

Public Law 104-35 extended the deadline by two years for states to have an automated data processing and information retrieval system. The 90% match was not extended.

1994

Public Law 103-432, the "Social Security Act Amendments of 1994", required states to periodically report debtor parents to consumer reporting agencies.

Public Law 103-403, the "Small Business Administration Amendments of 1994", rendered delinquent child support payers ineligible for small business loans.

Public Law 103-394, the "Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1994", did not stay a paternity, child support or alimony proceeding. Child support and alimony were made priority claims.

Public Law 103-383, the "Full Faith and Credit for Child Support Orders Act", required states to enforce other states' administrative and court orders if (1) the issuing state's tribunal had subject matter jurisdiction to enter an order, (2) has personal jurisdiction over the parties, and (3) reasonable notice and opportunity to be heard was given to the parties. The issuing tribunal retained continuing exclusive jurisdiction over the order as long as the child or at least one party resided in the issuing state, unless the tribunal of another state had modified the support order (in accordance with the law). However, the power for a tribunal to modify another state's support order was restricted.

1993

Public Law 103-66, the "Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993", required states to establish paternity on 75% of the children on their caseload instead of 50%. States had to adopt civil procedures for voluntary acknowledgement of paternity. The law also required states to adopt laws to ensure medical compliance in orders.

1992

Public Law 102-537, the "Ted Weiss Child Support Enforcement Act of 1992", amended the Fair Credit Reporting Act to include child support delinquencies in credit reporting.

Public Law 102-521, the "Child Support Recovery Act of 1992", imposed a federal criminal penalty for the willful failure to pay child support in interstate cases.

1990

Public Law 101-508, the "Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990", permanently extended the federal provision for IRS tax refund offsets for child and spousal support.

1989

Public Law 101-239, the "Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989", made permanent the requirement that Medicaid continue for four months after termination from AFDC.

1988

Public Law 100-485, the "Family Support Act of 1988", emphasized the duties of parents to work and support their children, underscoring the importance of child support as the first line of defense against welfare dependence. States were required to: 1) develop mandatory support guidelines; 2) meet paternity standards; 3) respond to requests for services within specified time periods; 4) develop an automated tracking system; 5) provide immediate wage withholding; 6) have parents furnish Social Security numbers when a birth certificate is issued; 7) notify AFDC recipients of monthly collections. It also mandated annual reports to Congress and made changes to the $50 pass-through payment rules.

1987

Public Law 100-203, the "Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987", required states to provide services to families with an absent parent when the family receives Medicaid, regardless of whether the family receives AFDC, and have them assign their support rights to the state.

1986

Public Law 99-509, the "Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986", included an amendment that prohibited retroactive modification of child support awards.

1984

Public Law 98-378, the "Child Support Amendments of 1984", expanded federal oversight to increase uniformity among states. States were required to enact statutes to improve enforcement. Federal Financial Participation (FFP) rates were adjusted to encourage reliance on performance-based incentives. Audit provisions were altered to evaluate a state's effectiveness. States were required to improve their interstate enforcement. States were mandated to provide equal services for AFDC and non-AFDC families alike. Other provisions include a requirement for states to collect spousal maintenance when ordered in conjunction with child support, create child support guidelines to determine appropriate support amounts, and collect support on behalf of children in foster care when appropriate. At the federal level, the IRS was required to collect past-due support from tax refunds. HHS was required to issue regulations around medical support when available to the paying parent at reasonable cost.

Public Law 98-369, the "Deficit Reduction Act of 1984", required states to pass through to the family the first $50 of current monthly child support payments collected on behalf of an AFDC family and to disregard it as income for AFDC eligibility purposes. In Washington, the IV-A agency disbursed pass through payments under the 1984 DRA. It also amended two provisions in the Internal Revenue Code for alimony and child support.

1982

Public Law 97-253, the "Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1982", allowed access to information obtained under the Food Stamp Act of 1977.

Public Law 97-252, the "Uniformed Services Former Spouses' Protection Act", authorized military retirement or retainer pay to be treated as property. It also allowed for the payment of child and/or spousal support (as specified in a court order) from the military retirement or retainer pay.

Public Law 97-248, the "Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982", included several provisions affecting IV-D, including reducing the Federal Financial Participation (FFP) and incentives. In addition, Congress repealed the mandatory non-AFDC collection fee retroactive to 1981, making it an option. States were allowed to collect spousal support for non-AFDC cases. Military personnel were required to make allotments from their pay, if delinquent in their child support.

1981

Public Law 97-35, the "Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1981", amended Title IV-D in five ways: 1) IRS was authorized to withhold tax refunds for delinquent child support; 2) IV-D agencies were permitted to collect spousal support for AFDC families; 3) IV-D agencies were required to collect fees from parents delinquent in child support; 4) obligations assigned to the state were no longer dischargeable in bankruptcy proceedings and 5) states were required to withhold a portion of unemployment for delinquent support.

1980

Public Law 96-272, the "Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980", amended the Social Security Act as follows: 1) Federal Financial Participation (FFP) for non-AFDC was made permanent; 2) states could receive incentives on interstate AFDC collections; and 3) states had to claim expenditures within two years.

Public Law 96-265, the "Social Security Disability Amendments of 1980", increased federal matching funds to 90% for automated systems. Matching funds were made available for court staff. IRS was authorized to collect arrearages for non-AFDC families. IV-D agencies were allowed access to wage data.

1978

Public Law 95-598, the "Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1978", repealed section 456(b) of the Social Security Act (42 USC §656(b)), which had barred the discharge in bankruptcy of assigned child support arrears. (PL 97-35 in 1981 restored this section.)

1977

Public Law 95-142, the "Medicare-Medicaid Antifraud and Abuse Amendments of 1977", enabled states to require Medicaid applicants to assign the state their rights to medical support. Incentives were made for states securing collections on behalf of other states.

Public Law 95-30, the "**Tax Reduction and Simplification Act of 1977"**, amended section 454 of the Social Security Act, including garnishment of federal employees, bonding employees who handled cash and changing incentive rates.

Public Law 95-171, "**An Act to extend certain Social Security Act provisions, and for other purposes",** made changes to provisions governing distribution of child support for former AFDC families. The state could retain any additional amount of support beyond the monthly ordered amount for cost recovery purposes. Once all assistance had been reimbursed, any additional support beyond the monthly support payment was also to be paid to the family.

1976

Public Law 94-566, the "Unemployment Compensation Amendments of 1976", required state employment agencies to provide

addresses of obligated parents to state child support agencies.

1974

Public Law 93-647, the "Social Services Amendments of 1974", created Title IV-D of the Social Security Act, the child support program. The program was designed for cost recovery of state and federal outlays on public assistance and for cost avoidance to help families leave welfare and to help families avoid turning to public assistance.

1967

Public Law 90-248, the "Social Security Amendments of 1967", allowed states access to IRS for addresses of obligated parents. Each state was required to establish a single child support unit for AFDC children. States were required to work cooperatively.

1965

Public Law 89-97, the "Social Security Amendments of 1965", allowed welfare agencies to obtain addresses and employers of obligated parents from the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

1950

Public Law 81-734, the "Social Security Act Amendments of 1950", added section 402(a)(11) to the Social Security Act (42 USC 602(a)(11)). The law required state welfare agencies to notify law enforcement officials when providing AFDC to a child. The Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act (URESA) was approved.

Washington State Child Support Legislative History, 1987 - 2025

2025

Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESHB) 1652 (Chapter 174, Laws of 2024). This bill directs DSHS to pass through current child support collected each month to families receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and disregard child support passed through to families when determining eligibility and benefit amounts for applicants and recipients. Originally effective January 1, 2026, but delayed to July 1, 2029, under HB 2039 (Chapter 402, Laws of 2025).

2024

Senate Bill (SB) 5842 (Chapter 126, Laws of 2024), *Restricting the use of social security numbers by insurance companies for the purpose of determining child support debt*. Effective June 6, 2024, this bill required the Division of Child Support (DCS) to minimize the use of claimant social security numbers reported directly to DCS by insurance companies complying with RCW 26.23.037, unless the claimant cannot be identified by DCS using the claimant's full name, date of birth, and current physical address

2023

House Bill (HB) 1262 (Chapter 248, Laws of 2023), *Lump Sum Reporting System.* Effective July 23, 2023, this agency request legislation adopted a model act that requires employers to report lump sum payments like bonuses, commissions, or other one-time payments greater than $500 to the Division of Child Support (DCS) at least 14 days before payment. This reporting requirement only applies for employees with an outstanding income withholding order for child support arrears. DCS will then notify the employer whether any portion of the lump sum payment should be withheld and remitted to the Washington State Support Registry.

2022

Substitute House Bill (SHB) 1416 (Chapter 168, Laws of 2021), Concerning the reporting of debt information by insurers to enhance the collection of past-due child support. This bill required insurers to report claims to the Division of Child Support in advance of any payout. This provided DCS with the opportunity to determine whether the claimant has unpaid child support debt and issue a lien before the insurer remits payment. This new requirement is expected to increase child support collections. This bill took effect January 1, 2022.

House Bill (HB) 2050 (Chapter 145, Laws of 2022), *Repealing requirements for parent payment of the cost of their child's support, treatment, and confinement.* Effective June 9, 2022, this bill removed the requirement that parents must pay a portion of the cost of their child's support, treatment, and confinement in Department of Children Youth and Family Juvenile Rehabilitation facilities. Also removed the authority for a court to order parents to pay for or contribute to detention costs for their children.

2021

Substitute House Bill (SHB) 1171 (Chapter 35, Laws of 2021), *Amending child support income withholding provisions to comply with federal requirements*. This Department request

legislation made technical changes to income withholding statutes to update outdated language regarding income withholding by employers, which will ensure statutory language accurately references the federally mandated "Income Withholding Order" form. This bill took effect July 25, 2021.

Second Substitute Senate Bill (2SSB) 5144 (Chapter 349, Laws of 2020), ***Implementing child support pass-through payments.*** Effective February 1, 2021 this bill reinstated child support pass-through for families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. Child support collections are passed through up to $50 per month for TANF families with one child, and up to $100 per month for families with two or more children. These amounts do not count against a family's TANF grant; however, it is factored into their food benefit eligibility.

2020

Substitute House Bill (SHB) 2302 (Chapter 227, Laws of 2020), ***Concerning child support with respect to standards for determination of income, abatement of child support for incarcerated obligors, modification of administrative orders, and notices of support owed,*** made a number of changes impacting the administration of child support based in large part on consensus recommendations from the 2019 Child Support Schedule Workgroup.

This legislation made changes to the child support schedule regarding how income is imputed and whether a high school student is voluntarily unemployed, allows the Office of Administrative Hearings to mail the notices of hearing in petitions to modify administrative support orders, allows the Division of Child Support to serve the notice of support owed by regular mail, rather than by certified mail, and earlier than waiting for twelve months to pass, in order to help keep support from being overpaid or underpaid.

This legislation also allowed for abatement of child support to $10 per support order when a parent is incarcerated for a period exceeding 6 months and has no income or assets to pay support. Abatement is intended to help parents who have been incarcerated avoid recidivism and to assist their re-entry and reintegration into society by avoiding the accumulation of significant child support arrears while incarcerated. The custodial parent is entitled to a hearing to rebut the presumption that the noncustodial parent does not have the ability to pay support while incarcerated. The monthly support obligation is automatically raised to 50% of the amount in the original support order on the first day of the fourth month after the noncustodial parent's release and the obligation automatically increases to 100% of the obligation in the original order one year after release.

The abatement provisions took effect February 1, 2021, as does the "notice of hearing" provision since it was included in one of the statutes amended by the abatement provisions. The other two provisions (income determination and the changes to the notice of support owed) took effect June 11, 2020.

2019

Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESHB) 1916 (Chapter 275, Laws of 2019), ***Improving the delivery of child support services to families,*** took effect on July 28, 2019, but was not implemented until October 1, 2019 (the first day of the federal fiscal year). Section 4 of ESHB 1916 increased the annual fee for "never-assistance" child support enforcement services

pursuant to the requirements of the continuing resolution to fund the federal government [Public Law 115-123, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018; Section 53117]. The federal act included a policy requirement that all state child support agencies increase the annual user fee to $35, based on the amount of support collected in any federal fiscal year for families which never received AFDC, TANF or Tribal TANF; in addition, the act required states to increase the threshold amount of support collections that triggers the annual fee from $500 to $550. This law also made changes to RCW 26.19.025, the statute which deals with the state's federally required review of the child support guidelines every four years. Section 1 of ESHB 1916 made changes based on the amendments to 45 CFR 302.56(h) made by the *Flexibility, Efficiency, and Modernization in Child Support Enforcement Programs* rule (the "Flexibility rule," which was published on December 20, 2016, in the Federal Register, Volume 81, Number 244, on page 93492, and were effective January 19, 2017).

Different parts of the Flexibility Rule had different required implementation dates; the adoption of a new Economic Table in the Washington state Child Support Schedule (Chapter 26.19 RCW) in the 2018 legislative session triggered the change to the information that must be considered in the child support guidelines review which commences after the statutory change. Because of the federal implementation requirements, Washington was required to enact the changes in the 2019 legislative session. Based on the combination of the required date for amending the statute, the timing of the commencement of the quadrennial review, and the effective date of the legislation, ESHB 1916 took effect on July 28, 2019, but did not have legal impact until the start of the 2023 Child Support Schedule Workgroup. However, the 2019 Workgroup, which was convened in January of 2019, agreed to be bound by the spirit of these changes.

Substitute Senate Bill (SSB) 5333 (Chapter 46, Laws of 2019), ***Uniform parentage act – various provisions,*** made technical corrections to various provisions of the Uniform Parentage Act, which were also adopted by SSB 6334 (Chapter 6, Laws of 2018, effective January 1, 2019), and discussed below.

Changes included:

- "Unrepealing" sections dealing with judicial proceedings based on an acknowledgment of parentage and removing references to the establishment of administrative support orders based on affidavits of paternity filed before July 1, 1997.
- Restoring language that a support debt owed to the state for public assistance is not merged or extinguished by an order without notice to DCS.
- Clarifying the crimes which preclude a perpetrator from seeking a parentage determination.

Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 6037 (Chapter 6, Laws of 2018, effective January 1, 2019) *Concerning the uniform parentage act.* Adopted the most recent version of the Uniform Parentage Act. In addition to terminology changes (from "paternity" to "parentage"), this act:

- Added new ways to establish a parent-child relationship.
- Re-defined the presumption of parentage.

- Codified the establishment of *de facto* parentage.
- Changed the rules on who can sign an acknowledgment of parentage.
- Allowed paid surrogacy for the first time in Washington state.

2018

House Bill (HB) 2208 (Chapter 19, Laws of 2018) ***Authorizing criminal background investigations for current and prospective employees and contractors with access to federal tax information*** allowed for background checks of current and prospective employees, as well as contractors with the state of Washington, who are or may be authorized by the agency for which he or she is employed to access federal tax information, pursuant to the requirements of Internal Revenue Service (IRS) safeguarding requirements and with the state plan under Title IV-D of the federal Social Security Act. Implementation of this act is ongoing.

Substitute Senate Bill (SSB) 6334 (Chapter 150, Laws of 2018) ***Concerning child support, but only including a parent's obligation to provide medical support, use of electronic funds transfers, notice of noncompliance, adoption of the economic table recommended by the child support work group, and references to the federal poverty level in self-support reserve limitations.,*** contained sections that were effective June 7, 2018 (Sections 101-110) and sections that were effective January 1, 2019 (Sections 201 – 401). This bill:

- Made changes to medical child support obligations required by the federal Flexibility Rule (discussed above).
- Required that a business, employer, or payroll processor remit withheld funds by electronic means with certain waiver and exception provisions.
- Adopted a new Economic Table for the Washington state Child Support Schedule (Chapter 26.19 RCW).
- Clarified that references to the Federal Poverty Level, used in determining the Self-Support Reserve, meant "the federal poverty level for a one-person family."

2017

Substitute House Bill (SHB) 1543 (Chapter 234, Laws of 2017*), Parental Rights and Responsibilities of Sexual Assault Perpetrators and Survivors*, took effect on July 23, 2017. This bill established a process under the Uniform Parentage Act (UPA, Chapter 26.26 RCW) to adjudicate parental rights and obligations in cases in which the person seeking parental rights or presumed to be a legal parent is alleged to have committed a sexual assault against the child's parent and the child was conceived as the result of the sexual assault. "Sexual assault" means nonconsensual sexual penetration that results in pregnancy. If an allegation of sexual assault resulting in pregnancy is raised in the context of a parentage action, the court must conduct a fact-finding hearing on the allegation. If the court finds the person seeking parental rights or the presumed parent committed sexual assault of the child's parent, and that the child was born within 320 days, the court must either: **(1)** enter an order that the person seeking parental rights or presumed to be the parent is not a parent of the child, if requested by the child's legal parent or guardian; or **(2)** enter an order consistent with the relief requested by the

child's parent or legal guardian if it is in the best interests of the child. The order must include a requirement for payment of child support, birth-related costs, or both, if sought by the legal parent or guardian. If the legal parent or guardian declines an order for child support, even if the child currently or in the future receives public assistance, the order must provide that support enforcement agencies may not file administrative or court proceedings to establish or collect child support from the person who was found by the court to have committed the sexual assault.

Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESHB) 1814 (Chapter 269, Laws of 2017), *Concerning notification requirements for the department of social and health services.* Took effect on July 23, 2017. This bill allowed the Department to serve certain notices by certified mail. Section 6 of the bill allows the Division of Child Support to serve a *Notice of Noncompliance and Intent to Suspend Licenses* by regular mail when the underlying support order contains statutorily required language warning of the possibility of license suspension for noncompliance with a child support order.

Substitute House Bill (SHB) 1815 (Chapter 276, Laws of 2017), *Rights of an Alleged Parent in Dependency Proceedings*, took effect on July 23, 2017. This bill was created with the intention to harmonize the definition of "parent" used in the Uniform Parentage Act (Chapter 26.26 RCW) and the Dependency statutes (Title 13 RCW). It defined "parent" as the biological or adoptive parent of a child, or an individual who has established a parent-child relationship under RCW 26.26.101, unless the legal rights of that person have been terminated by a judicial proceeding pursuant to Washington law, or under the equivalent laws of another state or a federally recognized Indian tribe.

2015

Senate Bill (SB) 5793 (Chapter 124, Laws of 2015), *Providing Credit Towards Child Support Obligations for Veterans Benefits* took effect on July 24, 2015. This bill amended RCW 26.18.190 to provide that when "the veterans' administration apportions a veteran's benefits to pay child support on behalf of or on account of the child or children of the veteran, the amount paid for the child or children shall be treated for all purposes as if the veteran paid the benefits toward the satisfaction of that person's child support obligation for that period for which benefits are paid."

Engrossed Substitute Senat Bill (ESSB) 5498 (Chapter 214, Laws of 2015) *Revising the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act*, adopted the 2008 version of UIFSA pursuant to the requirements of Public Law 113-183, the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, with an effective date of July 1, 2015.

2012

Substitute House Bill (SHB) 2828 (Chapter 4, Laws of 2012, 1st Special Session), *Removing the requirement that the department of social and health services or the department of early learning take appropriate action to establish or enforce support obligations whenever it receives an application for subsidized child care services or working connections child care services,* took effect on June 7, 2012. It removed the requirement first established in 2011 by **ESSB 5921 (Chapter 42, Laws of 2011, 1st Special Session)** that anyone applying for or

receiving subsidized child care or working connections child care services automatically creates an authorization for the department to provide child support services.

2011

Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill (E2SHB) 1267 (Chapter 283, Laws of 2011), ***Clarifying and expanding the rights and obligations of state registered domestic partners and other couples related to parentage,*** amended the state version of the Uniform Parentage Act. The bill used non-gender-specific terminology and referred to a "parent" instead of "mother" or "father," and "person" instead of "woman" or "man." An exception, based on the child support program's state plan under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act, was made for the paternity acknowledgment process, which provided that the mother of a child and a man claiming to be the genetic father of a child could sign an acknowledgment of paternity with intent to establish the man's paternity. This bill became effective July 22, 2011.

Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 5921 (Chapter 42, Laws of 2011, 1st Special Session), ***Revising social services programs,*** included, among many other provisions, a provision that made it a condition of eligibility for childcare subsidy programs that the applicant or recipient must seek child support enforcement services from the Division of Child Support, unless DSHS finds the applicant or recipient has good cause not to cooperate.

Substitute Senate Bill (SSB) 6893 (Chapter 3, Laws of 2010, 2nd Special Session), ***Suspending the child support pass through payment,*** suspended the child support pass-through effective May 1, 2011.

2010

Substitute House Bill (SHB) 3016 (Chapter 279, Laws of 2010), ***Updating provisions concerning the modification, review, and adjustment of child support orders to improve access to justice and to ensure compliance with federal requirements,*** was enacted to clarify certain sections of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) dealing with modification of child support orders. It provided that DSHS was required by federal law to review and modify child support orders, regardless of whether the family received public assistance and was already authorized to do so in other sections of the RCW but was now specifically authorized to take such actions in these sections. In addition, the bill allowed for telephonic appearances by parties to an action to modify or adjust a child support order. This bill became effective June 10, 2010.

Second Substitute House Bill (2SHB) 2603 (Chapter 194, Laws of 2010), ***Requiring agencies to give small businesses an opportunity to comply with a state law or agency rule before imposing a penalty,*** was enacted requiring a state agency to furnish a small business with a copy of any state statute or rule that it has failed to follow before the agency can impose a fine, civil penalty, or administrative penalty for noncompliance. This bill required DSHS to revise its forms used for noncompliance actions to provide small businesses with copies of the state statutes for which it may impose penalties for noncompliance. This bill became effective June 10, 2010.

2009

Substitute House Bill (SHB) 1845 (Chapter 476, Laws of 2009), *Concerning medical support obligations,* implemented federal regulations concerning medical child support obligations. All child support orders had to require both parents to provide medical support for any child named in the order. Medical support consisted of health insurance coverage and cash medical support, which consisted of a parent's proportionate share of uninsured medical expenses and, if the obligated parent did not provide health insurance coverage, could include a monthly payment toward the premium paid by the other parent or the state for coverage for the child. The court could waive the coverage requirement for one parent under appropriate circumstances. The requirement to contribute a parent's proportionate share of uninsured medical expenses could not be waived for either parent. This bill became effective October 1, 2009.

Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESHB) 1794 (Chapter 84, Laws of 2009), *Concerning the calculation of child support,* implemented the recommendations of the 2007 child support schedule workgroup. It extended the economic table for the presumptive amount of support up to the combined monthly net income of $12,000, clarified that health care costs must be proportionately shared by both parents, defined basic support to exclude daycare and medical expenses, raised the presumptive minimum obligation to $50 per month per child, replaced "one person need standard" with the "self-support reserve" equal to 125% of the federal poverty guideline, clarified how to consider overtime and second job earnings, and updated the standards for deducting voluntary retirement contributions.

Substitute Senate Bill (SSB) 5166 (Chapter 408, Laws of 2009), *Modifying license suspension provisions for the failure to pay child support,* was enacted to amend existing sections and add new sections to chapter 74.20A RCW regarding the DCS license suspension program. In addition to revisions for clarity, the bill added a new section describing the administrative hearing available to a paying parent who has received a Notice of Noncompliance. The bill provides specific rulemaking authority for DSHS.

2008

Substitute Senate Bill (SSB) 5244 was enacted authorizing statutory changes needed to implement child support provisions of the federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. These included limiting child support assignment to the months that the family received TANF and "pass through" to the family of up to $100 per month for one child and $200 per month for two or more children. "Pass through" must be disregarded as income for the TANF program. Both these provisions become effective October 1, 2008. The bill also required DSHS to add language to all support orders requiring either or both parents to provide health insurance, collect unreimbursed medical expenses at the request of either parent, and allowed for the enforcement of medical support only cases against custodial Parents when appropriate.

2004

Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2554, (Chapter 183, Laws of 2004), *Support for Children with Disabilities*, amends chapters 13.34, 74.13, and 74.20A. RCW to resume the establishment and collection of child support by DCS for children with developmental disabilities in foster care starting July 1, 2004.

2002

House Bill (HB) 2346, (Chapter 302, Laws of 2002), *Updating the Uniform parentage Act*, updates chapter 26.26 RCW with the latest version of the uniform act adopted by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. The changes made Washington law consistent with other states who adopted the 2001 version of the Uniform Parentage Act. The passage of Welfare Reform in 1996 created conflicts or tension in some areas of paternity establishment in the current UPA, such as instances where there are multiple presumed fathers for one child. The bill provides clarity to how those provisions interplay. The bill also specifically allows parents who have entered acknowledgments of paternity to address custody and visitation issues in court, which had been an issue under current law.

Senate Bill (SB) 5369 (Chapter 199, Laws of 2002), *Revising provisions for jurisdiction in child support matters*, includes provisions clarifying DCS's jurisdiction to establish support administratively. It grants custodial parents full party status in support establishment proceedings. Additionally, it allows service of process on prosecutors when they represent the State's interest in child support matters. It also allows DCS to serve orders to withhold and deliver on financial institutions by regular mail.

House Bill (HB) 2347 (Chapter 198, Laws of 2002), *Modifying the uniform interstate family support act*, updates chapter 26.21 to the newest version of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA) adopted by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. The bill went into effect six month after Congress authorized or required all states to adopt this version of UIFSA. The bill makes changes to the manner in which DCS registers and enforces support orders from other jurisdictions, and includes guidance on enforcing orders entered in foreign countries.

2000

House Bill (HB) 2579, (Chapter 86, Laws of 2000), Child Support --Enforcement amends multiple chapters in Title 26, 67, and 74 RCW, as well as, adding a new section to chapter 74.20A. RCW to implement provisions of the **Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act** (PRWORA) of 1996.

1997

Engrossed House Bill (EHB) 3901, the Washington WorkFirst TANF Act, was signed into law on April 17, 1997. Among its many provisions, the legislation impacted DCS in the following ways: (1) The DCS non-cooperation sanction on public assistance recipients was replaced with a 25% grant reduction; (2) various child support enforcement remedies required by PWRORA were adopted; (3) the bill created the license suspension program for delinquent child support obligors and provided for license suspension as a sanction for a person or entity that fails to comply with a DCS withholding notice, lien, or subpoena.

Appendix 8: Major Changes in ESA Programs by Month

SFY

2025

ESA Briefing Book

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Major Changes in ESA Programs by Month, July 1995 – June 2025

March 2025

Reduction in Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) Eligibility Periods
In March 2025, the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement reduced the eligibility period for RCA and RMA from twelve months to four months from date of eligibility for federally eligible populations whose date of eligibility for refugee assistance is on or after May 5, 2025.

February 2025

Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Waiver
Effective February 1, 2025, ABAWDs living outside of King County and the Muckleshoot reservation are exempt from the three-month benefit time limit if they do not meet SNAP work requirements.

January 2025

In alignment with the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2024 (PL 118-42) system programing was completed to move citizens under the Compact of Fee Association (COFA) from state funded Food Assistance Program (FAP) and State Family Assistance (SFA) to federal public benefits, including SNAP and TANF.

Diversion Cash Assistance (DCA) Increase
The DCA program maximum payment amount was increased from $1,250 to $2,000 in a 12-month period. No other DCA eligibility requirements changed.

December 2024

Replacement of Stolen Benefits Ends
Food and cash benefits stolen on or after December 21, 2024 cannot be replaced.

October 2024

Change in eligibility for humanitarian parolees
Under House Bill 815, most Ukrainians paroled into the US after September 30,2024 will not qualify for federal benefits, but will qualify for state funded assistance programs if otherwise eligible.

August 2024

Earned Income Disregard for Cash Programs
Effective August 1, 2024, the first $500 of gross earned income began to be disregarded before applying the 50% earned income disregard for TANF, SFA, RCA, DCA, ABD, HEN, and PWA.

July 2024

Apple Health Expansion
Effective July 1, 2024, the state funded Apple Health Expansion program was launched in partnership with the Health Care Authority. AHE provides healthcare to people with income up to 138% FPL and who are ineligible for federally funded medical programs due to their immigration status.

Replacement of Stolen Cash Benefits
TANF, SFA, PWA, RCA, and ABD cash benefits stolen on July 1, 2024, or later via card skimming, card cloning, and other similar, fraudulent methods could be replaced through December 20, 2024.

Infant, Toddler or Postpartum Time Limit Extension for TANF/SFA
A new TANF time limit extension began for individuals who reach 60 months on TANF/SFA cash assistance and who qualify for the infant, toddler, or postpartum WorkFirst exemption.

WorkFirst Housing and Utility Temporary Support Services
Effective July 1, 2024, a temporary support service was available for WorkFirst families to assist with housing and utility costs, broadening the ability to help WorkFirst participants meet their basic needs. The budget adopted by the Legislature provided an additional $4 million for this support. These funds were exhausted as of February 28, 2025.

June 2024

Summer EBT
In June 2024, Summer EBT, known as SUN Bucks, was introduced as a new permanent program. Eligible children receive a one-time, $120 benefit to buy groceries when they lose access to free and reduced-price lunch meals over the summer months. Benefit issuance for the 2023-2024 school year began in July 2024.

May 2024

Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund ***[COVID-19 response]***
In May 2024, an additional state and federally funded Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund (PEAF) payment was issued to families on TANF/SFA or Basic Food assistance, under 75 percent of the 2022 federal poverty level, with children in the home who didn't receive the benefit in the previous issuance.

April 2024

Ongoing Additional Requirements (OAR) Expansion
Effective April 1, 2024, OAR expanded to include eligible HEN Referral recipients and added additional services such as:

- Boarding and veterinary care for service animals
- Transportation
- Dentures
- Optometrist exam for eyeglasses
- Eyeglasses
- Hearing aids

Medicare Savings Program (MSP)
Effective April 1, 2024, the monthly income limit for the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) MSP program increased to 110% FPL and the Qualified Individual (QI-1) MSP program increased to 138% FPL.

State Supplemental Payment (SSP) Decrease
Effective April 1, 2024, SSP for SSI recipients who are aged, blind, or have an ineligible spouse decreased $38.25 to $35.50 to stay within available funds.

Federal Benefits for an Expanded Population of Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees
Effective April 24, 2024, Ukrainian humanitarian parolees who were paroled into the U.S. between February 24, 2022, and September 30, 2024, are eligible for federally funded benefits, including TANF, SNAP, and RCA.

February 2024

Asset/Resource Limit increase for Cash Programs
Effective February 1, 2024, the Asset and Resource Limits for ESA cash assistance programs increased. The resource limit doubled from $6,000 to $12,000, and one vehicle (no matter the value) and retirement/pension-related funds or accounts became completely exempt.

Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Waiver
Effective February 1, 2024, ABAWDs living outside of King County are exempt from the three-month benefit time limit if they do not meet SNAP work requirements.

January 2024

Cash Grant Increase
Effective January 1, 2024, cash grant payment standards increased by 8% for all ESA cash programs including TANF/SFA, ABD, RCA, PWA, and CEAP.

New ABAWD 36-Month Period
Effective January 1, 2024, a new 36-month period began for ABAWD work requirements. ABAWDs must participate in a qualifying activity to maintain their Basic Food benefits. Any non-qualifying months incurred in the prior 36-month period were removed. ABAWDs who lost eligibility, after three months of non-participation, were able to reapply for Basic Food.

December 2023

Basic Food Elderly Simplified Application Project (ESAP) Certification Extension
Effective December 18, 2023, ESAP certification periods expanded from 12 to 36 months. As was the case prior to this change, Mid-Certification Review (MCR) and Eligibility Review interview requirements are waived for ESAP households. In order to participate in ESAP, all household members must be age 60 or older or disabled, with no earned income.

November 2023

Diaper Benefit for TANF/SFA Families
Effective November 1, 2023, a benefit specifically targeted at mitigating diaper-related costs for TANF/SFA families with a child under the age of three was implemented.

September 2023

Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA), 2023 (H.R.3746) signed into law on June 3, 2023 changed SNAP ABAWD age requirements for participation and provided new participation exceptions for some groups. These changes are temporary (*due to sunset – October 1, 2030*):

- Expanding Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs) age requirements:
    - Age of those subject to the ABAWD time limit increases to age 50 – *effective September 1, 2023*.
    - Age of those subject to the ABAWD time limit increases to age 52 – *effective October 1, 2023*.
    - Age of those subject to the ABAWD time limit increases to age 54 – *effective October 1, 2024*.
- New work exemptions for specific groups – *effective September 1, 2023*, allowing for expanded access to Basic Food benefits for:
    - Individuals experiencing homelessness.
    - Veterans.
    - Individuals who are 24 years of age or younger who were in foster care on their 18th birthday.

August 2023

Replacement of food assistance stolen through skimming or other fraudulent methods based on the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 began.
Under the act, benefits stolen on or after October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2024 can be replaced if the claim is valid and reported within 30 days of the date the theft was discovered. Replacements are limited to the lesser of the total amount stolen or the

amount equal to twice the monthly allotment the household received immediately before the theft and cannot exceed more than two replacements during a federal fiscal year.

July 2023

State Supplemental Payment increase for certain individuals in medical institution or residential setting

Effective July 1, 2023, State Supplemental Payment for certain individuals who receive a Personal Needs Allowance increased from $70 to $100. This increase occurred for individuals receiving care in a medical institution or residential setting.

Expanding WorkFirst Good Cause

Effective July 23, 2023, good cause reasons used to determine whether a WorkFirst family should face financial sanction for situations where the parent does not engage in agreed upon activities with their service and participation plan expanded.

Abolishing the TANF/SFA Time Limit for Ineligible Parents

Effective July 1, 2023, the TANF time limit for households headed by a parent who is ineligible for assistance due to factors such as receipt of SSI, their legal status, or their immigration status, was abolished.

Able Bodied Adults Without (ABAWD)

Effective July 1, 2023, with the end to the Public Health Emergency, participation resumed for ABAWDs residing in King and Snohomish Counties. Residents of Tulalip and Muckleshoot remained exempt.

June 2023

Tribal SNAP Eligibility Demonstration Project

In June 2023, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approved Washington's request to expand the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) demonstration pilot conducted at Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe to an additional five tribes. Tribes are to work with Community Services Division (CSD) to operate as a Community Service Office (CSO) and perform eligibility and certification of SNAP benefits on behalf of the state.

End of Expanded Student Eligibility [COVID-19 Response]

The temporary expansion of Basic Food Basic Food eligibility for students of higher education who were eligible for work study or had an expected family contribution of $0 on their federal financial aid at application ended in June 2023.

TANF Time Limit Extension Ended *[COVID-19 Response]*

Families that did not meet any other TANF time limit extension criteria were able to continue to receive an extension due to the pandemic beginning April 1, 2020. This provision ended effective June 30, 2023, after which families must meet specific time limit extension criteria to remain eligible for TANF.

May 2023

TANF *In Loco Parentis* Eligibility Change

In May 2023, the application process for TANF In Loco Parentis caregivers was streamlined and no longer required the caregiver to pass a background check in order to receive benefits on behalf of the child in their care.

Extended Parole (and Benefits) for Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) began extending parole for an additional year on a case-by-case basis for Ukrainians who were paroled at a port of entry between February 24, 2022, and April 25, 2022. These individuals were originally issued a one-year term of parole. This allowed for federal benefits (e.g., TANF, SNAP, and Medicaid) to remain open for these households, if all other eligibility requirements were met.

Medicaid Continuous Enrollment and other Public Health Emergency (PHE) Flexibilities End ***[COVID-19 Response]***

With the passing of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, beginning with May 2023 renewals, terminations resumed for all Medicaid recipients who did not complete their Eligibility Reviews. Recipients found ineligible during their renewal period were also terminated. COVID-19 flexibilities, such as self-attestation of medical expenses, income, and resources also ended.

Per CMS requirements, the Community Services Division (CSD), also implemented the completion of Medicaid renewals on ex-parte' basis, by attempting to complete a Medicaid renewal using data matches and not requiring a recipient to contact the department to initiate a renewal.

Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance (ORIA) Community Outreach and Education Program Launch

In May 2023, ORIA implemented the Community Outreach and Education (COE) to help the growing number of refugees and humanitarian entrants arriving in Washington to connect with services and resources through information and referral, resource navigation, community & cultural orientation, and outreach services.

March 2023

End of Basic Food Emergency Allotments [COVID-19 Response]

After February 2023, Washington Basic Food households returned to regular monthly allotments and no longer received the maximum food benefit based solely on household size. Households who are eligible for the maximum food benefit due to household circumstances no longer received the difference between their regular monthly benefit allotment and the maximum amount for their household size, with a minimum supplement of $95.

February 2023

Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Waiver

Effective February 1, 2023, ABAWDs outside of Snohomish and King counties were exempt from work requirements through a SNAP time limit waiver. Also exempt were individuals living on Tulalip and Muckleshoot land within Snohomish and King Counties. FNS' approval extended through January 31, 2024. Clients remained eligible to participate in BFET services voluntarily.

January 2023

Resumption of Home Visits for Teen Living Assessments

[COVID-19 Response]

Effective January 1, 2023, home visits for Teen Living Assessments were resumed. These assessments apply to all unmarried, minor parents applying for TANF cash assistance, to determine eligibility and offer support to the household.

December 2022

TANF Home Visiting Referral – Statewide Expansion

Effective December 1, 2022, the TANF Home Visiting and Parent Support referral option expanded statewide for WorkFirst families. Starting in May of 2015, this initiative was intended to support and improve outcomes for both parents and children receiving public assistance. In 2015, the referral process was expanded to include over 25 Community Services Offices. With statewide expansion, all WorkFirst families who are expecting a child or have a child under the age of two are offered a referral to Home Visiting or other parent support services. Participation in this activity is voluntary, without repercussions to the family if they decide to decline the referral or discontinue engagement in services.

November 2022

Employment Authorization for Certain Afghan and Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees

Effective November 21, 2022, certain Afghan and Ukrainian humanitarian parolees were considered employment-authorized to the same extent as refugees. This consideration allowed them to get an unrestricted Social Security card and removed the requirement to obtain employment authorization from the federal government before engaging in work within the U.S.

ABD/HEN Referral Review and Engagement Processes Resume

[COVID-19 Response]

Effective November 1, 2022, DSHS reinstated the disability and incapacity review cycles of 24 and 12 months, resumed the good cause process for those not cooperating with medical and mental health treatments or the SSI application process, and resumed gathering medical evidence from within the last 90 days of application and 45 days of review from sources accepted by SSA.

September 2022

ABD Cash Grant Increase

Effective September 1, 2022, the payment standard for ABD increased to $417 based on funding provided in the 2022 supplemental operating budget. This increase was a step toward fully meeting the basic needs of disabled individuals and was the first approved grant increase in the history of the program.

ABD Expands to Patients Age 21-64 of Eastern and Western State Hospital

Effective September 1, 2022, eligibility for ABD expanded to patients residing in Eastern or Western State Hospital who had been civilly committed or found not guilty by reason of insanity. Residents determined eligible received a CPI grant of $41.62.

August 2022

Fast Track to Employment Pilot

The Fast Track to Employment program pilot, a model of supported employment called "Individual Placement and Support," helps people find work at jobs of their choosing. In August 2022, this pilot began supporting WorkFirst participants and ABAWDS in specific counties who were eligible to receive these services. Pilot counties included Spokane, Snohomish, Cowlitz, and Lewis.

July 2022

TANF Time Limits

[COVID-19 Response]

Families that do not meet any other TANF time limit extension criteria were able to continue to receive an extension due to the pandemic,

effective July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. The extension supported poverty reduction and eliminating disparities for families struggling to maintain economic stability as they reached the 60-month time limit.

