ESA Program Descriptions

SFY

2025

The Economic Services Administration (ESA) provides a wide range of services through a variety of programs. This chapter provides a brief description of ESA programs, as well as the legal authorization for those programs, funding sources, populations served, eligibility to participate, services provided, and linkages to other programs.

ESA Briefing Book

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ESA Programs

The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) partners with people to access support, care, and resources that help them reach their full potential. Although most ESA clients do not receive a cash grant, they may access other foundational supports such as food assistance, work-related support services, assistance with child support, or medical coverage. A family crisis or change in the economy, even a small one, can force families into situations requiring assistance, whether it is the support of a cash grant, help with child support, or temporary assistance to avoid losing housing. The following pages provide a brief description of ESA programs. In order to learn more about a particular program's caseload, client demographics, expenditures, and program details, please see the corresponding full-length chapter.

Additional Requirements – Emergent Needs (AREN)

Brief Description

AREN provides a cash payment, in addition to the household's Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) or State Family Assistance (SFA) cash grant, to meet emergent housing or utility needs. Benefits may be authorized multiple times in the recipient's lifetime, but the cumulative total cannot exceed $750 in a 12-month period. Payments are issued directly to housing and utility vendors.

Legal Authorization

RCW 74.08.090, Rulemaking Authority Enforcement.

RCW 74.04.050, Department to administer public assistance programs.

Funding Source

General Fund State and General Fund Federal [mixture of TANF federal block grant and state Maintenance of Effort dollars].

Population Served

Pregnant individuals or families with an eligible minor child eligible for TANF or SFA.

Eligibility

Families must:

1. Receive TANF or SFA;
2. Have an emergency housing or utility need; and
3. Have a good reason for not having enough money to pay for housing or utility costs, such as a domestic violence situation.

Services

Payments may be used to:

1. Prevent eviction or foreclosure;
2. Secure housing if homeless or a domestic violence victim;
3. Secure or prevent shut-off of utilities related to health and safety; or
4. Repair damage to a home if it poses a health or safety risk.

Linkages

1. Community or charitable agencies that may help to meet the emergent need.
2. Food banks.
3. Housing shelters or low-income/emergency housing.
4. Other public assistance programs.

Aged, Blind, or Disabled (ABD) Cash Assistance

Brief Description

Provides cash assistance, a referral to the Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) program, and help accessing federal disability benefits to eligible low-income adults who are age 65 or older, blind, or determined likely to meet federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability criteria.

Legal Authorization

Cash assistance is authorized by RCW 74.62.030.

Funding Source

100% General Fund-State (GF-S) cash benefits, which may, in part, be recovered from retroactive payment (Interim Assistance Reimbursement Authorization) when recipients successfully transition to SSI.

Population Served

Adults 18 years of age or older who are aged, blind, or determined likely to meet federal SSI disability criteria pending a final administrative determination of disability by the Social Security Administration.

Eligibility

1. Recipients must meet income and resource limits.
2. Recipients must be age 65 or older, blind, civilly committed to Eastern or Western State Hospitals, or determined likely to meet federal SSI disability criteria based on a verified physical, mental, or intellectual impairment.
3. Recipients must follow through with the SSI application and appeal process as a condition of eligibility.
4. A person is ineligible for ABD when disabled primarily due to a substance use disorder. People who have a substance use disorder, in addition to a separate mental or physical impairment, may qualify for ABD.
5. Recipients who are assessed as in need of treatment by a certified substance use disorder professional are required to participate in substance use disorder treatment as a condition of eligibility.

Services

1. Cash assistance.
2. Referral to the Department of Commerce administered HEN program.
3. SSI Facilitation services to assist clients with the SSI disability application and appeal process.
4. Referral to employment and training services such as Supported Employment through the Foundational Community Supports program and the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation.
5. Case management and other referral services (e.g., veteran's assistance, crisis resolution, etc.).
6. Access to Ongoing Additional Requirements if additional assistance is needed to assist a recipient in continuing to live independently.
7. Access to healthcare through the Medical Care Services (MCS) program for recipients who do not meet requirements to receive federally funded medical assistance.