WorkFirst Housing and Utility Temporary Support Services
Effective July 1, 2022, a temporary support service was made available for WorkFirst families specifically to support housing and utility costs, broadening the ability to help WorkFirst participants meet their basic needs. The budget adopted by the Legislature provided an additional $6.6 million for this support through June 30, 2023.

Implementation of HB 1748- Expanding ABD/HEN program to Survivors of Certain Crimes
Effective July 1, 2022, noncitizens harmed by a crime who were in the process of filling an application for specific visas or immigration status with the federal government, became eligible for the Aged, Blind or Disabled program if all other eligibility criteria was met.

Aged, Blind or Disabled Cash Assistance Program Mid Certification Review Requirement Eliminated
Effective July 1, 2022, the supplemental operating budget included funding to eliminate the Mid-Certification Review (MCR) requirement for all ABD cash recipients.

Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Housing Stabilization Services Program
Effective July 1, 2022, ORIA launched its Housing Stabilization Services program to assist eligible refugees and humanitarian entrants with short-term housing services, rental assistance, and utility assistance.

June 2022

Expansion of Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) Eligibility Periods
Effective June 1, 2022, the eligibility period for RCA and RMA expanded from eight to twelve months from date of eligibility for federally eligible populations whose date of eligibility of refugee assistance was on or after October 1, 2021.

May 2022

Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees Eligible for Federally Funded Benefits
Effective May 21, 2022, humanitarian parolees from Ukraine and their parents, spouses, and children paroled into the U.S. between February 24, 2022 and September 30, 2023, were eligible for federal funded benefits (e.g., Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), RCA, and Basic Food Employment & Training (BFET)).

Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund ***[COVID-19 response]***
Washington state received $22.7 million in federal Pandemic Emergency Assistance Funds (PEAF) to support non-recurring, short-term benefits for families. State funds were also approved to enable the benefits to go to otherwise eligible families that do not qualify for federal programs based on citizenship status. Washington's PEAF benefit was issued in May 2022 as a one-time cash payment of $127 per child for families with minor children receiving TANF/SFA, Basic Food, FAP, or TFA with income at or under 75% of the Federal Poverty Level.

February 2022

State-Funded Cash, Food and Medical Benefits for Survivors of Certain Crimes

Effective February 1, 2022, state-funded benefits were provided to noncitizens harmed by a crime who were in the process of filling an application for specific visas or immigration status with the federal government.

Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Waiver

Effective February 1, 2022, ABAWDs were exempt from work requirements through a statewide SNAP time limit waiver. FNS' approval extended through January 31, 2023. Clients remained eligible to participate in BFET services voluntarily.

January 2022

Mid-Certification Review Requirement Waived *[COVID-19 response]*

DSHS continued to receive federal approval to implement flexibilities to waive Mid-Certification Reviews from January 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022. This waiver applied to TANF, State Family Assistance (SFA), Aged, Blind or Disabled (ABD) Cash Assistance, Working Family Support (WFS), and all Food Assistance programs.

November 2021

Disaster Cash Assistance Program (DCAP) Activation for Severe Weather

Effective November 22, 2021 through December 18, 2021, DCAP was activated in response to Governor Inslee's declaration of a state of emergency for 14 counties due to the devastating effects of severe weather. DCAP provided cash to eligible households impacted by the flooding, landslides, mudslides or other hazardous storm events, who lived in these counties.

October 2021

Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) Increase

Effective October 1, 2021, Basic Food benefit amounts were permanently adjusted to provide 40-cents more per person per meal. Separate from the 15% allotment increase to Basic Food in January 2021 in response to COVID, Congress had directed USDA to study the costs required to purchase foods to support a healthy diet. This study resulted in a permanent allotment increase of 25% enacted to the TFP which allowed for the increase in benefits, replacing the temporary COVID-19 15% allotment increases.

Afghan Humanitarian Parolees Eligible for Federally Funded Benefits

Effective October 1, 2021, per federal law, humanitarian parolees from Afghanistan and their parents, spouses, and children, paroled into the U.S. between July 31, 2021 and September 30, 2022, became eligible for federal funded benefits (TANF, SNAP, RCA, and BFET). Prior to this change, this population was eligible for certain state-funded cash and food assistance, if all other eligibility criteria were met.

September 2021

WorkFirst Participation Requirements Resume [*COVID 19 response*]

Effective September 1, 2021, WorkFirst participation requirements, suspended since March 2020 due to the pandemic, resumed. DSHS has since worked to connect with families to update assessments and develop participation plans appropriate for their situation.

WorkFirst Integrated Interview

DSHS launched the WorkFirst integrated interview starting September 20, 2021– a streamlined intake process and suite of new engagement tools (including a new assessment tool). This approach is client-centered and strengths-based, giving families receiving TANF the opportunity to complete financial eligibility, evaluation and development of a plan for participating in WorkFirst activities in a single phone or in-person interview.

July 2021

WorkFirst Sanction Policy

Effective July 1, 2021, WorkFirst Non-Compliance Sanction policies changed, providing participants two continuous months of non-compliance before reduction of cash benefits and an additional ten months on a reduced grant before cash benefits are terminated. Additionally, sanction-related home visits and immediate sanction closures were no longer a part of the sanction process. Though policy was changed, WorkFirst participation requirements remained suspended until September 1, 2021.

Cash Assistance Grant Increase

Effective July 1, 2021, the payment standard for TANF, SFA, Pregnant Women Assistance (PWA), RCA and Consolidated Emergency Assistance Program (CEAP) increased by 15% based on funding provided by the Legislature in the biennial operating budget. This increase was a step toward fully meeting the basic needs of families and individuals who experience financial hardship. The change also increased the maximum earned income limits for these programs.

TANF Time Limits

Effective July 1, 2021, the criteria for TANF 60-month Time Limit Extensions expanded to support families who exhausted their 60 months and were homeless or who had a child in their home who met the broad McKinney-Vento definition of homeless. This change allowed families experiencing housing instability, or who care for a child in this situation, to continue receiving cash assistance.

Additionally, families that do not meet any other time limit extension criteria were able to continue to receive an extension due to the pandemic, effective July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT) Summer 2021 Expansion *[COVID-19 Response]*

Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) approved the issuance of P-EBT benefits to eligible children for the summer period following the 2020-21 school year. A standard benefit of $375 was issued to both school aged children and children under the age of six for the months July and August of 2021.

June 2021

ABAWD Waiver

Effective June 8, 2021, ABAWDs were exempted from work requirements through a statewide SNAP time limit waiver. Food and Nutrition Service's (FNS) approval extended through May 31, 2022; however, clients remained eligible to participate in BFET services voluntarily.

P-EBT Children Under 6 Expansion *[COVID-19 Response]*

DSHS received FNS approval to expand P-EBT benefits to children under the age of six for the 2020-21 school year. Children living in both a Basic Food household and a county participating in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast program whose schools reported limited on-site meal service

between October 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021, were eligible for P-EBT.

May 2021

ABD and HEN Case Management Resumes

Effective May 12, 2021, DSHS resumed case management activities for new ABD Cash Assistance and Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) Referral recipients. Staff continued to provide support for individuals with participation in medical treatment for disabling conditions, and with assessment and treatment services for substance use disorders, similar to how case planning activities were offered prior to suspension due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

April 2021

ABAWD Navigator Program Ends

Effective April 1, 2021, DSHS ended the ABAWD Navigator program due to loss of funding. FNS notified the department of its disagreement with the state's use of "Good Cause" to exempt ABAWDs during the public health emergency in March 2021, and disqualified funding to support the navigator program. DSHS filed a formal appeal.

Basic Food Emergency Supplement $95 Minimum *[COVID-19 Response]*

Effective April 2021, all Basic Food households became eligible for a minimum emergency supplement of $95. This change provided additional assistance to the lowest income households that previously did not qualify or received small supplements.

DCAP

Effective April 19, 2021, DCAP activated for Washington families without children impacted by COVID-19 who met the income and resource limits and were not eligible for other cash programs. Prior to this date, households were only eligible for DCAP once in a 12-month period. In accordance with SHB 1151 and Governor Inslee's proclamation dated April 15, 2021, this program was available monthly for eligible households through June 30, 2021.

March 2021

P-EBT 2020-2021 Plan Approval

DSHS received FNS approval of its state plan to issue P-EBT for the 2020-21 school year. The 2020-21 plan differed the previous year as DSHS shifted from internal eligibility determination to working with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and a third-party vendor, Accenture, to determine free or reduced priced school meal eligibility and issue benefits through designated P-EBT cards.

February 2021

Child Support Pass-Through Payments

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) households were eligible to receive child support payments disbursed by Division of Child Support (DCS) without a reduction to their TANF grant. These "pass-through" payments are received each month DCS collects child support. Active TANF recipients may receive:

- Up to $50 a month of support collected for a TANF assistance unit with one child; or
- Up to $100 a month of support collected for a TANF assistance unit with two or more children.

January 2021

Basic Food 15% Allotment Increase *[COVID-19 Response]*

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, provided Basic Food households with an increase of 15% to their maximum allotments. This approval covered the period of January through June 2021 but was later expanded

through September 2021 in the American Rescue Plan Act.

Expanded Student Eligibility *[COVID-19 Response]*
The Consolidated Appropriations Act expanded SNAP eligibility to students participating in state or federally funded work-study during the school year with an expected family contribution of $0 for the duration of the Public Health Emergency.

Effective January 16, 2021, CSD expanded Basic Food to students of higher education who are eligible for work study or have an expected family contribution of $0 on their federal financial aid at application through their certification period.

November 2020

Continued Certification Period Extensions *[COVID-19 Response]*
The Continuing Appropriations Act maintained certification extensions for all programs beginning November 2020 through February 2021. November and December 2020 certification periods were extended two months and January and February 2021 certification periods were extended four months. All food Mid-Certifications Reviews were waived through June 30, 2021.

October 2020

Home Detention and Monitoring Eligibility
Effective October 5, 2020, individuals released from incarceration to home detention or home monitoring were now potentially eligible for the ABD and HEN Referral programs which aligns with other programs, such as TANF. This change supported Governor Inslee's Executive Order 16-05 to reduce recidivism and assist incarcerated individuals as they return to the community.

July 2020

Elimination of the Supplied Shelter Grant
Based on additional funding provided by the Legislature, DSHS eliminated the separate payment standard for households receiving cash assistance (ABD, TANF, SFA, RCA, and PWA) who report their housing is provided at no cost. This change increased cash benefit amounts and streamlined benefit eligibility work.

June 2020

Pandemic EBT *[COVID-19 Response from the SFY 2020 Briefing Book]*
Eligible families with children who would have received free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program, received P-EBT food benefits for the months of March through June 2020 due to school closures.

PWA Eligibility for Referral to HEN Program *[State Change]*
Effective June 11, 2020, eligibility for referral to the HEN program was extended to all PWA recipients. While PWA recipients are eligible for cash assistance only while pregnant, the referral to HEN is valid for 24 months from the date PWA eligibility was established. A referral to HEN was a significant additional benefit for the small population receiving PWA.

May 2020

Refugee Cash Assistance / Refugee Medical Assistance Time Limit Extension *[COVID-19 Response]*
Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) approved states to request a waiver to extend RCA and RMA to eligible recipients beyond the

normal eight-month time limit. Washington State received a waiver to provide benefits to people who became eligible between April 1, 2019 and January 30, 2020 for more than the eight-months.

April 2020

Certification Period Extension for Cash Programs and Basic Food *[COVID-19 Response]*
Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, DSHS extended certification periods for households with Eligibility Reviews due in the months of April, May and June for six additional months, extending these certifications through October, November and December 2020. Mid-Certification Review requirements for April, May and June were also waived, and benefits continued through the end of certification periods as long as households continued to meet all other eligibility requirements. This applied to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); SFA, ABD Cash Assistance, HEN Referral; WFS; and all Food Assistance programs.

DCAP *[COVID-19 Response]*
Effective April 17, 2020, DCAP eligibility was expanded to include Washington families and people without children impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic who met the income and resource limits and were not eligible for other cash programs. The program ended January 15, 2021.

TANF Time Limit Extensions *[COVID-19 Response]*
Effective April 1, 2020, the criteria for TANF 60-month Time Limit Extensions were expanded to support families experiencing hardships related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

March 2020

Emergency Allotment (EA) Food Supplements: *[COVID-19 Response]*
Beginning in March 2020, DSHS issued monthly supplemental benefits to food assistance recipients on a month-to-month basis with federal approval during the federal and state public health emergency declaration. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Food Assistance Program for Legal Immigrants (FAP) households were issued the difference between their regular monthly benefit allotment and the maximum amount for their household size.

TANF WorkFirst Participation and Sanction Suspension *[COVID-19 Response]*
Effective March 16, 2020, all WorkFirst participants were temporarily exempted from required participation. Clients could choose to continue participation voluntarily and, to the extent possible, case management continued, but participation was not required. WorkFirst sanction reduction or case closure penalties were also temporarily suspended.

Suspension of Home Visits for Teen Living Assessments *[COVID-19 Response]*
Effective March 16, 2020, home visits were suspended for Teen Living Assessments. These assessments apply to all unmarried, minor parents applying for TANF cash assistance, to determine eligibility and offer support to the household.

Basic Food ABAWD Requirements Final Rule Injunction
Effective March 16, 2020, a federal court injunction delayed implementation of USDA's final rule limiting states flexibilities in waiving ABAWD work requirements. The rule was

scheduled to take effect April 1, 2020. The court denied the request for a preliminary injunction related to the final rule's changes to discretionary exemptions. The final rule on discretionary exemptions was scheduled to take effect October 1, 2020.

ABD and HEN Referral Program *[COVID-19 Response]*
Effective March 18, 2020, DSHS suspended pursuing treatment verification and good cause for participation in medical treatment, participation in substance use assessment and treatment, and participation in vocational rehabilitation.

Effective March 26, 2020, DSHS postponed ABD disability reviews, modified HEN referral incapacity reviews, and expanded medical evidence rules for eligibility purposes.

Mental Incapacity Evaluation contracts were amended to allow for telephonic psychological evaluations.

ABAWD Participation Good Cause *[COVID-19 Response]*
Effective March 16, 2020, all mandatory ABAWDs in King County have good cause not to participate due to Stay Home Stay Healthy orders by the Governor. Clients have the option to continue participation to the extent possible. Staff members continue to provide ABAWDs with referrals to Navigators. Navigators continue to refer ABAWDs to appropriate employment and training opportunities, but participation is not required.

July 2019

Changes to TANF-WorkFirst Permanent Disqualification Rules & Expansion of Time Limit Extension Criteria *[State Change]*
Effective July 28, 2019, families were no longer permanently disqualified from TANF cash assistance due to three sanction case closures for noncompliance with required WorkFirst activities. Also, TANF time limit hardship criteria was expanded to families experiencing homelessness, including individuals living:

a. Outside;
b. In a building or a location not meant for human habitation;
c. In a building or location which they have no legal right to occupy;
d. In an emergency shelter; or
e. In a temporary housing program, which may include transitional and supportive housing programs with a limited duration of stay.

PWA Payment Standard Increase *[State Change]*
Effective July 1, 2019, the payment standards for the PWA recipients increased to $363 (paying shelter) and $221 (supplied shelter). These increases are based on changes approved in the 2019-21 Operating Budget. This change is a step towards improved support for families and individuals who are experiencing financial hardship.

Child Care Subsidy Programs *[State Change]*
Effective July 1, 2019, service delivery for the Working Connections Child Care and Seasonal Child Care subsidy programs moved to the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF).

May 2019

Cash Assistance Overpayments *[State Change]*
Effective May 1, 2019, CSD no longer established cash overpayments for dependent children. This change supports the dependent child's financial well-being. CSD will establish an overpayment when a non-needy caretaker

relative or guardian receives an overpayment on behalf of a dependent child. CSD will not use grant reductions to recover overpayments from non-needy caretaker relatives or guardians when the assessed overpayment was for a child who is not currently part of the assistance unit.

February 2019

Asset Limit Increase *[State Change]*

Effective February 1, 2019, resource limits for cash benefits increased. Increased resource limits allow applicants and recipients of cash benefits to save for emergencies and keep a reliable vehicle to get to and from appointments, school and work. The new limit for liquid resources increased from $1,000 to $6,000 and the new limit for vehicle equity increased from $5,000 to $10,000. This increase affected the following programs:

a. TANF
b. SFA
c. ABD cash assistance
d. HEN Referral program
e. RCA, and
f. PWA.

August 2018

Foundational Community Supports

Recipients of ABD and the HEN Referral program received referrals for Supported Employment and Supportive Housing benefits available for eligible clients through their Medicaid coverage.

July 2018

TANF Grant Increase *[State Change]*

Effective July 1, 2018, there was a 6.8 percent cash grant increase (in addition to the 2.5 percent increase in the 2017-19 enacted budget) for TANF, SFA, and RCA. The cumulative cash grant increase was 9.3 percent.

Child-Only TANF Means Testing Repeal *[State Change]*

Effective July 1, 2018, for child-only TANF or SFA, the caregiver's income no longer counted in determining eligibility or benefit amount. This change applied to households where the cash assistance provided is only for the child or children in the home. This change applied to relatives other than the child's parents (like a grandparent, sibling, aunt or uncle) and caregivers who are not related to the child.

Domestic Violence Unit Transfers to CSD

[***Administrative Change]***

Effective July 1, 2018, the Domestic Violence (DV) Unit, including Victim Services and DV Perpetrator programs, transferred from DSHS Children's Administration to ESA/CSD. This change was a result of a DSHS reorganization following the move of Children's Administration to the newly created Department of Children, Youth and Families (HB 1661 2017 Legislative Session).

June 2018

Staying Connected

Effective June 1, 2018, recipients of CSD programs could access additional cell phone minutes if they were also customers of the federal Lifeline program through participating wireless carriers.

March 2018

ABD/HEN Referral

Effective March 13, 2018, recipients of the ABD program became eligible to receive a referral to the Commerce administered HEN program. Eligibility for the HEN Referral program was also expanded to include individuals who are primarily incapacitated due to a substance use disorder.

Child Care
Effective March 1, 2018, there were new household composition requirements for single parent households when status could not be verified through DSHS systems.

Getting Connected
Effective March 2018, Employment Security Department and Community Service Division (CSD) created marketing materials to inform CSD recipients of free cell phone and voicemail services.

January 2018

Minimum Wage Increase
Effective January 1, 2018, the Washington minimum wage increased to $11.50 per hour statewide with some areas having local increases above that amount.

a. Paid Employment – the minimum wage increase affected all wages and cash benefits paid to Community Jobs (CJ) participants.
b. Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) – the minimum wage increase may result in a decrease in the number of hours clients are required to participate in unpaid Work Experience (WE).

October 2017

WorkFirst
Effective October 19, 2017, the infant exemption was expanded to include parents with a child under two years of age. This change allowed a parent to be exempt from mandatory WorkFirst activities for up to 24 months in a lifetime as long as there is a child in the home under two years of age. Parents were allowed to participate voluntarily in WorkFirst activities.

August 2017

Child Care
Starting August 1, 2017, licensed childcare programs that accept state childcare subsidies and serve children younger than school age must have completed training, verified the professional records of their staff, and completed self-assessments among other activities in Early Achievers, Washington's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for childcare.

July 2017

Child Care
Effective July 1, 2017, families experiencing homelessness were eligible for childcare subsidies for a four-month grace period to address homelessness. At the end of this period, the parents must be working or in another approved activity for childcare subsidy to continue. This new policy replaced the prior Department of Early Learning Homeless Child Care Program.

Working Family Support
Effective July 1, 2017 funding was approved through the biennium for Working Family Support program with a cap of 10,000 cases.

WorkFirst Activity
Effective July 23, 2017, allows for the expansion of vocational education as an approvable work activity from 12 months to 24 months.