Linkages

1. Health Care Authority Foundational Community Supports (Supported Employment and Supportive Housing)
2. Health Care Authority (HCA) Eligibility Policy Innovation and Community Support (MCS Medical program)
3. Behavioral Health Organizations
4. Department of Commerce HEN providers
5. Department of Corrections (Transitional Outreach ABD Program)
6. Eastern and Western State Hospitals
7. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
8. Disability Determination Services
9. Social Security Administration
10. Local resources (such as food banks and housing, emergency shelters, etc.)
11. Home and Community Services (e.g. long–term or residential care facilities)
12. Developmental Disability Administration
13. Naturalization assistance services
14. Washington Department of Veterans Affairs
15. Private-practice attorneys who represent ABD recipients in challenging the denial of disability, after the reconsideration stage of the SSI application process

Basic Food - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Brief Description

The SNAP program, known as Food Stamps until 2008, and commonly referred to as Basic Food, provides food assistance to eligible low-income individuals and families.

Legal Authorization

Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, Public Law 110-246 (7 USC 2011-2036).

Funding Source

SNAP food benefits provided to customers are currently financed with 100% federal funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Services (FNS). The state's administrative cost for the program is funded by both federal and state funds.

Population Served

Households with incomes at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The federal government sets the income and resources standards. The income standards are updated on October 1 of each year based on the federal poverty level in effect at the time.

Eligibility

1. Must meet USDA Food and Nutrition Services criteria for financial need.
2. Eligible assistance unit (AU) members must:
    a. Be U.S. citizens or nationals or qualified aliens meeting certain criteria.
    b. Be residents of Washington state.
    c. Meet certain eligibility criteria if on strike.
3. An AU is categorically eligible when:
    a. The household has gross income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level; or
    b. All members receive or are authorized to receive payments or services from one of the following:
        i. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families cash assistance.
        ii. State Family Assistance.
        iii. Diversion Cash Assistance (DCA) (limited to four months after initial DCA issuance).
        iv. Supplemental Security Income.
        v. Aged, Blind, or Disabled cash assistance.
        vi. Refugee Cash Assistance.
4. Elderly persons or persons with disabilities only need to meet the net income standard to be entitled to medical deductions.
5. Persons with disabilities have the value of one vehicle exempted entirely when used for medical transportation.
6. Certain students of higher education, non-exempt Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents failing to meet work requirements, and AUs participating in the food distribution program on or near Indian reservations are not eligible for benefits.
7. The following persons are ineligible for food assistance and must have some of their income and resources considered available to the remaining eligible assistance unit members:
    a. Fugitive felons including probation and parole violators;
    b. Persons failing to attest to citizenship or immigration status; and

c. Persons disqualified for (i) intentional program violation, (ii) failure to provide a Social Security Number, (iii) not participating in work requirements, (iv) or a substantial lottery or gambling win;
d. Persons who are ineligible due to their immigration status.

Services

Basic Food clients receive monthly food benefits via Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) to their Washington EBT Quest card. Food benefits may be used at participating retailers, farmer's markets and farm vendors.

Linkages

1. Nutrition education programs
2. Tribal partners (Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe and others)
3. School lunch programs
4. Low-income housing
5. Food banks
6. Children and family services
7. Community medical centers
8. Senior outreach
9. Charitable agencies
10. Working Family Support

Effective 10-1-2024 through 9-30-2025				
Column A Number of eligible AU members	Column B Maximum Gross Monthly Income	Column C Maximum Net Monthly Income	Column D Maximum Allotment	Column E 165% of the Poverty Level[1]
1	$1,632	$1,255	$292	$2,071
2	$2,215	$1,704	$536	$2,811
3	$2,798	$2152	$768	$3,551
4	$3,380	$2600	$975	$4,290
5	$3,963	$3,049	$1,158	$5,030
6	$4,546	$3,497	$1,390	$5,770
7	$5,129	$3,945	$1,536	$6,510
8	$5,712	$4,394	$1,756	$7,249
Each Additional Member	+$583	+$449	+$220	+$740

Exceptions:

1. If the AU is categorically eligible under WAC 388-414-0001, it does not have to meet the

[1] The 165% FPL standard applies to persons who are both elderly and disabled, and cannot cook their own meals. These persons can be in a separate assistance unit if the other people who would normally be in the AU have combined income at or under the 165% standard. The person's spouse must always be in the AU if living with the client.

gross or net income standards in columns B and C. Staff budget the AU's income to decide the amount of Basic Food the AU will receive.

2. If the AU includes a member who is 60 years of age or older or has a disability, income must be at or below the limit in column C only.
3. If the applicant is 60 years of age or older and cannot buy and cook their own meals because of a permanent disability, staff use column E to decide if the applicant can be a separate AU.
4. If the AU has no income, benefits are issued at the maximum allotment level in Column D based on the number of eligible members in the AU.
5. Categorically eligible AUs with one or two members receive a minimum allotment of $23.00 if eligible for that amount or less.

Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD)[2]

Brief Description

Able Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWDs) are a subset of Basic Food Work Registrants. They are aged 18-54, able to work and do not have a child under 18 in their assistance unit. Those without an exemption must participate in work activities to receive more than three months of benefits over a three-year period. The current three-year period runs from January 2024 through December 2026.

Legal Authorization

Section 6 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, 7 CFR 273.24.

Funding Source

ABAWD is an eligibility requirement for both federal and state funded food assistance.

Population Served

ABAWD individuals receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance or Food Assistance Program for legal immigrants (FAP) benefits.

Eligibility

Qualifying participation activities include:

- Working an average of 20 hours per week or 80 per month.
- Participating in a work program, such as Basic Food Employment and Training (BFET) or FAP BFET, 80 hours per month.
- Participating in a combination of the above for at least 80 hours per month.
- Participating in Workfare; hours to meet participation are determined based on the amount of benefits the household receives.

Individuals may be exempt from participation if they are:

- Pregnant
- Exempt from Work Requirements for non-ABAWD work registrants, such as earning at least 30 times federal minimum wage per week, or $935.25 per month.
- A veteran
- Experiencing homelessness
- Age 24 or younger and in foster care on their 18th birthday
- Living in an area where participation is waived due to high unemployment. Currently the only unwaived county in Washington is King County, less the Muckleshoot reservation.

When a non-exempt ABAWD is not participating in qualifying activities, they are limited to three months of benefits. To requalify before the three-year period ends, they must meet work requirements for a 30-day period or become exempt.

Services

Referrals to qualifying participation options through:

1. BFET
2. Workfare

[2] H.R. 1 revises some of these policies, but those changes were not in effect during SFY 2025

Linkages

1. Community-based organizations
2. Tribal partners
3. Employment Security Department
4. State Board for Community & Technical Colleges
5. Workforce Development Councils, operating under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
6. ORIA contracted providers including community-based employment providers, refugee resettlement agencies, and ethnic community-based organizations

Basic Food - Washington Combined Application Program (WASHCAP)

Brief Description

A simplified food assistance program for certain SSI recipients that delivers food benefits through an automated interface between Social Security Administration and DSHS. A client's application for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) also acts as the application for food benefits. Clients who receive WASHCAP are certified for up to 36 months.

Legal Authorization

7 CFR 273.23 and 7 CFR 273.2 (b), (c), and (k) and 7 CFR 273.9 (d) and 7 CFR 273.10(d) and (e)

Sections 5(e) and 8(c) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.

RCW 74.04.050, 74.04.055, 74.04.057, 74.04.500, 74.04.510, 74.08.090

Funding Source

100% Federal - United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service

Population Served

SSI recipients who:

1. Are at least 18 years old; and
2. Live alone or are considered a single household by the Social Security Administration; or
3. Live with others but buy and cook food separately; and
4. Do not have earned income when they apply for SSI.

Eligibility

Must meet criteria listed in "Population Served" above. Clients are ineligible if they:

1. Live in an institution;
2. Are under age 18;
3. Live with their spouse;
4. Are under age 22 and live with their parents who receive Basic Food benefits;
5. Begin working after they are approved for WASHCAP and have earned income for more than three consecutive months;
6. Live with others and do not buy and cook food separately; or
7. Are ineligible for Basic Food under WAC 388-400-0040.

Services

WASHCAP clients receive monthly food benefits via Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) to their Washington EBT Quest card. Food benefits may be used at participating retailers. They also receive Categorically Eligible medical assistance as SSI recipients. This client population is served by the WASHCAP Central Unit within the Community Services Division.