January 2017

Basic Food
Beginning January 1, 2017, the Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) exemption was again expanded statewide, except for King County (not including Muckleshoot tribal land). Non-exempt ABAWDs

within King County, except for those residing on Muckleshoot tribal land, may only receive three months of Basic Food benefits within a 36-month period unless they:

a) Worked at least 20 hours per week averaged monthly (80 hours/month);

b) Completed at least 16 hours per month of unpaid volunteer work (called Workfare); or

c) Participated in the BFET or Resources to Initiate Successful Employment (RISE) programs.

October 2016

Child Care

Effective October 1, 2016, when childcare applicants reapply for childcare and are above 200% FPL and below 220% FPL, they became eligible for a three-month grace period to transition to private pay childcare.

July 2016

Child Care

Effective July 1, 2016, childcare applicants no longer had to report most changes after being approved, creating a true 12-month eligibility period. Clients could continue to use childcare if they were no longer in an approved activity or if their income went above 200% FPL. If the household income went above 85% State Median Income (SMI), the client's childcare would be closed. Licensed Child Care Centers and FFN providers received a flat 2% increase. Licensed Child Care Family Homes received an increase that varies geographically and is based on the 75th percentile of the local childcare market rate.

June 2016

Basic Food /Cash

Effective June 16, 2016, an applicant or recipient was only considered a fleeing felon if a law enforcement official presents the agency with a warrant for Escape, Flight, or Escape – Flight. This change was made to comply with federal regulations.

May 2016

Working Family Support

Effective May 1, 2016, families that receive Basic Food, Food Assistance for Legal Immigrants (FAP), or Transitional Food Assistance (TFA), work at least 35 hours per week, and have a qualifying child within their Basic Food household, may be eligible to receive an additional $10 monthly food benefit. Benefits are covered by state funds.

February 2016

CEAP Suspension

Beginning February 1, 2016, the Consolidated Emergency Assistance Program (CEAP) was suspended due to the exhaustion of state program funds.

January 2016

Basic Food

Beginning January 1, 2016, non-exempt Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) in King, Snohomish, and parts of Pierce counties only received three months of Basic Food benefits within a 36-month period unless they:

a. Worked at least 20 hours per week averaged monthly (80 hours/month);
b. Completed at least 16 hours per month of unpaid volunteer work (called Workfare); or
c. Participated in the BFET or Resources to Initiate Successful Employment (RISE) programs.

The first-time benefits closed because of these updated ABAWD rules was March 31, 2016. Even if the Basic Food benefits ended, ABAWD individuals were able to requalify if the person became exempt or participated in an approved activity. Otherwise, they would not be able to qualify for Basic Food again until January 1, 2018 when the 36-month period reset.

October 2015

New Refugee Program

The Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance utilized federal resources to create the new "PRIME" Program or Promoting Refugee Integration, Mobility, and Empowerment. PRIME is administered across the state by 16 different providers that offer comprehensive case management services, self-sufficiency education workshops, immigration assistance helping refugees apply for lawful permanent residence (a.k.a. green cards), and other new programs – such as a program targeting persons granted asylum or asylees. This program replaced the former Refugee Resettlement Assistance Program.

August 2015

Basic Food/Cash

Effective July 2015, households receiving Basic Food or Cash assistance with self-employment income could choose the greater of:

a. A standard 50% deduction from the gross self-employment income; or
b. A deduction consisting of actual verified and allowable costs of producing self-employment income that is above the 50% standard.

This rule change eliminated the $100 standard self-employment income deduction for the cost of doing business rules.

July 2015

Basic Food

Effective July 1, 2015, the Legislature increased benefits under state-funded FAP from 75% of the federal SNAP benefit level to 100% of the federal SNAP benefit level.

May 2015

Child Care

Effective May 15, 2015, verification and eligibility changes were made regarding Working Connections Child Care 110-hour rule, verification requirements, eligibility determinations, and changes associated with school breaks. The changes, based on ACLARA sub-group recommendations and policy clarifications from the Department of Early Learning (DEL), are intended to streamline the eligibility determination process, remove barriers for consumers, and simplify billing procedures for childcare providers.

CEAP Reinstatement

Beginning May 7, 2015, funding for the Consolidated Emergency Assistance Program (CEAP) was available. The program had been suspended effective January 27, 2015.

TANF Home Visiting Referral Pilot

In spring of 2015, the TANF Home Visiting Referral Pilot for WorkFirst families began in six Community Services Offices. This pilot program provided exempt pregnancy to employment pathway participants a referral to local Home Visiting Services.

April 2015

Child Care

Effective April 30, 2015, the Non-Standard Hours Bonus (NSHB) was suspended because funds were exhausted.

January 2015

Basic Food

Effective January 1, 2015, the Department provided a LIHEAP benefit of $20.01 per year under the 'Heat and Eat' program to Basic Food households who do not receive the maximum food allotment and are not eligible for the Standard Utility Allowance based on paying heating costs.

Minimum Wage Increase

Effective January 1, the Washington minimum wage increased to $9.47 per hour.

a. Paid Employment – the minimum wage increase affected all wages and cash benefits paid to Community Jobs (CJ) and Job Connection (JC) programs.
b. Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) – the minimum wage increase may result in a decrease in hours of mandatory participation.

CEAP Suspension

Beginning January 27, 2015, the Consolidated Emergency Assistance Program (CEAP) was suspended due to the exhaustion of state program funds.

Child Care

Effective January 1, 2015, childcare providers received a base rate increase in their childcare subsidy rates of four percent.

Refugee Cash Assistance

Effective January 1, 2015, refugee adults receiving RCA received a formal assessment and referral to the Limited English Proficient Pathway employment and English programs by Social Services Specialists through eJAS.

November 2014

WorkFirst

Effective November 1, 2014, the WorkFirst sanction rules were changed to re-engage WorkFirst participants sooner and to help them get full benefit from their 60 months of TANF assistance. There were now two types of sanction penalties: sanction reduction penalty and sanction termination penalty. If the parent attended the noncompliance case staffing and did not have good cause, the parent would be subject to the sanction reduction penalty for two months. If the parent was sanctioned for two months in a row, his/her TANF grant might close. If the parent did not attend the noncompliance case staffing or the home visit, the TANF case would be closed the first of the following month after 10-day notice.

Basic Food

Effective November 1, 2014, all Basic Food households that did not receive WASHCAP had to pay heating or cooling separate from rent, or receive LIHEAP benefits of more than $20 yearly, to qualify for the Standard Utility Allowance (SUA). The change was in response to the passage of the Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2014 (Farm Bill), limiting the option for states to use a $1 or other minimal energy assistance payment to provide food assistance households the Standard Utility Allowance or SUA.

July 2014

ABD Disability Standards

Effective July 1, 2014, the ABD program reverted to the more restrictive disability standards, in accordance with the passage of Senate Bill 6573. The minimum duration requirement increased from nine to twelve months and consideration of an individual's

ability to perform past work extended from ten to fifteen years.

WorkFirst Comprehensive Evaluation (CE)
Effective July 18, 2014, a new WorkFirst CE assisted case managers in completing a more thorough upfront evaluation when TANF was approved. The new CE was recommended as part of the 2010 WorkFirst Redesign Initiative.

Child Care
Effective July 1, 2014, childcare providers received a base rate increase in their childcare subsidy rates of four percent.

June 2014

WorkFirst Orientation
Effective June 1, 2014, completion of a new WorkFirst (WF) Orientation is required as a condition of eligibility for all TANF and SFA applicants. The new orientation was implemented to ensure clients receive consistent information statewide about the WF program, including the services and supports available and activities that may be required for participation in the TANF/SFA program.

May 2014

AREN Twelve-Month Limit
Effective May 1, 2014, the Department reinstated the 12-month limit for the Additional Requirements for Emergent Needs (AREN) program and eliminated the $750 lifetime limit.

Reporting Indigence Exemptions
A new streamlined process for reporting indigence exemptions to sponsor deeming for legal immigrants was introduced, and except for SSI related medical (S02), the Department no longer reports indigence exemption for medical programs.

April 2014

Categorical Eligibility for Basic Food Income Limit
Effective April 1, 2014, the 200% of federal poverty level (FPL) standards used for categorical eligible households increased.

March 2014

Reinstatement of Basic Food Standard Utility Allowances
Effective March 10, 2014, the Department began using actual utility expenses to calculate the shelter expenses and final benefits for all new applicants

February 2014

WorkFirst Housing Pathway Pilot-Phase 2
Starting February 15, 2014, the WorkFirst Housing Pathway Pilot was expanded to Pacific, Wahkiakum, and Jefferson counties. In partnership with the Department of Commerce, this pilot focused on serving WorkFirst families who were currently homeless by obtaining housing, with the goal of moving families to self-sufficiency within six months.

January 2014

Changes to the ABD, HEN, and Medical Care Services (MCS) Programs
Substitute House Bill 2069 temporarily established less restrictive disability criteria for the ABD cash assistance program, created a new HEN referral program, and modified the eligibility for the state-funded MCS medical assistance program.

a. ABD-Disability criteria reduced the minimum disability duration requirement from twelve to nine months, and reduced consideration of an individual's ability to

perform past work from fifteen to ten years.

b. HEN Referral-this new referral program replaced MCS as the gateway to potential HEN eligibility.

c. MCS-Maintained the state-funded MCS medical assistance program for ABD and HEN Referral recipients who are ineligible for Medicaid due to their immigration status.

Affordable Care Act (ACA) Implementation
Effective January 1, 2014, eligible ABD and HEN Referral recipients were transitioned from medical programs administered by DSHS to Washington Apple Health (WAH) Medicaid administered through the Health Benefit Exchange (HBE).

CEAP Suspension
State funding for Consolidated Emergency Assistance Program (CEAP) was exhausted. The program was suspended effective January 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014.

Minimum Wage Increase
Effective January 1 2014, the Washington minimum wage increased to $9.32 per hour.

a. Paid Employment – the minimum wage increase affected all wages and cash benefits paid to Community Jobs (CJ) and Job Connection (JC) programs. A client's January income must be prospectively budgeted against January benefits.

b. Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) – the minimum wage increase may result in a decrease in hours of mandatory WorkFirst participation.

December 2013

Child Care
Effective December 1, 2013, parents who received Working Connections Child Care benefits and participated in 110 hours or more of approved work or work-related activities became eligible for full-time childcare services in accordance with the passage of Senate Bill 5595.

State Supplemental Payment (SSP) Decrease
Starting December 1, 2013, the Department reduced the State Supplemental Payment (SSP) for SSI recipients who are aged, blind, or have an ineligible spouse from $46 to $40 to stay within available funds.

November 2013

WorkFirst Housing Pathway Pilot-Phase 1
Starting November 1, 2013, the WorkFirst Housing Pathway Pilot rolled out in the five "Ending Family Homelessness" pilot counties: Whatcom, Snohomish, Cowlitz, Mason, and Spokane. In partnership with the Department of Commerce, this pilot focused on serving WorkFirst families who are currently homeless by obtaining housing, with the goal of moving families to self-sufficiency within six months.

Reductions to Basic Food, Washington Combined Application Project (WASHCAP), and FAP for Legal Immigrants Benefit
Effective November 1, 2013, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) supplements ended resulting in a decrease in SNAP benefit levels. FAP benefit levels based on Basic Food levels (75% of SNAP) also decreased.

October 2013

WorkFirst Support Services Instant Issuance Fuel Card

Starting October 1, 2013, Bank of America (BOA) fuel cards could provide gasoline assistance for participants in the WorkFirst program. Fuel cards could be authorized for up to $50 and would only work at gas pumps.

Restoration of Community Works
Effective October 18, 2013, the Department introduced the Community Works (WC) program as a new unpaid work experience program that was structured to provide WorkFirst participants structured unpaid work experience.

Affordable Care Act (ACA) Implementation
Starting in October 2013, the Department began transitioning eligible Family, Children, and Pregnancy Medicaid recipients from medical programs administered by DSHS to Washington Apple Health (WAH) Medicaid administered through the Health Benefit Exchange. The transition process continued through September 2014.

September 2013

Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) Second Program Violation
As required by Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill ESSB 5921, the Department now requires a protective payee for a client after two program violations for using public assistance benefits at a prohibited location.

August 2013

Basic Food Elderly Interview Waiver
Starting August 2013, elderly households (age 60+) without earnings were no longer required to have an interview for Basic Food Benefits if all necessary verification was provided or available through system interfaces, and no information was questionable.

July 2013

CEAP Reinstatement
Funding became available for CEAP. Any applications for CEAP received on or after July 1, 2013 could be approved.

Increased Benefit Level for FAP
Effective July 1, 2013, the state budget changed the benefit calculation from 50% of the SNAP to 75% for the state-funded food benefits to legal immigrants.

May 2013

Voluntary Community Service (VS)
An instructional memo and flyer were issued that encouraged the use of Voluntary Community Services as a core WorkFirst activity, including for parents with young children re-engaging in WorkFirst after the temporary suspension allowed under ESSB 5921 ended.

April 2013

LEP Pathway expansions/pilot projects (skills training & intensive ESL)
The Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance (ORIA) implemented these expansions/pilots to focus on two of the most important skills newcomers need to integrate into their new communities: 1) teach job skills in specific industries, and 2) provide intensive ESL instruction to give newly arrived refugees and immigrants additional time to increase their English proficiency.

February 2013

The Department removed individual dollar limits for each WorkFirst support service type while retaining the annual $3,000 limit.

January 2013

Minimum Wage Increase

Effective January 1, 2013, the Washington minimum wage increased to $9.19 per hour.

a. Paid Employment – the minimum wage increase affected all wages and cash benefits paid to Community Jobs (CJ) and Job Connection (JC) programs. A client's January income must be prospectively budgeted against January benefits.

b. Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) – the minimum wage increase may result in a decrease in hours of mandatory WorkFirst participation.

CEAP Suspension

State funding for Consolidated Emergency Assistance Program (CEAP) was exhausted. The program was suspended effective January 1, 2013 through June 30, 2013

August 2012

EBT Fees

Starting August 1, 2012, public assistance recipients were no longer charged an $0.85 fee by JP Morgan Chase when using their EBT card to make an ATM cash withdrawal.

Pre-Paid Merchant Cards

Starting August 1, 2012, the use of an automated system (Card Minder) was implemented to track pre-paid merchant cards to assist in issuing Support Services. The pre-paid merchant cards did not eliminate the use of vouchers. Vouchers would continue to be used for support services exceeding $50.00, or when pre-paid merchant cards were not an option.

The temporary automated system used to track pre-paid merchant cards is called "CardMinder." This system:

a. Allowed the Department to track the cards from the time they arrive in ESA Fiscal to when they are issued to a client.
b. Used a magnetic card reader similar to EBT.
c. Had limited functionality because it was not able to track negotiables that did not have magnetic coding such as bus passes or tickets. The current purchase, issuance and tracking of transportation negotiables remained unchanged.

Is unable to attribute issuances to a specific client or subcategory in eJAS.

July 2012

In accordance with the 2012 Supplemental Budget (3ESHB 2127), the following changes took effect:

a. TANF Payment Standard – the maximum TANF cash grant was increased from $726 to $941 for families of six or more.
b. FAP for Legal Immigrants – funding now
    i. Provided at 50% of the benefit level for federal SNAP.
c. Child Care Subsidy Program:
    i. Eligibility increased from 175% to 200% FPL; and
    ii. Certifications increased from 6-month to 12-month periods.
d. WorkFirst Services – funding reduced by about $821,000 (1.1%).
e. Division of Child Support – funding provided for 16 additional FTEs in SFY 2013 (effective July 1, 2012) to increase the amount of child support collected and retained by the state.

f. Department of Early Learning – funding of $100,000 provided for a contract with an independent consultant to evaluate and recommend an optimum system for the childcare eligibility determination process, with a report due to the Office of Financial Management and Legislature by December 31, 2012.

	Monthly Case Fee		
	Prior to July 1, 2012	**Effective July 1, 2012**	**Difference**
Food-only Cases	$1.24	$0.85	Savings of $0.39 per case
Cash-only Cases	$0.67	$0.53	Savings of $0.14 per case
Combined Food and Cash Cases	$1.65	$1.26	Savings of $0.39 per case

WorkFirst Participation

As required by ESSB 5921, the Department began re-engaging TANF parents with young children who chose a temporary suspension of WorkFirst participation requirements. ESSB 5921 required DSHS to begin phasing parents required to participate in WorkFirst back into work activity over the course of SFY 2013, starting with parents closest to reaching the 60-month TANF time limit.

CEAP Reinstatement

Funding was available for CEAP. Any applications for CEAP received on or after July 1, 2012 might be approved.

EBT

The Department negotiated changes to the EBT fee structure with JP Morgan Chase:

a. Cost per case fee – JP Morgan Chase reduced the monthly fee charged to the state for each case that receives an EBT benefit deposit during a given month, called the 'Cost per Case Month' fee. The fee varied, depending on the type(s) of benefits that was deposited in a person's EBT card account (food only, cash only, or combined food and cash benefits). The chart below compares the old and new monthly cost per case fees.

b.

c. Liquidated Damage fee – Washington's EBT contract included a 'Liquidated Damage' fee for an option that allowed the Department to assess charges against the EBT vendor for extended and unplanned EBT service outages that resulted in clients being unable to access their benefits. Because it was not cost-effective, the Department and JP Morgan Chase agreed to drop this option effective July 1, 2012.

June 2012

Child Care Subsidy Program – As required by SSB 6386 and HB 2828, the requirement that an applicant or recipient of childcare subsidies seek child support services through the Division of Child Support was eliminated.

Early SSI Transition Pilot – As required by SB 6223, the pilot was repealed. The pilot was started in August 2010 (as part of the Disability Lifeline program) and ended in December 2011.

FAP for Legal Immigrants – On June 10, 2012, the U.S. District Court formally dismissed the claims in Case No C11-119 MJP based on an earlier ruling by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. This action by the US District Court fully resolved the FAP lawsuit (see February 2011). Because the state budget changed, the Department no longer needed to eliminate FAP. The Department moved forward with implementing a change in FAP benefit levels. The SFY 2012 Supplemental Budget approved

by the Legislature funded FAP at only 50% of the benefit level for the federal SNAP, to be effective July 1, 2012.

February 2012

AREN Lifetime Limit – The Department implemented a $750 lifetime limit for the AREN program. All AREN payments issued to any adult recipient since April 2001 would be counted against the lifetime limit. Exceptions were granted only when the household's health and safety would be in imminent danger. All AREN payments were to be issued directly to a vendor.

January 2012

CEAP Suspension – The Department suspended the consolidated Emergency Assistance Program (CEAP) through June 30, 2012 due to exhaustion of state program funds. Staff manually denied all CEAP applications that were not processed or in pending status prior to January 1, 2012

FPL	**Payment Standard**
201% thru 225% of FPL	80% of payment standard
226% thru 250% of FPL	60% of payment standard
251% thru 275% of FPL	40% of payment standard
276% thru 300% of FPL	20% of payment standard

December 2011

A **pilot to eliminate issuance of EBT replacement cards in local offices** began in the Access Spokane offices for a six-month period. The majority of EBT replacement cards were to be issued by the vendor via mail, with limited and clearly defined emergency exception criteria for local office issuance. If the pilot was successful, the EBT replacement card mailing protocol would be expanded statewide in July 2012.

The Department implemented a **permanent TANF/SFA disqualification** for clients who had three or more WorkFirst non-compliance sanction (NCS) terminations since March 1, 2007 when the NCS termination policy was implemented.

November 2011

In accordance with *Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 5921*, the Department changed the rules for determining eligibility for a non-parental "child-only" TANF/SFA cash grant. The Department began means testing non-parental child-only grants by counting the income for all household members in addition to the recipient child's income to determine eligibility.

a. Means testing applied to kinship or legal guardian child-only cases.

b. Households with income:

   I. At or below 200% of FPL would receive a grant based on the payment standard for TANF/SFA families.

   II. Between 200% and 300% of FPL would receive a grant based on reduced payment standards:

   III. Over 300% FPL would no longer be eligible for a child-only cash grant.

c. Required a Social Security number (SSN) for anyone in the household when needed to verify income.

d. Children who had been placed by a state or tribal child welfare agency and had an open child welfare case would *not* be subject to means testing.

e. The means testing assistance unit (household) would include the person applying on the

child's behalf, any dependents of the caregiver, and other persons who were financially responsible for the caregiver or the TANF child. For example, the caregiver/relative, caregiver's spouse, caregiver's children, and TANF/SFA recipient child(ren).

f. There would be no resource test for non-parental child-only caretaker relative households.
   i. Budgeting of the recipient child(ren)'s income and resources against the payment standard would remain the same but would occur only after the household means test had been applied.
   ii. Means testing did not change medical, food and childcare eligibility.

In accordance with *Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 5921*, the Department implemented a **60-month time limit** on TANF child-only cases in which the parent is in the home and is ineligible for TANF, with the same limited hardship extensions that apply to regular TANF cases.

In accordance with Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2082, the **Disability Lifeline (DL) program ended** effective November 1, 2011, pursuant to RCW 74.60.020. Three new programs were created under RCW 74.60.030 to serve the former DL population:

a. The ABD program would provide cash assistance to persons who were age 65 or older, blind or likely to meet the disability standard for the federal SSI program. The maximum monthly grant would be $197 for one person.
b. The **PWA** program would provide cash assistance to individuals who are pregnant and not eligible for Washington's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. The maximum monthly grant would be $197 for one person.
c. The **HEN** program, administered through the Department of Commerce, would provide essential needs items (e.g., bus passes, personal hygiene items, toiletries) and housing supports (e.g. rent and utility assistance) to certain individuals who were unable to work for at least 90 days due to a physical or mental incapacity.

October 2011

In accordance with *Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2082*, the **Disability Lifeline (DL) program** was eliminated effective October 31, 2011.

September 2011

The Economic Services Administration (ESA) issued supplemental payments, ranging from $27 to $69 per month, to about 34,000 Disability Lifeline clients after discovering that the emergency rule had expired that allowed the DL grant reduction in April 2011. The emergency rule expired on July 12, 2011 and because the permanent rule had not been filed to continue the lower grant standard ($197) beyond July 12, the Department was obligated to restore the DL grant standard to the higher amount ($266) in effect prior to April 1.

July 2011

The Washington State Legislature made seeking **child support enforcement services** from the Division of Child Support (DCS) a condition of eligibility for childcare subsidies, effective July 1, 2011, unless the applicant met one of the good cause reasons set forth in the Department of Early Learning rules. It was expected that child support would increase household income to the point that either co-payments were increased, or families were no longer eligible for subsidized care, using the savings realized to provide childcare subsidies for more families.

The Washington State Legislature adopted changes to the **Uniform Parentage Act** (Chapter 26.26.RCW), changing the focus of the act to the determination of parentage, as opposed to

the former emphasis on paternity. Although the changes in the law did not have a major impact on the administrative procedures of the Division of Child Support (DCS), the law made many changes that impacted judicial proceedings concerning parentage, which affected the prosecuting attorneys who represent DCS. Certain persons were now considered to have the legal status of parents regardless of gender or biological connection, based on their legal relationship at the time the child was born. A new presumption of parentage was established where an individual resides with a child for the first two years of the child's life and openly claims the child as his or her child. A minor parent who signed an acknowledgment or denial of paternity now had until the minor parent's 19th birthday to file an action in court to rescind the acknowledgment. The former two-year statute of limitations was increased to four years: a person may challenge an acknowledgment or bring a proceeding in court to adjudicate the parentage of a child having a presumed parent within four years of the child's birth; if the child was more than two years old when the action commenced, the child must now be made a party to the action.

FNS amended overpayment rules to remove the alien sponsor liability for food assistance overpayments incurred by aliens they sponsored. This change was the result of regulations filed on December 15, 2010.

The Washington State Legislature reset the state **FAP benefit** at half the amount of the federal SNAP benefit effective July 1 as a cost saving measure to help balance the state's budget. Prior to that, FAP households received the same amount of benefits as SNAP households.

Temporary Suspension of WorkFirst Participation

Parents could choose to suspend participation for a WorkFirst parent, or caretaker, with a child under age two, or two or more children under age six. During the suspension period, parents would be encouraged to participate in WorkFirst activities, be placed in participation suspension upon request, and not be eligible for support services such as transportation and childcare unless volunteering to participate in WorkFirst activities. Notices regarding this change will be mailed by July 6, 2011 to WorkFirst participants that met the criteria.

Expanded WorkFirst Work Activities

State law changed to expand allowable activities to include the following:

a. WorkFirst ''work activities'' would include parent education services or programs that support development of parenting skills, life skills, and employment-related competencies; and
b. Community Service activities were expanded to include volunteering at their child's licensed childcare, preschool, or elementary school.

Department of Commerce began two new programs:

a. Job Connection Program – This program provided participants with opportunities to build references, develop networking connections, and demonstrate their work skills directly through employment by performing jobs within their chosen field.
b. Career Development Program – This program provided a volunteer unpaid work activity to participants to support their engagement in an education pathway.

Career Scope Pilots
Career Scope was ESD's new approach to employment service delivery that focused on individualized services. Pilots began in July 2011 in Mount Vernon, Bellingham, North Seattle, Port Angeles, Bremerton, and Spokane.

Diversion Cash Assistance (DCA) Changes
DCA maximum payment amount increased from $1,000 to $1,250 in a twelve-month period.

Consolidated Emergency Assistance Program (CEAP) Changes
CEAP funding was made available for the next biennium. Staff could approve all applications received on or after July 1 if the household met the program eligibility.

Child Care Changes
The Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) policies were changed to reflect the following:

a. Applicants were required to seek support enforcement services as a condition of WCCC eligibility unless they had good cause.
b. Customer Service Center began processing seasonal childcare applications.
c. Non-Standard Hours Bonus (NSHB) funding was reinstated due to the approval of state program funds for the new biennium.

May 2011

The grant maximum for cash assistance was reduced from $941 to $726 per month. The change reduced TANF, State Family Assistance, and Refugee Cash Assistance grants for most families with more than five household members. The change was necessary due to a budget shortfall and increased demand for services by families affected by the economic recession.

Child support pass-through payments to custodial parents receiving TANF were suspended May 1, 2011, as required under SSB 6893 that was passed by the Washington State Legislature in a special session held in December 2010.

April 2011

The full Pregnancy-to-Employment assessment for the other parent in a two-parent household was eliminated. A partial assessment was required after the child was born.

Disability Lifeline grants were reduced by 25%, from $266 to $197 for one person.

March 2011

In an effort to achieve cost savings and align participation requirements with the federal TANF standard, WorkFirst **participation requirements for single parents** with a child under age six were reduced from 32 to 20 hours per week. The 20 hours per week participation requirement had to be in a core activity. Parents were allowed to voluntarily participate full-time. Full-time activities included Community Jobs and Vocational Education.

Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) changes:

a. **Waiting List** – With the exceptions noted below, families applying for WCCC with income at or below 175% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) would be placed on a waiting list. Program openings would be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Families would be notified when there are openings in the program and would have ten days to begin the application process.

The following groups would receive **priority access** to WCCC and would not be included in the waiting list:

I. All TANF families;

II. Families with pending TANF due to curing a WorkFirst sanction; and

III. Families with a verifiable special needs child.

b. **Copayment Increase** – Copays for families with income above 82% of the FPL increased as follows:

Income level	Copayment	Change
At or below 82% of FPL	At or below 82% of FPL	No change
Above 82% up to 137.5% FPL	Above 82% up to 137.5% FPL	$10 increase
Above 137.5% through 175% FPL	Above 137.5% through 175% FPL	$10 increase plus an increase in multiplying from 44% to 50%

In response to a budget shortfall, the Department implemented **emergency rules to count federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI)** when determining TANF eligibility and benefit levels. The emergency rules were challenged in federal court. The plaintiffs' motion for a temporary restraining order was orally granted on February 28, 2011, and an order entered shortly thereafter. During the month of March 2011, the Department reinstated benefits for approximately 8,250 families affected by this change. Subsequent legislation in 2011 (ESSB 5921 Section 5) prohibited DSHS from including SSI income when determining TANF eligibility and benefit levels.

February 2011

In December 2010, DSHS adopted a rule-making order to **eliminate the FAP on** February 1, 2011. FAP provided state-funded food assistance to approximately 13,700 individuals who resided in Washington legally, but did not meet the requirements for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Washington's Basic Food program) because of their immigration status. Roughly 68% of these individuals lived in ''mixed'' households, where some family members were eligible for and receiving federal food benefits. On January 20, 2011, legal services filed a lawsuit in federal court to stop DSHS from ending FAP. On January 27, 2011, the court granted legal services' motion for a temporary restraining order and required DSHS to continue providing FAP benefits. This motion was later followed by a preliminary injunction that barred DSHS from terminating or reducing FAP benefits. The Washington State Legislature passed Supplemental Budget ESHB 1086, which reduced FAP benefits to 50% of the benefit levels for the SNAP program. Benefit rule changes under this legislation were to be implemented April 1, 2011; however, the preliminary injunction also prevented implementation of this reduction. Currently, the preliminary injunction is on appeal before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

TANF time limit hardship extension changes took effect. Revised hardship extensions were granted for parents or needy relative caregivers:

a. Approved for WorkFirst exemption due to age, disability or because of a need to stay home to care for a disabled family member or required to apply for SSI; or

b. Participating in a family violence service plan developed by someone trained in family violence; or
c. With an open child welfare case with a state or tribal government and it is the first time any child in the home has been involved in dependency considerations or action; or
d. Employed 32 hours or more per week; or
e. Recipient needy relative caregivers over age 55.

In response to budget reductions, **TANF 15% grant reduction** took effect. This change also reduced payment standards for Refugee Cash Assistance, State Family Assistance, Consolidated Emergency Assistance Program, and the Maximum Earned Income and Grant Maximum payment standards.

Temporary Suspension of Working Connections Child Care Field Trip Fee Reimbursement

In response to budget reductions, licensed or certified childcare centers would no longer be able to bill for field trip fees. The change did not affect licensed or certified family home childcare providers.

January 2011

Disability Lifeline

Effective January 1, 2011, ESA implemented a reduction of 21.4% to the average grant for Disability Lifeline clients (formerly General Assistance). About 41,000 clients, who were eligible for the program due to physical or psychological incapacities, were affected by the reduction. The reductions were needed to meet the Governor's mandate for 6.3% across the board spending cuts and to offset anticipated savings lost due to the *Elkins vs. Dreyfus* Temporary Restraining Order (TRO).

Disability Lifeline – the **Vocational Rehabilitation Assessment Tool** was implemented. When a determination was made that a person would be likely to benefit from vocational rehabilitation services, the individual was required to participate with DVR in order to remain eligible for the monthly stipend and housing voucher or cash grant. If the person refused to participate, the Department was required to terminate the cash stipend and housing voucher or cash grant but could not terminate medical coverage.

DCA Reduction

Effective January 1, 2011, the DCA maximum payment amount decreased from $1,250 to $1,000 in a 12-month period. This reduction was approved by the Legislature during the 2010 Special Session. The reduction was temporary and expected to end June 30, 2011, as it was not proposed to be carried over into the next biennium.

Working Connections Child Care

Changing the income limit for Working Connections Childcare (WCCC) to 175% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) began in October 2010 and was anticipated to be phased in over six months. Effective January 1, 2011, the new income limit was applied to all remaining households exceeding 175% of FPL.

Tribal TANF Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Funding Reduction

Effective January 1, 2011, state MOE funding for Tribal TANF programs was reduced by 6.3% in response to the Governor's Across-the-Board budget reduction directive.

WorkFirst Funding for Children's Administration

Effective January 1, 2011, WorkFirst funding used to support the delivery of child welfare services was reduced by 6.3% in response to the Governor's Across-the-Board budget reduction directive.

December 2010

Naturalization

The Department eliminated the Naturalization program, which was projected to serve approximately 4,200 clients in 2010. The program provided assistance, such as help paying fees and preparation for the Naturalization test, to individuals who received public assistance but had not yet attained citizenship. Although the Naturalization program included a proviso for a small portion of the funding, the majority of the program funding was provided by the State's General Fund.

Refugee Services

The Department reduced contracts with community-based agencies that provide employment placement, English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) training, job skills training, job search workshops, and job retention services for refugees and legal immigrants with limited English proficiencies who receive TANF or Refugee Cash Assistance, and those who have resided in the United States for less than five years but do not receive assistance. The reductions were effective December 1, 2010 and limited services available to this population.

TANF Two-Parent Participation Change

An additional participation option was added to allow both parents in a qualifying family to split the 35 hour per week requirement.

October 2010

On August 12, 2010, the Governor announced the details of a plan to keep the WorkFirst budget in balance. Faced with a $51 million shortfall, difficult decisions had to be made to ensure a balanced budget and protect the safety net for vulnerable families and children. The following changes became effective October 1, 2010:

a. **Eliminated Services –**

   i. Post TANF/SFA Services – All support services and tuition assistance for clients who no longer received TANF or SFA were eliminated. Staff no longer provided clients with post-TANF support services or post-TANF tuition assistance once a client had exited the program.

   ii. Sanction Review Panel – The Sanction Review Panel (SRP) was eliminated.

b. **Suspended Services**

   The Career Services Program (CSP) administered by the Employment Security Department was suspended.

c. **Reduced Services**

   i. DCA –The maximum DCA allotment was reduced to $1,250 from $1,500 in a 12-month period.

   ii. Working Connections Childcare (WCCC) – Income limit for (WCCC) was reduced to 175% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The new income limit was used to determine eligibility:

1. When the current authorization period ends for families with open WCCC cases.
2. For new WCCC applications submitted on or after October 1, 2010.

iii. **Reduced Partner Agency Funding and Expenditures**

1. DSHS staffing program support costs were reduced by 6%
2. Education and training expenditures and funding to the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges were reduced by 10%
3. Employment services expenditures and funding to Employment Security Department were reduced by 2.1%
4. Funding for Supported Works programs operated by the Department of Commerce was reduced by 9.8%. This reduction eliminated the Supported Works programs once funding was exhausted in December 2010.

d. **Participation Requirement Change – Two-Parent Participation –** Two-parent households were now able to coordinate their activities to meet WorkFirst participation requirements. The parents were required to engage in at least 35 hours per week of WorkFirst activities (30 hours core/5 hours of core or non-core). One parent in a qualifying two-parent household could opt out of participation as long as the participating parent was engaged in WorkFirst activities at least 35 hours per week. Effective December 1, an additional option was added to allow both parents in a qualifying family to split the 35 hour per week requirement.

e. **AREN Change** – Rules for AREN did not change but were reinforced. In accordance with WAC 388-436-0002, prior to issuance of funds for utility assistance, a client was required to apply for local community resources and submit written verification from the community provider that utility assistance was not available.

As of October 2010, AREN requests beyond $500 and up to the $750 program limit now required referral to a supervisor or designee for approval.

Elkins v. Dreyfus – **Disability Lifeline time limits were stopped.**

a. A lawsuit was filed in August 2010 against the Department regarding the implementation of the time limits for the Disability Lifeline (DL) program. The plaintiffs sought an injunction to stop any termination of benefits and to reinstate October benefits for those terminated from the program. On October 13, 2010, a federal District Court judge issued a temporary restraining order, prohibiting the Department from terminating Disability Lifeline clients due to time limits and ordering the Department to reinstate benefits for persons previously terminated for time limits. The court found that plaintiffs were likely to succeed in their claims that they did not receive adequate notice of termination and that the Department's disability review process did

not determine whether the plaintiffs met the SSI disability standard prior to termination, as required under the statute. It was determined that the Department did not have the resources to complete the full five-step sequential evaluation process for SSI disability for all clients subject to the time limits and was unable to implement the policy under the current statutory language. Therefore, the Department reinstated benefits for all affected clients and did not implement time limits before the disability lifeline program was eliminated in October 2011.

b. The Department revised the estimated ratable reduction that was scheduled to take effect January 1, 2011. The revised reduction was increased from approximately 11.8% to grant payment standards for Disability Lifeline clients (formerly General Assistance) to 23.9% due to the effect of the Temporary Restraining Order. About 41,000 clients, who were eligible for the program due to a temporary incapacity, were affected by the reduction.

September 2010

Governor Christine Gregoire announced that all state agencies had to **reduce their budgets** by 6.3%. ESA was required to achieve a reduction target of about $36.6 million in General Fund-state savings between October 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011.

Disability Lifeline – time limits took effect. By September, case reviews had to occur for all clients who had been on assistance for at least 12-19 months. A client could be terminated, due to the time limits, unless the case had been reviewed to determine whether the client was likely to be eligible for SSI.

July 2010

CEAP eligibility was expanded to include families who had been terminated due to a Non-Compliance Sanction and who were participating for 4 consecutive weeks before they could qualify for TANF/SFA.

Disability Lifeline (DL) changes mandated by E2SHB 2782 began July 6, 2010:

a. Chemical dependency treatment became a condition of eligibility for all DL recipients who were assessed as chemically dependent;
b. Training for chemical dependency treatment, vocational rehabilitation services and sanction policy became available;
c. Case reviews were to be completed by July, 2010 when a client had been on assistance for at least 20 months; and
d. Early SSI Transition Project began in King, Pierce and Spokane counties – the Department contracted with a managed health care system, Community Health Plan of Washington (CHPW), to operate a project intended to quickly transition Disability Lifeline recipients to Medicaid and SSI. Under the project, CHPW would:
    I. (Starting August 1, 2010) help recipients identified as potentially disabled file and pursue applications for Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
    II. (Starting November 1, 2010) schedule and perform incapacity evaluations when medical evidence was not already available.

Non-Compliance Sanction Termination Policy was changed so that families were terminated after four consecutive months of sanction. Prior

policy was to terminate after six months of sanction. In addition:

a. Parents who were terminated for non-compliance sanction were required to comply with program requirements for four consecutive weeks before they could receive a TANF grant, regardless of the length of time between termination and reapplication.
b. All parents who exited TANF while they were in sanction status were required to come back in sanction when they reapplied, regardless of the length of time they had been off TANF.
c. The process was streamlined by eliminating one case staffing, giving parents one comprehensive case staffing before sanction occurred. Effective October 1, 2010 the panel that reviewed cases prior to termination was eliminated.

Career Services Program (CSP) eligibility changes took effect. In response to budget reductions, CSP no longer enrolled Basic Food Assistance parents. Basic Food Assistance parents that had enrolled in CSP prior to July 1, 2010 continued to receive services and assistance for the duration of their six months of enrollment as long as they maintained their program eligibility.

Effective July 1, 2010, DCS adopted rules to provide that collections from federal tax refund offset were to be applied only to support arrears, and first to arrears assigned to the state; this rule change was based on budgetary needs.

May 2010

The following **Disability Lifeline medical evidence rule changes** took effect:

Diagnoses of impairments based on examinations performed within 12 months of the application were now accepted.

Rules clarified that the Department could use only diagnoses of impairments that were independent of addiction or chemical dependency, defined as "expected to persist after 90 days of abstinence," to determine incapacity.

A medical evidence request letter for physical impairments (Form 14-150) was revised to support these changes.

April 2010

The **WorkFirst procedures for approving deferrals and exemptions** for WorkFirst parents who were needed in the home to care for children and adult relatives with physical, mental or emotional disorders were changed:

a. The changes limited Children with Special Needs Public Health Nurse evaluations to an initial evaluation unless a supervisor approved a follow-up evaluation.
b. Two Public Health Nurse Evaluation forms were condensed and consolidated into a new DSHS 10-255, Special Needs Evaluation and Engagement Recommendations form. The revised form focused on the child's care requirements, the parent's ability to participate, and how long the parent was expected to be needed in the home to care for the child.
c. The changes eliminated the case staffing and set new criteria for approving disability-related exemptions.