Linkages

1. Social Security Administration
2. Nutrition education programs
3. Low-income housing
4. Food banks
5. Community medical centers
6. Senior outreach
7. Charitable agencies

8.

Basic Food - Food Assistance Program for Legal Immigrants (FAP)[3]

Brief Description

Provides food assistance for legal immigrants and victims of trafficking who are not eligible for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Legal Authorization

RCW 74.08A.120 Immigrants and victims of human trafficking—food assistance

Funding Source

100% state funded.

Population Served

Legal immigrants ineligible for the federal SNAP program under federal welfare reform enacted in August 1996.

Eligibility

The eligibility rules for FAP are the same as the rules for the federal SNAP program, except for citizenship and immigrant status requirements.

Households can receive a mix of FAP and SNAP benefits depending on the citizenship or immigration status of each person in the home.

Services

Same as for federal SNAP:

Basic Food clients receive monthly food benefits via Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) to their Washington EBT Quest card Food benefits may be used at participating retailers.

The amount of the benefit is determined by size of household and net income.

Linkages

Same as for federal SNAP:

1. Nutrition education programs
2. School lunch programs
3. Low-income housing
4. Food banks
5. Children and family services
6. Community medical centers
7. Senior outreach
8. Charitable agencies
9. Working Family Support

[3] Legal immigrants ineligible for the federal SNAP program under federal welfare reform enacted in August 1996. H.R. 1 revises some of these policies, but those changes were not in effect during SFY 2025.

Transitional Food Assistance (TFA)

Brief Description

Provides stable food assistance to families leaving the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (TANF)/ State Family Assistance (SFA) or Tribal TANF programs while receiving Basic Food, as well as families that receive a $10 Transitional Cash Assistance benefit. TFA is meant to help meet a family's nutritional needs for five months as they transition to economic stability.

Legal Authorization

RCW 74.08A.010 Transitional food assistance

Funding Source

TFA benefits for SNAP recipients are 100% federal-funded from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Services. TFA benefits for Food Assistance Program for legal immigrant recipients are state-funded. Funding of the state's administrative cost for the program includes both federal and state funds.

Population Served

Former TANF/SFA and Tribal TANF program recipients who were simultaneously receiving Basic Food benefits.

Eligibility

Households are eligible for up to five consecutive months of TFA benefits if they meet all the following eligibility requirements:

1. The family was receiving Basic Food when determined no longer eligible for TANF or eligible for Transitional Cash Assistance (TCA) which began July 1, 2022.
2. After the family stops receiving TANF, no other member of the Basic Food assistance unit continues to receive TANF;
3. The family did not move out of Washington state.
4. The family was not in sanction status when TANF ended.
5. When the TANF grant ended, the Basic Food assistance unit (AU) did not become ineligible because:
   a. They were applying for recertification of their Basic Food benefits and refused to cooperate with the application process; or
   b. All members were ineligible for Basic Food for the reasons stated in WAC 388-489-0025(3).
6. There is no limit to the number of times a family may leave TANF and receive transitional food assistance.

Services

Same as for federal SNAP:

1. Basic Food clients receive monthly food benefits via Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) to their Washington EBT Quest card. Food benefits may be used at participating retailers.
2. The TFA benefit amount is based on the regular monthly benefit allotment issued to the Basic Food AU for the last month the AU received TANF or the month the AU qualified for TCA. The last TANF grant payment will not count when the transitional food assistance benefit amount is calculated. For example:
   a. If the Basic Food assistance unit's only income was TANF, the transitional food assistance benefit will be the amount

the household would have received if it had no income.

b. If the Basic Food benefit was calculated using TANF plus income from another source, only the income from the other source is counted when calculating the transitional food assistance amount.

3. TFA benefits are adjusted if:
   a. An assistance unit member is found eligible to receive Basic Food in another assistance unit. Benefits are adjusted by:
      i. Reducing the assistance unit size by the number of persons who left the assistance unit; and
      ii. Removing the income and expenses clearly belonging to the persons who left the assistance unit.
   b. A change to the maximum allotment for Basic Food under WAC 388-478-0060 results in an increase in benefits for Basic Food assistance units.
   c. There is an overpayment of Basic Food benefits and adjustments are deducted from the monthly benefits to repay the overpayment as required in WAC 388-410-0033. This includes:
      i. Starting a new monthly deduction;
      ii. Changing the amount of the monthly deduction; and
      iii. Ending the monthly deduction when the amount owed is paid off.