March 2010

Effective March 29, 2010, the Washington State Legislature enacted E2SHB 2782, which

eliminated the General Assistance (GA) program and created the **Disability Lifeline (DL)** program. Major characteristics of the new DL program were:

a. Time limits of 24 months out of 60 months, effective September 1, 2010 through June 13, 2013;
b. Participation in chemical dependency treatment or vocational rehabilitation services as conditions of eligibility;
c. Creation of a housing voucher program administered by the Department of Commerce;
d. Development and use of a new assessment tool to determine whether Division of Vocational Rehabilitation programs could assist Disability Lifeline recipients in returning to work;
e. The Department is required, during the application process, to ask if the applicant had ever served in the U.S. military. If yes, the Department must confer with the state or federal Department of Veterans Affairs or contracted veteran's affairs service officer to determine whether the applicant might be eligible for any benefits or programs offered to veterans; and
f. The Department is required to contract with a managed health care system or other qualified entity to operate a project aimed at quickly transitioning individuals with a disability who are likely to qualify for federal disability benefits into the Disability Lifeline Expedited Program, extending what was previously known as the GA-X program. The pilot began in King, Pierce and Spokane counties July 1, 2010 with a mandate to expand statewide by October 1, 2011.

November 2009

Most GA-U recipients began access to Medical Care Services (MCS) benefits through Community Health Plan of Washington (CHPW). CHPW provided medical benefits to GA-U recipients in King and Pierce Counties beginning January 2005 through a managed care pilot project. A mental health component was added to the pilot in December 2007.

October 2009

Income rules for employed General Assistance recipients changed to a 50% earned income disregard.

A **new Washington State Child Support Schedule** was implemented. Changes included:

a. The presumptive minimum child support order increased to $50 per month per child;
b. The need standard was replaced by a "self-support reserve" set at 125% of the federal poverty level;
c. The schedule was now presumptive from the $1,000 to $12,000 income levels;
d. Income from second jobs was excluded from the gross income calculation;
e. New rules were created for imputing income.

Based on requirements in the federal regulations, Child Support orders entered in Washington State were now required to have language requiring medical support from both parents and allowing for a collection of a medical premium share against one or both parents when that parent did not provide insurance. If the obligated parent did not provide health insurance for the child and the order contained a provision for allowing collection of the medical premium share, that share could be collected upon request. Each

parent was responsible for a proportionate share of uninsured medical costs. Upon proof of expense, DCS would enforce uninsured medical costs.

Annual federally required standards were updated for Basic Food and WASHCAP.

September 2009

WorkFirst participation requirements for dependent teens were eliminated.

Standardized WorkFirst policies and procedures were established to help parents with physical, mental and emotional conditions become employable, and for those with severe and chronic health conditions, to access federal disability benefits.

July 2009

General Assistance (GA) program changes were implemented as required by the 2009-2010 Operating Budget, including:

a. Working with the Department of Veteran Affairs to establish a referral process to facilitate applications for veteran's services.
b. Implementing a plan to evaluate General Assistance Unemployable (GA-U) cases that had been on assistance for over 12 months to determine if the available medical and incapacity related evidence indicated the recipient should remain on GA-U or be referred to General Assistance Expedited Medicaid (GA-X).
c. Referring appropriate GA recipients to Naturalization Services.
d. Referring appropriate GA recipients to Workforce Development Councils in King, Pierce, Snohomish and Spokane Counties for worker retraining or development services.

April 2009

Suspended support services for parents enrolled in Career Services due to Diversion Cash Assistance.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) provided a 13.6 percent increase in the maximum SNAP benefits (Basic Food). This equated to a $24 increase for a one-person household.

February 2009

The Career Services program was expanded to include Non-Assistance Food Stamps (NAFS) parents who were working 30 hours per week.

Under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), **$1 payments were provided** to all households receiving Basic Food benefits. This joint effort between DSHS and the Department of Commerce leveraged federal LIHEAP funds to confer the highest utility deduction for Basic Food available, resulting in increased benefits for many households. The payment also reduced administrative effort related to verifying household utility costs. Washington's issuance of federal SNAP benefits increased by approximately $3.6 million monthly or $43.4 million on an annual basis as a result of this initiative.

October 2008

Effective October 1, 2008 the **Gross Income Standard for the Basic Food Program** (BFP) was raised from 130% to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level for Categorically Eligible (CE) households (under BFP rules, most households are CE). An extensive marketing and outreach campaign was implemented to inform potentially eligible households of the new rules.

An additional 23,300 households were expected to qualify for BFP as a result of this change.

The Division of Child Support (DCS) began paying **pass-through payments** to TANF recipients beginning October 1, 2008. Recipients received up to $100 a month of support collected for one child, and up to $200 a month of support collected for two or more children. The pass-through payment did not affect TANF grants.

Effective October 1, 2008 the **final federal regulations for the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005** went into effect.

a. The Division of Child Support (DCS) now applied Funds intercepted from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to current support.

b. The types of WorkFirst activities that counted towards participation were expanded, the methodology for counting job search and excused absences towards participation were changed, and some of the participation documentation requirements were relaxed.

Effective October 1, 2008, provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill went into effect. These provisions included an increase in the standard income deduction, an increase in the minimum benefit for one and two-person households, and removal of the cap on the dependent care expense deduction.

August 2008

Effective August 1, 2008, ESA implemented **policy changes to promote family reunification and support temporary placement of children with relatives**. The primary changes included:

a. Extending eligibility for TANF cash and medical benefits from 90 to 180 days when a child is temporarily absent and is expected to return to the home within 180 days.

b. Providing **concurrent TANF benefits** for the child for up to 180 days to both the parent and another adult caregiver with whom the Division of Children and Family Services has placed the TANF child.

c. Allowing a child who is temporarily out of the home due to hospitalization to be added to the TANF grant.

July 2008

Effective July 1, 2008, the TANF, SFA, CEAP and RCA payment standards were increased by three percent**.**

February 2008

On February 12, 2008, the Division of Assistance Programs' restructuring of headquarters staff was completed. The division was renamed the Community Services Division.

December 2007

Local Community Services Offices began referring parents in long-term WorkFirst sanction or who lost TANF benefits due to non-compliance sanction to **Pathway-to-Engagement** contractors. These contractors helped parents re-engage with the WorkFirst program or develop exit plans for supporting themselves without a monthly cash grant. Pathway-to-Engagement services were mandated and funded under a proviso in the 2007-09 Biennial Operating Budget.

On December 10, 2007, ESA began implementing the **federal Disaster Food Stamp Program** (DFSP) in Grays Harbor and Lewis counties to provide emergency food benefits

for storm and flood victims. Under the DFSP, the USDA Food and Nutrition Service allowed states to waive regular Food Stamp Program eligibility rules for persons in federally declared disaster areas. On December 18, 2007, the DFSP was expanded to Thurston, Mason and Pacific counties. On December 21, 2007, the program was expanded to Clallam and Kitsap counties. By January 7, 2007, over $5.2 million in DFSP benefits had been issued to over 16,000 households. In addition, regular Basic Food Program (BFP) recipients were authorized replacement issuances for food lost during the disaster.

July 2007

Effective July 1, 2007 ESA and the Employment Security Department implemented a **new WorkFirst Career Services program** to provide services to families who left TANF and who were employed at least 30 hours per week. The program was administered primarily by ESD and provided cash payments and employment services for up to six months for eligible parents who chose to enroll. The Career Services program was a post-TANF work transition program funded under the WorkFirst program budget.

Effective July 1, 2007, ESA, the WorkFirst Partner agencies, and WorkFirst contractors began implementing **procedures for verifying actual hours of client participation** in activities that were used to determine the federal TANF participation rate. These included job search and job readiness activities, community service and work experience, and some education and training activities. Verification of actual hours of participation in these activities was required under the federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005.

Effective July 22, 2007, ESA began implementing Second Substitute Senate Bill (2SSB) 6016, which changed the **WorkFirst infant exemption** by allowing parents to be exempt from participation for up to 12 months in the parent's lifetime.

Effective October 1, 2007, the **federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005** required state child support agencies to charge a $25 annual fee on each case when:

a. The custodian had never received Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Tribal TANF or Aid to Dependent Families (AFDC) funds as a custodian of minor children, and
b. The support agency had paid $500 in collections to the custodian on the case during the federal fiscal year (October through September).

April 2007

On April 16, 2007, two divisions in the DSHS Economic Services Administration – the Community Services Division and the Division of Employment and Assistance Programs – **began merging into a single division** – the newly defined ***Community Services Division***. This merger brought public assistance policy development, program management, service delivery and field operations in regional offices and Community Services Offices (CSO) all together under a single "roof."

July 2006

The Department of Early Learning (DEL) came into existence July 1, 2006 as a result of Second Substitute House Bill (2SSB) 2964. This legislation was requested by Governor Christine Gregoire and was passed by the 2006 Washington State Legislature. The Department

was formerly known as the Division of Child Care and Early Learning (DCCEL) and was housed within the Economic Services Administration. The newly formed department included other programs, such as the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program, also known as ECEAP, which was once part of the Department of Community Trade and Economic Development (CTED), as well as the Early Reading Initiative, formerly part of the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).

June 2006

WorkFirst parents began going through a **new Comprehensive Evaluation (CE) process** (see WorkFirst changes outlined in December 2005 below). The Comprehensive Evaluation was a multi-part evaluation conducted by WorkFirst partner agencies to identify a parent's strengths, participation options and best pathway to employment. Primary objectives of the Comprehensive Evaluation included:

a. Increased parent involvement in developing their plan for participation, resulting in more parent buy-in and better results;
b. Better information about parents' skills and abilities and quicker placement in an employment pathway;
c. More objective case management decision making based on clearer program criteria; and
d. More consistency in how the WorkFirst program operates across the state through stronger program standards.

WAC changes for the new Non-Compliance Sanction for WorkFirst were filed on June 1, 2006 with a September 2006 effective date (see WorkFirst changes outlined in December 2005 below). Under the new sanction policy, a family would lose its WorkFirst cash grant after six months of sanction for refusal to participate in WorkFirst activities. The six-month count for families in sanction status began September 1, 2006.

Sanctioned WorkFirst parents were no longer automatically assigned protective payees. Protective payees continued to be available for teen parents and to help those families who had difficulty managing their cash grants.

Child Safety Net Payments for parents who had been on WorkFirst over 60 months and were not in compliance with WorkFirst work requirements were no longer issued to a protective payee but issued directly to the family.

In accordance with the federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, federal rules requiring states to begin **verifying citizenship** for those receiving Medicaid went into effect.

May 2006

Education and training changes for WorkFirst went into effect in May 2006 (see WorkFirst changes outlined in December 2005 below). These changes allowed more parents to engage in full-time education/training and to combine more types of activities with education/training.

April 2006

Utility standards for the Basic Food Program and the WASHCAP changed in April 2006 to partially offset the increase in energy costs.

Positive prevention strategies for WorkFirst went into effect in April 2006 (see WorkFirst changes outlined in December 2005 below). WorkFirst parents and applicants were

informed about alternatives to WorkFirst cash assistance and linked to other services that can meet their needs, including:

a. Child Support;
b. Basic Food;
c. Medical Assistance;
d. Unemployment Benefits;
e. Child Care assistance; and
f. Diversion Cash Assistance.

March 2006

The Washington State Legislature passed Substitute House Bill (SHB) 2394, which required the Department of Social and Health Services to start **assessing WorkFirst parents for financial literacy** during the comprehensive evaluation effective January 1, 2007. The legislation directed DSHS to offer referrals to financial literacy services available in the local communities to all WorkFirst parents to help them become self-sufficient and financially stable.

February 2006

On February 8, 2006, President Bush signed into law S. 1932, **the federal Deficit Reduction Act** (DRA) of 2005 that reauthorized the TANF program for an additional five years. The DRA contained significant changes that would impact the state's TANF program, WorkFirst, and child support enforcement. Interim final federal regulations for TANF were issued in July 2006 with an October 1, 2006 effective date.

Changes to TANF and child support included:

a. A requirement that the federal Administration for Children and Families define work activities for TANF.
b. Redefinition of which adults were required to participate in WorkFirst activities.
c. Recalibration of the TANF caseload reduction credit, replacing the FFY 1995 base year with a base year of FFY 2005.
d. Establishment of the TANF work verification requirements for states, under which states could now lose up to five percent of the TANF federal block grant for failure to comply.
e. Disallowance of states from using federal child support performance incentive funds to draw down federal matching funds, effective October 1, 2007.
f. A requirement for states to charge families that had never received TANF-funded assistance an annual fee of $25 if the state collected at least $500 in support.
g. A requirement for states to pursue medical insurance from custodial parents in appropriate cases where the insurance was not provided by the non-custodial parent, and to recover unpaid co-pays, deductibles and medical costs.
h. Changes gave states the option to pass through to TANF families up to $100 per month in child support for one child and up to $200 per month in child support for two or more children, and to disregard that assistance to the family as income for TANF. States could choose to make this change effective October 1, 2008.
i. Limits on the amount of child support that TANF recipients must assign to the state. Effective October 1, 2009 or one year earlier (at state option), the allowable assignment would be limited to the amount of child support due to the custodial parent for each month that TANF was received by the family (limited to the total amount of

TANF expended). Past due (unpaid) child support would no longer be assigned to the state

January 2006

A court order from the **WASHCAP lawsuit** (*Chamberlain v. DSHS*) was implemented. Approximately 41,500 low-income aged, blind, and disabled residents who participated in WASHCAP were to share $2.7 million in food benefits to comply with the Thurston County Superior Court ruling.

In accordance with Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill (E2SHB) 1290 (passed by the 2005 Legislature), new **expedited medical determinations procedures** were phased into selected areas of the state to help jail and prison inmates and psychiatric hospital patients with serious disorders get immediate access to Medicaid and other medical assistance programs upon their release from confinement. The following Community Services Offices (CSOs) worked in partnership with local jails, prisons, institutions and Regional Support Networks to do speedy medical eligibility determinations: Spokane Southwest CSO; Spokane Central CSO; Yakima CSO; Kennewick CSO; Sky Valley CSO; Everett CSO; Mt. Vernon CSO; Bellingham CSO; Oak Harbor CSO; Belltown CSO; Bremerton CSO; Pierce North CSO; Olympia CSO; and Columbia River CSO.

December 2005

Governor Gregoire's **WorkFirst Re-Examination Workgroup**, established to make recommendations to improve the WorkFirst program and achieve financial sustainability, presented its final recommendations, which were endorsed by the Governor. The Governor issued the following program and policy directives:

a. Increase the use of positive prevention strategies to determine whether services other than WorkFirst cash assistance will meet the need of parents. Examples of these services included child support, medical, Basic Food, and Diversion Cash Assistance. The Department was directed to complete an upfront screening of all new and returning WorkFirst applicants and to help parents access alternative supports. This change was implemented in **April 2006.**
b. Expand education and training opportunities to allow more parents to engage in full-time education/training. This change was implemented in **May 2006.**
c. Complete a cross-partner agency evaluation of all WorkFirst parents to identify strengths, participation options, and best pathway to employment. This process was called the Comprehensive Evaluation (CE) and was implemented in **June 2006**.
d. Implement a non-compliance sanction policy that would end WorkFirst cash assistance for families refusing to participate in program activities for six consecutive months. The six-month count for families in sanction status began **September 1, 2006**.

November 2005

Families receiving Basic Food at the time they transitioned off of WorkFirst and Tribal TANF to self-sufficiency were automatically eligible for TFA, which was five months of Basic Food benefits after the TANF cash grant ends. TFA was not available to the following families: (1) families in which someone was in sanction (for not complying with work requirements or child

support collection requirements), and (2) families whose TANF cash grant ended because the family moved out of state. During the five-month TFA period:

a. The family would not have to report any changes in their household;
b. The TFA benefit would be based on the family's circumstances in the last month they were on WorkFirst but would be adjusted to exclude the TANF grant; and
c. The benefit level was frozen for the five-month period.

Childcare subsidy rates for licensed providers were raised 6.47%.

October 2005

Annual updates to WASHCAP standards and Basic Food income standards, maximum benefit amounts, standard deduction, and maximum shelter standard went into effect.

September 2005

Felons with drug convictions could now receive TANF. Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill (E2SSB) 5213 (Chapter 714, Laws of 2005) exercised the state option to exempt individuals convicted of a drug-related felony from the TANF ban on the receipt of benefits.

July 2005

WPLEX (Washington Post-Employment Labor Exchange) was eliminated after WorkFirst budget reductions mandated changes to client services that were provided by ESD.

New EBT (Electronic Benefit Transfer) features allowed clients to see their account information online 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Using their EBT card and Personal Identification Number (PIN), clients could now:

a. see current EBT cash/food balances;
b. see 180 days of EBT transactions;
c. download an online statement of transactions to their PC;
d. change their PIN in ''real time''; and
e. send and receive messages to/from EBT customer services representatives.

June 2005

EJAS system was modified to **record actual hours of work participation** replacing the time-block model in use.

March 2005

Columbia Legal Services (CLS) was verbally upheld in the WASHCAP lawsuit. Emergency rule filing was rendered void by Superior Court and the Department was directed to restore benefits to a WASHCAP class of recipients for the period of January 1, 2005 through March 22, 2005.

February 2005

DSHS was sued by **Columbia Legal Services** (CLS) over a WASHCAP emergency rule filing. CLS asserted that the Department did not have sufficient justification to file an emergency rule change.

January 2005

WASHCAP rules were amended by emergency adoption to maintain cost-neutrality as required by FNS. Changes were:

a. The benefit calculation used the limited utility allowance (LUA) instead of the standard utility allowance (SUA).
b. The opt-out rule was changed to allow people to opt-out of the program based on their shelter expenses or if they made the request prior to January 1, 2005. The

provision to opt-out when Basic Food benefits would be greater than WASHCAP benefits was removed.

October 2004

Annual updates to Basic Food income standards, maximum benefit amounts, standard deduction, and maximum shelter standard went into effect.

Simplified reporting changes went into effect for cash, medical and Basic Food. Senate Bill (SB) 6411 (Chapter 54, Laws of 2004) required the Department to implement simplified reporting for the Basic Food program beginning October 2004.

July 2004

New maximum childcare subsidy rates for Spokane County went into effect until July, 2005.

Basic Food eligibility restrictions for persons convicted of a drug-related felony were removed as mandated by Senate Bill (SB) 6411 (Chapter 24, Laws of 2004). The fleeing felons provisions still applied to Basic Food.

May 2004

Categorical Eligibility (CE) was expanded to eliminate resource requirements for most Basic Food applicants and recipients. Changes in federal regulations now allowed states to use non-cash services paid for with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds to make people categorically eligible for Basic Food. Assistance Units (AU) that were categorically eligible for Basic Food did not have to meet the resource or net income requirement for Basic Food.

a. Households that currently had CE status would not be affected by the change. Most AUs who met any of the following criteria were categorically eligible:

    i. An AU where all persons received General Assistance (GA), Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Treatment and Support Act (ADATSA), or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits;
    ii. An AU where any person received TANF, State Family Assistance, or Diversion Cash Assistance; or
    iii. AUs that met the gross income limit for Basic Food.

b. Circumstances when a household that met CE criteria could <u>not</u> be categorically eligible for Basic Food included situations such as:

    i. The head of household of the Basic Food AU failed to meet work requirements;
    ii. Anyone in the AU was disqualified for an Intentional Program Violation (IPV); or
    iii. Anyone in the AU was a disqualified drug-felon (*through 6/30/04*).

c. Households that met the new CE requirements did not have to meet the resource or net income limits for Basic Food. However, CE households still had to meet other Basic Food eligibility requirements.

d. A person who was ineligible for Basic Food for a reason other than income or resources would not be made eligible due to the AU's CE status. An example of this is an ineligible fleeing felon.

Changes to sanction policies went into effect. The graduated three-level process was replaced by a single process. When a WorkFirst recipient refused to engage in work and work-related activities, a penalty equal to the greater of either 40% or the non-compliant person's pro-rata share was to be deducted from the grant and the grant was sent to a protective payee until the sanction was lifted.

Revised WACs for WCCC were filed.

April 2004

AREN payment policy was revised to allow multiple payments within a 12-month period but was capped at a total of $750. Exception to rules were still granted at state-office level and had to be related to health and safety.

New background checks were not needed for WCCC when the results were less than 90 days old and the Background Check Central Unit's letter stated "No Record."

January 2004

Changes to WorkFirst Post-60-Month policies took effect:

a. "**Playing by the Rules**" was changed to "Full-Time Participation." After 60 months, participation consisted of working or preparing for work full-time (including Community Jobs, pre-approved educational/training activities, or a combination of work-related activities); barrier removal activities would be approved only in addition to full-time preparation if the client was considered to be "playing by the rules."
b. **Temporary Hardship Exemption** – Clients who reached 60 months on TANF and beyond who were unable to participate in full-time work-related activities could meet the criteria for a TANF Hardship Extension and possibly be exempt from participation. The criteria for a hardship extension approval were based on verification of the issue, severity, duration, and impact on the client's ability to function in the workplace.
c. **Changes to Child Safety Net (CSN)** – Clients now had the opportunity to return to full-time participation and full grant status but had to fully participate for 12 weeks before the CSN status could be lifted.

Need Standards for Cash Assistance were updated to reflect annual cost-of-living adjustments.

December 2003

Changes to Basic Food eligibility requirements for strikers and those attending institutions of higher education at least half-time went into effect:

a. **Striker eligibility** – the definition of strike now included expiration of a collective bargaining agreement, and eligibility was determined using the greater of the striker's income before the strike or the striker's current income.
b. **Student eligibility** – for students attending an institute of higher education, employment for 20 hours a week must be *paid employment;* self-employed students could be eligible if they worked at least 20 hours a week and earned at least as much as they would earn working 20 hours a week at the federal minimum wage; students had to be responsible for *more than half* of a dependent's care; and a student was eligible for Basic Food based entirely on work study only while they were

working and receiving money through the work study program.

November 2003

Changes to client reporting requirements, verification, and interview requirements for the Basic Food program went into effect:

a. **Change Reporting/Income Budgeting** – the threshold for reporting changes in unearned income increased from $25 to $50; job changes only needed to be reported if there was a change in income; and changes in income that were expected to last at least 1 month beyond the date reported required an adjustment to the AU income estimate.
b. **Verification** – clients no longer needed to verify income when the change was $50 or less; medical expenses if they changed by $25 or less; and unchanged child support paid to someone outside the AU.
c. **Interview Requirements** – clients could have a telephone interview if they had trouble attending an in-office interview; interviews were required at initial application and every 12 months; and staff could use a desk review if the AU had an interview within the last 12 months.

SSI recipients who are blind or age 65 and older began receiving **State Supplemental Payments (SSP**). These two groups of SSI recipients increased the number receiving the ESA SSP to about 30,000.

October 2003

Annual updates to **Basic Food income standards, maximum benefit amounts, standard deduction, and maximum shelter standards** went into effect.

September 2003

ESSB 2252 **changed the burden of proof from the Department to the recipient** for continuing GA benefits based on incapacity.

August 2003

The client monthly co-pay for **Washington Telephone Assistance Program participation** increased from $4 to $8.

July 2003

Post-employment services for post-TANF families were reduced from 24 months to 12 months.

Support services changed:

a. Services for post-TANF families were reduced from 12 months to 6 months;
b. Car repairs were reduced from $500 to $250 per year;
c. Clothing payments were reduced from $200 to $75 per year;
d. Liability insurance was no longer available except via Exception To Rule; and
e. ESD no longer authorized support services for relocation, diapers, or personal hygiene (this authorization was only made by DSHS and OTED).

Employment supports paid for by GA program funds, known as the WorkPlus program, were discontinued. This use of program funds was authorized by the Legislature in July 2001.

Community Service Voice Mail (CSVM), a component of WTAP, became effective. DSHS began the development of an agreement with the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development to provide a portion of the WTAP budget for operation of CSVM to

provide homeless individuals with a community service voice mail box.

June 2003

Washington Telephone Assistance Program rate changes went into effect limiting the amount a telephone company could be reimbursed out of the WTAP fund for monthly services to a maximum of $19.

Completed background checks were required for in-home and relative providers prior to the start date of childcare subsidy payments, ending the practice of backdating benefits to the date the original request was received upon approval through the background check process.

May 2003

Substitute House Bill (SHB) 1624 was signed into law on May 7, 2003, permanently authorizing the **Washington Telephone Assistance Program (WTAP),** which was scheduled to expire on June 30, 2003. In addition to permanently authorizing the WTAP program, effective July 1, 2003, the program was expanded to include Community Service Voice Mail (CSVM) as a component. DSHS was directed to enter into an agreement with the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development to provide a portion of the WTAP budget for operation of CSVM, which would provide homeless individuals with a community service voice mail box.

AREN payments based on Exception to Rule (ETR) were reinstated on a limited basis and had to be approved at the State-office level. Only those relating to health and safety were granted.

April 2003

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, P.L. 107-171, restored federal food stamp benefits to certain legal immigrants. Beginning in April, these families began receiving federal Food Stamp benefits and no longer received state-funded Food Assistance benefits (formerly known as FAP).

Community and Technical colleges were no longer eligible for an enhanced rate for consumers who were enrolled in the Families-That-Work program or at Extended Hour Care sites.

March 2003

The Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) co-pay increased by $25 for families with co-payments of $25 or more.

The Non-Standard Bonus for childcare prior to 6 a.m., after 6 p.m., and on weekends was eliminated.

February 2003

The Early Exit Bonus (sometimes called the transitional work expense) was eliminated. The second early exit bonus of $500 could only be authorized for persons who received their first $500 payment on or before January 31, 2003.

AREN payments were reduced from $1,500 to $750 per 12-month period and all AREN payments based on Exception to Rule (ETR) were eliminated

October 2002

The $134 **standard deduction for food assistance** was replaced with a tiered deduction based on the number of individuals in the food assistance household. The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-171)

required that this standard be adjusted each year. No households received a deduction less than $134.

Eligibility for federal food stamp benefits was expanded to include blind or disabled immigrants who received disability-related cash or medical benefits. This change was required under P.L. 107-171.

The countable resource limit for food assistance households that included a disabled individual was changed from $2,000 to $3,000. This change was required under P.L. 107-171.

An annual adjustment to multiple standards for food assistance for FFY 2003 was implemented. The following standards were updated: gross income limit, net income limit, maximum allotment, utility allowances, and the maximum excess shelter deduction.

The exemption of all homeless individuals from ABAWD Food Stamp Employment & Training Program requirements was removed. Homeless clients had to meet requirements or be exempt for a reason other than homelessness.

The food assistance treatment of time-loss income as unearned income for cash was adopted to make policy consistent in both programs. Time-loss benefits were counted as earned income for cash in certain situations.

The Department assumed state administration of the SSI State Supplement Program, a program that was previously administered by the Social Security Administration. The Washington State Legislature mandated that the Department assume administration of this program to reduce the administrative costs of the program.

August 2002

The Economic Services Administration (ESA) implemented **TANF time limit extensions** in conjunction with the WorkFirst partner agencies – the Employment Security Department, Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, and tribal governments. ESA conducted case staffing and extended benefits for families who need more than sixty months of TANF cash aid due to age, disability or inability to become self-sufficient. Parents who had not participated in WorkFirst after 60 months on TANF would not receive money. To ensure that children were not penalized for their parents' failure to participate in WorkFirst activities, ESA provided child safety net payments to a third-party contractor to pay rent, utilities, and items for the children in the home.

ESA implemented the WorkFirst Improvement Initiative in conjunction with the WorkFirst partner agencies and tribes. The initiative increased accountability for clients and staff, ensuring active engagement and progression through full-time participation requirements, close monitoring, daily sign-in at job search activities, a strengthened sanction policy, and monthly reporting by contractors.

Graduated sanctions for TANF/SFA clients who failed to participate in WorkFirst activities without good cause were implemented. Clients graduated to the next sanction level by remaining in sanction status or by returning to sanction status. After three months of sanction, it would take four weeks (instead of two) to cure the sanction. WorkFirst sanctions had three levels:

a. the person(s)' share of the grant was removed;
b. the reduced grant in the first level sanction was to be sent to a protective payee every month until the client cooperated and left sanction status; and
c. the grant was reduced by the person(s)' share or forty percent, whichever was more. The grant continued to be sent to a protective payee until the client participated in WorkFirst activities.

July 2002

Eligibility for the SSI State Supplement program was restricted to SSI recipients who had an ineligible spouse based on Social Security Administration (SSA) criteria and individuals who SSA considered as Mandatory Income Level (MIL) clients. Beginning July 1, 2002, ESA paid about 5,200 people an SSP payment. About 100,000 SSI recipients' payments ended June 30, 2002. The current SSP amount for an individual with an ineligible spouse was $70 per month. MIL recipients' payments varied based upon the amount of the payment they received in January 1974 when states converted from state programs for the aged, blind, and disabled to the Federal SSI program. MIL rates varied between $0.74 and $199.50 per month.

A change in required background checks was made to include any individuals sixteen years of age or older who resided with a provider when childcare occurred outside the WCCC child's home.

June 2002

With the passing of House Bill 1144, **a one-time exemption from full-time participation** was allowed in the WorkFirst program. Recipients who had a child between the ages of four months and 12 months might be exempt only once from full-time participation, however, part-time participation was required, up to 20 hours, until the child reached 12 months. Full-time participation was required with each subsequent child.

Criteria were adopted in June 2002 for **extending eligibility for TANF/SFA clients** beyond the 60-month limit established under PRWORA.

a. The following individuals were exempt from participating in WorkFirst activities:
    i. older caretaker relatives;
    ii. adults with chronic and severe disability including facilitated applicants for SSI or other federal disability benefits;
    iii. clients caring for a child with special needs; and
    iv. clients caring for an adult with disabilities.
b. The following adults were extended beyond the 60-month time limit:
    i. those participating in WorkFirst activities;
    ii. those that were impacted by family violence and participating in approved family violence activities;
    iii. those resolving barriers to employment; and
    iv. those caring for an infant less than four months old.
c. Families beyond the 60-month limit where the adults were not participating in WorkFirst activities received a child safety net payment for only the children's needs.

The Department assigned a protective payee to manage these benefits.

May 2002

The policy of using **Kelly Blue Book online** as the only source to determine a vehicle's value when determining resource eligibility for cash or food assistance benefits was adopted in May 2002. Clients retained the right to provide information from other sources if they disagreed with the value of the vehicle.

April 2002

The income eligibility level for **Working Connections Child Care Program** (WCCC) was decreased from 225% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 200%.

A family's portion of the childcare cost or co-payment also changed in April 2002. For family income from 0 to 82% of the FPL, the co-payment increased from $10 to $15 per month. For families with income over 82% through 137.5% of the FPL, the co-payment increased from $20 to $25 per month. Families with income over 137.5% to 200% of the FPL experienced a $5 per month increase in co-payment following the application of the co-payment formula. The WCCC program grew beyond expectations causing a budget shortfall. The changes were implemented in an attempt to reduce the deficit.

March 2002

The JAS system was migrated to a web enabled system called e-JAS. **E-JAS** provided a 24/7 interactive and collaborative online case management tool that integrated employability screening, evaluation, assessment, case staffing, referrals, case notes, information exchange, support services payments and caseload/management reporting functions for the WorkFirst, Food Stamps Employment and Training, Teen parent barrier removal and Protective Payee programs. E-JAS users expanded from two state agencies - DSHS Community Services Division staff (Case Managers, Social Workers and supervisors) and Employment Security Department (Counselors) – to include the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (WorkFirst staff), Office of Trade and Economic Development Community (Jobs partners), Contractors, and Tribal Staff.

Legislative direction of the **State Supplemental Payment (SSP) program** changed when about $21.3 million of the original $28.9 million maintenance of effort (MOE) was transferred to the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), leaving the Economic Services Administration with approximately $7.6 million for SSP. The final budget bill included specific language regarding how the state should distribute SSP and who would receive payments. Within this change, the Legislature directed ESA to pay SSP to Mandatory Income Level (MIL) (a small number of people who have been receiving SSI continuously since 1974) and SSI recipients with a spouse ineligible for SSI benefits.

February 2002

New federal regulations were implemented replacing income received under Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) income with the **new Workforce Investment Act (WIA**). WIA income was treated the same as JTPA income.

New rules for the earned income of a child were implemented in February 2002. For food assistance and medical programs for families, children, and pregnant individuals, the new rule did not count the earnings of a child if the child

was in school, age seventeen or younger, not married, and not emancipated. For cash assistance, the rule did not count the earnings of a child if the child was in school and met the age and attendance requirements to be considered a dependent child.

January 2002

Economic Services Administration implemented three **No Wrong Door (NWD) start-up sites** to provide a seamless access system for clients receiving services from multiple DSHS administrations and community-based organizations. NWD integrated services through coordinated agency efforts and a single decision point. The start-up sites included one primary site in Seattle, and two volunteer sites in Puyallup and Spokane. All sites focused on long-term TANF recipients (30-60 months on TANF). ESA began expanding NWD to be incorporated into all community services offices by November 2003.

New federal regulations were implemented for **Assistance Unit (AU) composition for Food Stamps**. "Spouse" was now defined as a husband or wife through a legally recognized marriage. The Department no longer considered unmarried people as spouses when they presented themselves to the community as married. Ineligible ABAWDs were now considered ineligible AU members instead of non-household members. Live-in attendants were now optional members of the AU.

Childcare subsidy rates were set at the 58th percentile of the 2000 Market Rate Survey.

December 2001

WASHCAP was implemented in December 2001 on a statewide basis. WASHCAP was a 5-year demonstration project approved by FNS and partnered with SSA.

a. Clients had to be:
   - I. eligible for SSI money;
   - II. at least age 18;
   - III. unemployed; and
   - IV. living alone or purchasing and preparing food separately from others in the household.

b. Client benefits:
   - I. the SSI application and interview with SSA acts as the application and interview for WASHCAP food assistance;
   - II. twenty-four month food assistance certification periods;
   - III. recertified by SSA when SSI was re-determined;
   - IV. all changes must be reported to SSA;
   - V. SSA had to notify DSHS of client changes via the State Data Exchange (SDX) System in an overnight reporting process.

Program administration was easier than the regular food assistance program because of automatic opening and closing features programmed into the ACES system and triggered by the SDX system.

New federal regulations for Food Stamps were implemented for the treatment of the income and resources of certain ineligible members. For drug-related and fleeing felons, all of the client's income, expenses, and resources to the eligible members of the AU were now to be counted. For ineligible ABAWDs, ineligible aliens, and clients ineligible for not providing their social security numbers, all of the client's

resources were also to be counted, as well as a prorated share of the client's income and expenses.

October 2001

A new standard deduction for households with self-employment income was implemented in October 2001. These households were now automatically eligible to receive a business expense deduction of $100. If the household had expenses greater than $100, they were required to itemize and verify these expenses to receive a deduction equal to their expenses.

August 2001

New federal regulations for Food Stamps were implemented for the recoupment of overpayments. With this change administrative overpayments would be collected through an automatic allotment reduction equal to the greater of 10% of the allotment or $10 per month; households not currently receiving food assistance would not have an overpayment established if the claim was less than $125 unless discovered through federal quality control review; and all overpayments had to be established (or disposed of) no later than the last day of the calendar quarter after the quarter in which the overpayment was discovered.

New federal regulations added **flexibility to interview requirements** for all programs. A face-to-face interview would only be required once every 12 months. This face-to-face requirement could be waived if the household applied for medical only or if they met the hardship criteria.

New federal regulations for Food Stamps for **the recertification process** were implemented. In the new regulations, households had up to 30 days after their certification period ended to complete the recertification process. Benefits could be prorated in the first month of the new certification period if the household was late in reapplying for benefits.

New federal regulations for Food Stamps were implemented that **excluded any vehicle** that had an equity value less than $1,500

July 2001

The Division of Child Care and Early Learning (DCCEL) was created in the Economic Services Administration (ESA) in July 2001.

March 2001

In the settlement of the ***Hagen v. DSHS* lawsuit**, the Department used TANF funds for the costs of providing income assistance to children living with adults who were standing in *loco parentis*. Under Washington state law, children living with adults who stood in *loco parentis* constituted eligible families for the purpose of TANF assistance.

October 2000

Categorical eligibility for Food Stamps was expanded to include households that lost eligibility for TANF due to excess earnings (for 24 months after grant termination) and households that received Diversion Cash Assistance (month of receipt and following three months). For these cases, categorical eligibility meant that the household was exempt from the Food Stamp gross income test (130% of Federal Poverty Level) and Food Stamp resource standards.

Eligibility for Additional Requirements – Emergent Needs (TANF, SFA and RCA) was restricted to:

a. require that family must be eligible for ongoing grant;
b. cap benefits at $1,500; and
c. limit eligibility to once every 12 months.

These policy changes were implemented to control AREN program expenditures.

July 2000

In July 2000 the Department began using TANF funds for **children living with legal guardians** (GA-H program) to comply with proviso in 1999 budget bill. GA-H program was folded into the TANF program and ceased to exist as a separate program.

Effective July 14, aliens who were **Permanently Residing (in the USA) Under Color of Law (PRUCOL)** were eligible for State-funded FAP.

June 2000

Employment and training requirements were increased for Food Stamp recipients who were ABAWD. Enhanced tracking mechanisms were implemented to better monitor clients' job search progress.

Changes in federal law were implemented to ensure asylees received refugee cash aid and medical assistance for up to eight months from the date their application for asylum is granted. (Formerly, the eight months of aid were reduced by months of pending asylee status.)

May 2000

On May 1, 2000 the **Family Medical Project initiative** began to reinstate clients who lost benefits when their cash grant ended, between August 1, 1997 and August 31, 1999. The Centralized Medical Unit in Seattle was operational.

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) was implemented statewide. Clients who had a bank account now had the option of having their monthly cash assistance benefits deposited directly into their account.

April 2000

Virtual Integrated Employability Worksheet (VIEW) was created and implemented. VIEW was a TANF screening and evaluation system for WorkFirst case managers to use to identify and document WorkFirst clients' barriers to employment and to make appropriate referrals for services.

A new medical coverage group, **Family Medical Project**, was promoted in ACES. Individuals who were terminated from TANF cash assistance from 8/1/97 through 8/31/99 and were not authorized medical benefits the month following cash termination were reinstated as of May 1, 2000.

March 2000

TANF Early Exit Bonuses were implemented in March 2000 (bonuses were a once-in-a-lifetime $1,000 support service payment to employed TANF clients, with low cash grants, who voluntarily exited TANF). The bonus was paid to cover work expenses and allow clients to "bank" months of TANF use for times of greater need.

January 2000

In January 2000 **TANF intensive services** were implemented statewide.

"**Prospective" income budgeting policy** was implemented for cash and food assistance. Eligibility was now to be determined based on anticipated income, rather than income

received in past months ("retrospective" budgeting).

Overpayments occurring due to reconciliation of retrospectively budgeted income were eliminated.

Upper limit for eligibility for childcare subsidies were changed to 225% of Federal Poverty level (unadjusted) from 175% of Federal Poverty level (adjusted).

Reduction in co-payment formula for families using subsidized childcare, particularly those with income over 135% Federal Poverty Level (unadjusted).

November 1999

An overall childcare eligibility increase to families with gross incomes at or below 225% of the Federal Poverty Level was authorized in November 1999.

The Department began phasing in **the intensive services model**, which provided DSHS social worker assessments, collaboratively developed Individual Responsibility Plans (IRP) and bundled services for the harder-to-employ. The model required more frequent use of employability evaluations to determine which participants might benefit from intensive services.

Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) was implemented statewide. Cash and food assistance benefits were now issued using the Quest card.

October 1999

The Limited English Proficiency (LEP) pathway was implemented statewide (i.e., Phase Two).

The participation report in the JAS management information system was changed to collect more information about those who are receiving alternative services and redefine what counts as participating in the WorkFirst program.

The Children with Special Needs Initiative statewide was implemented (i.e., Phase Two).

September 1999

The General Assistance Supported Employment Project added a pilot site at the King Eastside CSO.

The Division of Child Support (DCS) was awarded a federal grant to develop an **Internet-based lien registry**. State and local government agencies and private businesses would be able to check if a claimant owes a child support debt and voluntarily notify DCS.

August 1999

Deprivation due to absence, incapacity, death, or unemployment of a parent was eliminated by Engrossed Senate Bill (ESB) 5798, effective July 25, 1999. Associated qualifying parent requirements were eliminated.

The 185% of Need Test was eliminated.

The Striker provision—a person on strike on the last day of the month was retroactively ineligible to the first of the month and an overpayment established—was eliminated.

The guidelines for support services were simplified and the upper limit was increased for how much support services a client could receive.

Phase I of the WorkFirst Children with Special Needs Initiative was implemented (phasing in

services for WorkFirst clients raising children with special needs).

Age limits were expanded for children receiving TANF/SFA/GAH based on school participation.

SFA eligibility was expanded to pregnant individuals who are ineligible for TANF due to a conviction for a drug-related felony or misrepresentation of residence.

ESA field staff began an **audit of all TANF cash terminations** to determine if medical benefits should continue. An agreement was reached between MAA and Columbia Legal Services to reinstate medical benefits to individuals who exited TANF from August 1, 1997 through August 31, 1999 and were not authorized medical benefits the month following termination of their cash assistance. In addition to audits, several enhancements to the Automated Client Eligibility System (ACES) were initiated to ensure clients eligible for continued medical benefits received them

July 1999

The Washington Telephone Assistance Program (WTAP) client threshold was reduced from $7.50 to $4.00.

State law changed **WorkFirst participation exemption criteria** from parents with a child less than 12 months of age to parents with a child less than three months of age. It established the Pregnancy-to-Employment pathway to meet the parenting and employment needs of parents with infants, who were no longer exempt from WorkFirst participation, and former GA-S participants, who had been moved into the TANF program.

CEAP funds were transferred to the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development (DCTED) as part of a plan to deal with homeless issues and settle the "Homeless Lawsuit." CEAP eligibility was limited to clients who were not eligible for any other cash assistance program.

The **cap for Additional Requirements-Emergent Need (AREN)** payments was **removed**.

The TANF eligibility review cycle was decreased from twelve to six months in order to transition cases to Prospective Budgeting.

FAP eligibility was expanded to non-citizens legally admitted into the country in order to escape domestic violence.

The **Region 5 SSI Facilitation Project** was completed.

Working Connections Child Care began requiring criminal background checks for exempt providers, i.e., providers that either provided childcare for a child in the child's own home or were a close relative of the child.

June 1999

Phase One implementation of Children with Special Needs Initiative began.

Working Connections Automated Program (WCAP) pilot began.

Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) began in Region 1.

SSA On-Line Access (SOLQ) statewide through ACES was implemented.

The Community Jobs Program statewide was implemented and the earnings disregard was changed from 20% to 50%.

May 1999

Face-to-face contact with WorkFirst participants in sanction status for more than three months was now required.

Region 5 SSI Facilitation Project started looking at long-term GAU cases and testing ways of shortening the time between GAU approval and the filing of the SSI application.

The first phase of Limited English Proficiency Pathway contracts became effective.

GA-S clients were folded into the WorkFirst program and become subject to TANF 60-month time limit and work requirements.

Requirements for post-employment services in the Washington Administrative Code were established.

Hourly requirements for college work study were changed from 20 to 16 hours a week for a deferral from job search.

New regulations clarified that **mandatory WorkFirst participants** might be required to participate for up to 40 hours a week in working, looking for work or preparing for work in the Washington Administrative Code (WAC).

On May 1, 1999 **the Family Medical Project initiative** began to reinstate clients who had lost benefits when their cash grant ended between August 1, 1997 and August 31, 1999. The Centralized Medical Unit in Seattle became operational.

April 1999

The **General Assistance Supported Employment Project** added pilot sites at the Vancouver and Spokane Southwest CSOs.

March 1999

The **Project Access** pilot started in King County. Using a $36,000 grant from Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC), providing community services voicemail to the homeless and local telephone service in community service sites such as shelters and food distribution centers.

The "Most Wanted" Internet website began posting photos of selected persons owing child support debt.

February 1999

The Re-Employ Washington Workers program was established, administered by the Employment Security Department. The program offered enhanced job search activities and bonuses for early re-employment to non-TANF, low-income families.

January 1999

Washington State Minimum Wage increased to $5.70 per hour.

Eligibility for the community jobs program was changed to pay for actual number of hours worked with a 20% earnings disregard and to screen out fewer clients from the program.

November 1998

Based on a change in federal law, **eligibility for federal Food Stamps** to certain minor, elderly, or disabled non-citizens was expanded.

October 1998

The Tribal TANF agreement with the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe was finalized.

September 1998

The Tribal TANF agreement with the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe was finalized.

An overall **childcare rate increase** was authorized.

Special rates for **non-standard hour childcare** were established.

A $250 one-time bonus for **licensed childcare providers** who agree to provide infant care was authorized.

July 1998

The Legislature renewed authorization for **Washington Telephone Assistance Program (WTAP)** for five years (through June 30, 2003).

Fleeing felon disqualification was applied to General Assistance programs. A person is not eligible for General Assistance benefits for any month in which they are fleeing from the law to avoid going to court or jail for a crime considered a felony or for breaking a condition of probation or parole.

April 1998

Complete phase-in of the **Integrated Child Care System** began.

March 1998

The Washington Telephone Assistance Program (WTAP) client threshold was reduced from $9.25 to $7.00.

February 1998

Due to a court injunction, **DSHS stopped enforcing the residency requirement** (grant payment to be made at the previous state of residence level for the first twelve months) for non-immigrants.

November 1997

Residency requirements went into effect for those applying for WorkFirst. Payment was to be made at the previous state of residence level for the first twelve months.

WorkFirst Individual Responsibility Plan was implemented.

TANF recipients were allowed to establish **"Individual Development Accounts."**

DCA became available for TANF-eligible applicants.

Under the **Consolidated Assistance Units** rules, non-sibling children living with the same caretaker were to be placed in the same assistance unit.

WorkFirst self-employment was implemented.

Phase-in of four programs into the **Integrated Child Care System** began.

Quality Assurance TANF data reporting requirements began.

A pilot program was initiated to **eliminate the 100-hour rule** for TANF applicants. The rule was to be waived on an exception to policy basis for one year to determine fiscal impact.

An adult parent of teen parent's child was ineligible for TANF if the Department determined that the living situation was inappropriate.

Childcare subsidy rates were set at 59th percentile of the 1996 Market Rate Survey.

October 1997

The **General Assistance Supported Employment Project** began in Region 4. The pilot project at the Belltown CSO was named "Partnership with Adults for Community Enhancement (PACE)." Recipients, sorted by

physical impairments or mental disorder, were provided contracted job development and placement services and related work supports.

September 1997

As of September 1, 1997 **certain legal immigrants were no longer eligible for federal food stamps**. The state implemented the Food Assistance Program for eligible legal immigrants to receive state-funded food stamps. Eligibility and employment & training requirements were the same as for the federal food stamp program.

The **General Assistance-Unemployable Pilot (GAP)** project in Region 3 ended.

August 1997

Changes to the **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program** were made to complete implementation of P. L. 104-193, the *Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996* (PRWORA), and to begin implementing state welfare reform legislation. The *Washington WorkFirst Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Act* (EHB 3901) was signed into law in April. Changes included:

a. A five-year time limit for cash assistance;
b. Exemption of 50% of gross earned income from consideration when determining benefit level;
c. Elimination of establishment of overpayments due to retrospective budgeting;
d. Elimination of the 100% needs test;
e. Increased allowable equity of $5,000 for a client's automobile;
f. Exemption of client savings accounts of up to $3,000;
g. Pregnant Teen and Teen Parent requirements for education (teen had to be pursuing high school completion or GED) went into effect;
h. Diversion Services provided directly or through referral to other agencies as an alternative to WorkFirst Cash Assistance;
i. A vehicle used to transport a disabled individual was exempt without regard to value;
j. DCS non-cooperation sanction is replaced by 25% grant reduction penalty and determination of DCS non-cooperation to be made by the IV-D agency (under PRWORA, each state must operate a Title IV-D child support program to be eligible for TANF funds);
k. The eligibility review cycle was extended from six to twelve months;
l. Disqualification for drug-related felony conviction was modified to add an exception for clients who participated in or had completed treatment;
m. Temporary disqualification of caretaker relative for failure to make timely report of a child's absence from home;
n. Teen parent requirements for appropriate living situation were amended by state law to further restrict eligibility beyond TANF requirements, a living situation was not appropriate if a minor parent was under age 16 and resided with the adult parent of his/her child ("child rape" situations); and
o. Certain categories of aliens were denied TANF benefits.

The **State-funded cash aid, SFA,** program for legal immigrants was implemented.

The AREN component of TANF was broadened so that clients no longer needed an eviction or

utility shut-off notice in order to qualify for a payment. Also, the AREN payment was no longer limited to the grant payment standard for the family size. The effect was to allow some clients with income (earned or unearned) that exceeded the grant standard to retain eligibility because of the increase in the need (i.e., the payment standard plus the amount requested for AREN).

July 1997

The **License suspension program** (for noncustodial delinquent parents) for Child Support Enforcement was implemented.

Quality Assurance began Phase One implementation of TANF payment accuracy evaluation.

The **100-hour rule** was permanently eliminated for TANF recipients.

May 1997

Changes to the TANF program were made to continue implementation of P. L. 104-194 and requirements under existing state law. Changes included:

a. Disqualification periods for individuals convicted in state court of unlawful practices (welfare fraud);
b. Ten year disqualification for individuals convicted of misrepresenting residence to obtain assistance in two or more states; and
c. Lifetime disqualification for individuals convicted of drug-related felonies

April 1997

The **Naturalization Facilitation** for aged, blind or disabled SSI recipients at risk of losing SSI due to non-citizenship began.

On April 17, Governor Gary Locke signed into law the ***Washington WorkFirst Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Act*** **(TANF) legislation (EHB-3901), which established the WorkFirst Program**. This program replaced the Aid for Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program. The STEP Waiver 48 of 60-Month Time Limit was repealed.

February 1997

As of February 1997, an unmarried minor parent who did not reside in an appropriate living situation, as determined by the DSHS, was ineligible for TANF (implementation of the TANF requirements).

January 1997

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) replaced the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program on January 10, 1997 when the TANF State Plan was submitted to the Department of Health and Human Services. The following TANF program changes were implemented in January as a result of the *Personal Responsibility & Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996* (P. L. 104-193) and existing state law that was no longer superseded by federal law:

a. Upon the request of a law enforcement officer, the DSHS would furnish the address of any TANF recipient who was a fugitive felon or probation or parole violator or had information that was necessary for the conduct of the officer's official duties.

b. Personal property of great sentimental value was exempt without regard to ceiling value.

c. Non-recurring lump sum income in the form of compensatory awards or related

settlements that were not used to repair or replace damaged, destroyed or stolen property or to pay medical bills were treated as resources on the first of the month following receipt. Recipients could reduce the value of the award prior to the first of the month as long as the resource was not transferred for less than adequate consideration.

For lump sums that were not compensatory awards or related settlements, that portion of the award equal to the difference between the $1,000 non-exempt resource ceiling and the client's existing non-exempt resources, would be considered exempt. If the remaining balance of the lump sum was:

i. Less than the payment standard, the amount would be deducted from the recipient's grant.
ii. In excess of one month's grant payment less than two month's payment, the recipient's grant would be suspended.
iii. In excess of two month's payment, the recipient would be ineligible for two months and required to reapply for assistance at the end of the period of ineligibility.

d. Fleeing felons were ineligible for TANF. A person was no longer eligible if fleeing from the law to avoid prosecution or imprisonment or violating a condition of probation or parole.

The shelter deduction was increased from $247 to $250.

The following **Food Stamp Program changes** were the result of the Personal Responsibility & Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (P. L. 104-193):

a. Children 21 years of age or younger living with a parent had to be included in the food stamp household with the parent.
b. Fleeing felons were ineligible for the food stamp program. A person was no longer eligible for the food stamp program when fleeing from the law to avoid going to court or jail for a crime considered a felony and breaking a condition of parole or probation.
c. The 20% work expense deduction from earned income was eliminated when a household failed without good cause to report earnings in a timely manner resulting in an over issuance.
d. Immigrant eligibility changed so that many non-citizens who previously qualified now did not qualify for food stamps. The following non-citizens were eligible:

i. Immigrants residing in the United States who:

a) were veterans honorably discharged for reasons other than alienage,
b) were active-duty personnel of the armed forces,
c) were spouses or unmarried dependents of these veterans or active-duty personnel, or
d) had worked and earned money in 40 qualifying quarters.

ii. For five years after obtaining the designated alien status:

a) Refugees admitted under section 207 of the

Immigration and Nationality Act (INA),

b) Asylees admitted under section 208 of the INA, or

c) Aliens whose deportation had been withheld under section 243(h) of the INA.

The energy disregard for cash grants was eliminated. In the past a part of the cash grant was disregarded as energy assistance. This amount was now being counted as income. The grant remained the same, but each cash assistance household would lose between $25 and $30 in food stamp benefits.

Food stamp households that were late reapplying for food stamp benefits (after the certification period expired), would have the food stamp benefits prorated from the date of application.

High school students age 18 and over would have their earnings counted as income when calculating food stamp benefits.

Food stamp benefits would not increase when income was decreased because of failure to take an action required by a public assistance program.

New penalties were required for the Food Stamp Employment and Training Program and for voluntary quit. They were:

a. One month for the first time and correct the violation,
b. Three months for the second time and correct the violation, and
c. Six months for the third time and correct the violation.

Fraud penalties became stiffer. People who knowingly broke a food stamp rule would be barred from the food stamp program for 12 months for the first offense and 24 months for the second offense.

People found guilty of buying, selling or trading food stamps for illegal drugs would be barred for two years. People convicted of buying, selling or trading food stamps of $500 or more would be barred for life.

People found guilty of giving false information about their identity or where they lived to get duplicate benefits would be barred for 10 years.

ABAWD were eligible for food stamp benefits for no more than three months out of a 36-month period unless working or participating in a work program at least twenty hours a week or participating in a Workfare program.

The definition of a homeless person was revised to limit homelessness to 90 days while temporarily residing in the home of another.

The homeless shelter standard was eliminated.

The SSI state supplement payment standards were increased when the state returned to the "payment level method" for determining the amount of the state supplement. This increase was made in anticipation of a drop in SSI caseload due to 1996 Welfare Reform legislation. However, under *the Balanced Budget Act of 1997*, most recipients would remain on SSI. Therefore, the state changed to the "Total Expenditure Method" for determining the state supplement amount.

November 1996

Governor Mike Lowry presented Washington's proposed **Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) State Plan** for public review and comment.

The ACES On-line Manuals System was implemented statewide. Policy and Procedural manuals as well as the ACES User Manual were now available electronically to all ACES users.

October 1996

The one-year General Assistance-Unemployable (GA-U) pilot (GAP) project began. The Alderwood, Smokey Point, Sky Valley and Everett CSOs established working agreements with community employment services agencies to test an inter-agency assessment tool and determine the services, time and costs needed to help long-term (recipient for six months or more and not suitable to apply for SSI) GA-U recipients become employable.

The vehicle resource limit for the food stamp program was raised from $4,600 to $4,650.

The standard deduction for food stamps was frozen at $134.

August 1996

On August 22, 1996, President Clinton signed the ***Personal Responsibility & Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996*** **(PRWORA**) into law. Title IV of the Social Security Act was re-written to repeal the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program and replace it with the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. The entitlement to public assistance ended, states received block grants and were given flexibility to design their own assistance programs. A five-year lifetime limit on receipt of public assistance was established along with stringent work participation requirements.

July 1996

Administration of most cases for persons receiving long term care services was transferred to **Home and Community Services, Aging and Adult Services**. General Assistance-Unemployable WAC was amended to waive the requirement for medical documentation to establish incapacity for these cases.

May 1996

The definition of student was expanded to include an adult student who has parental control of a child 11 years of age or under when neither the child's natural or adoptive nor stepparent nor the adult's spouse resided in the household.

DSHS received waiver approval from Food and Consumer Services to eliminate the telephone interview for food stamp benefits at the time of the desk review for Aid for Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). A face-to-face interview was to be required every 12 months for the Food Stamp Program.

A new description was added to inaccessible resources – resources are inaccessible if, when sold, the resources would net the household less than one-half of the applicable resource limit.

March 1996

Contract with America Advancement Act of 1996**, P. L. 104-121**, terminated disability benefits to persons receiving Title II benefits when disability is based on drug addiction or alcoholism. Disability benefits were denied to any person filing for benefits based on drug addiction or alcoholism or whose case was adjudicated on or after March 29, 1996.

December 1995

Washington Administrative Code (WAC) was changed effective December 1, 1995 to allow AFDC recipient households the option of including or excluding the child of unmarried parents when the child is living with both parents. This change was made in response to the state court of appeals decision in *Sams v. DSHS*.

Unmarried, two-parent AFDC applicants were offered the opportunity to sign paternity affidavits at the time of financial interview. Those applicants choosing not to complete an affidavit were then to be referred to the Division of Child Support for paternity establishment.

The Food Stamp Standard Deduction was reduced from $138 to $134.

The Garcia decision from the U. S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals was implemented. An intentional program violation disqualification would be implemented the first of the month following the date the person received written notification of the Administrative Disqualification Hearing for both recipients and non-recipients.

October 1995

The Food Stamp Program changed as follows:

a. The Thrifty Food Plan amounts and Basis of Issuance tables were increased.
b. Gross, net and 165% of Income Standards were increased.
c. The standard deduction was increased to $138.
d. The homeless shelter deduction was increased to $143.
e. The maximum shelter deduction was increased to $247.
f. The Standard Utility Allowance increased to $220.
g. The Telephone Standard increased to $29.
h. The vehicle fair market value limit increased to $4,600.

Cooperation with Quality Control (QC) was made an eligibility factor for AFDC. AFDC grants must be terminated for families that refuse to cooperate in the Quality Control review process.

Refugees were eligible for extended Refugee Medical Assistance through the eighth month after entry into the United States, regardless of their Refugee Cash Assistance status

September 1995

Need standards for grant recipients were raised to reflect annual cost of living adjustment. AFDC grant Payment Standards remain unchanged and were now equal to 43.6% of the Need Standards.

August 1995

The Department suspended retrospectively budgeted Food Stamp households for one month when the household received an extra periodic income. Retrospective budgeting meant budgeting income from a past month to determine benefits for a future month, e.g., earned income received in January would be reported to the Department in February and then budgeted against March food stamp benefits.

July 1995

The Department added a **non-heating/non-cooling limited utility allowance**.

A mandatory verification for **household composition, shelter, and utility costs** was added.

The Washington Administrative Code (WAC) was amended, as required by the Legislature, to require the DSHS to **notify the parent with whom a child last resided** when the child was approved for AFDC while living with a nonparent relative. The parent also must be informed of the availability of Family Reconciliation Services and that they have the right to request their child's address. The Department was obligated to disclose the child's address to the parent provided there were no allegations of child abuse or neglect.

Public Law 103-286 exempted payments made to victims of Nazi persecution when determining eligibility and the amount of benefits or services.

As a result of the **Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation Grand Coulee Dam Settlement Act**, funds paid from a trust fund established through the act were disregarded.

Bank accounts jointly owned by AFDC recipients and SSI recipients could be excluded as a resource for AFDC if the account was considered by Social Security Administration Disability Office (SSADO) in determining SSI eligibility.