Linkages

Same as for federal SNAP:

1. Nutrition education programs
2. School lunch programs
3. Low-income housing
4. Food banks
5. Children and family services
6. Community medical centers
7. Senior outreach
8. Charitable agencies
9. Working Family Support

Transitional Cash Assistance (TCA)

Brief Description

TCA is a one-month cash benefit of $10 issued in the final month of Basic Food eligibility when an eligible Basic Food household closes due to income or voluntary termination. Households eligible for TCA are then eligible for Transitional Food Assistance (TFA) for five months as they transition to economic stability.

Legal Authorization

RCW 74.04.680

Funding Source

100% General Fund State

Population Served

Households must meet all of the following criteria:

- Not be receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program at the time of Basic Food closure;
  - Include a child under the age of 18 and/or a child under the age of 21 participating full-time in a secondary school program; and
  - Be receiving a Basic Food benefit greater than zero

Eligibility

Households that include an eligible child are issued a one-time payment of $10 when Basic Food Assistance terminates due to income over the maximum gross monthly income limit or voluntary termination. TCA is automatically calculated for households to receive a one-month cash benefit to maintain their Basic Food benefit for an additional five months.

Services

1. Provides a one-time $10 cash benefit.
2. Recipients qualify for TFA.

Linkages

Same as for federal SNAP:

1. Nutrition education programs
2. School lunch programs
3. Low-income housing
4. Food banks
5. Children and family services
6. Community medical centers
7. Senior outreach
8. Charitable agencies
9. Working Family Support
10. TFA

Basic Food Employment and Training Program (BFET)

Brief Description

The Washington State Basic Food Employment and Training (BFET) program provides supervised job search, job search training, educational services and skills training to federally funded Basic Food recipients who are not recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Refugee Cash Assistance.

Legal Authorization

Section 6 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, 7 CFR 273.7. The Basic Food Program is Washington State's version of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Funding Source

DSHS program administrative structure is funded using 100% federal funds. Contracted providers receive 50% federal funds and use non-federal funds as match. Tribal entities are eligible for 75% federal funds with 25% non-federal funds as match.

Population Served

BFET is provided on a voluntary basis to Basic Food recipients throughout the state who are age 16 or older and seek employment-readiness services. BFET is also the preferred activity for Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents who may need to meet work requirements in order to remain eligible for Basic Food.

Eligibility

1. All federally funded Basic Food program recipients who are not receiving TANF or RCA.
2. Individuals receiving benefits under the state-funded Food Assistance Program are *not* eligible for BFET.

Services

Employment and training services include:

1. Supervised job search
2. Job search training
3. Basic education
4. English Language Education
5. Participant reimbursements
6. Job retention services
7. Life skills
8. Vocational education
9. Work-based learning
10. Self-employment training

Linkages

1. Community-based organizations
2. Tribal partners
3. Employment Security Department
4. State Board for Community & Technical Colleges
5. Workforce Development Councils, operating under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
6. Local Planning Areas
7. ORIA contracted providers including community-based employment providers, refugee resettlement agencies, and ethnic community-based organizations.

Child Support Services

Brief Description

Provides services for the establishment of parentage and/or the establishment, modification and enforcement of child support orders (financial and medical) to help families become or remain self-sufficient.

Legal Authorization

Title IV-D of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 608-669b

45 CFR Volume 2, Chapter III, §§300-399); Chapters 26.23 and 74.20A RCW

Chapter 388-14A WAC

Funding Source

Funded by federal matching funds, state funds, and additional annual federal performance incentive award funding. The basic federal matching rate is 66%.

Source of IV-D funds for SFY 2025:

State funds: $52.3 million (30%).

Federal Funds: $124.7 million (70%)

Population Served

1. Current Assistance: Individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or State Family Assistance (SFA) benefits.
2. Former Assistance: Individuals who, in the past, received benefits under Social Security Administration (SSA) Title IV-A (TANF or AFDC) or SFA.
3. Never Assistance: Individuals who have never received benefits under SSA Title IV-A (TANF or AFDC), SFA, or under Title IV-E (Foster Care) and have made application for Title IV-D services. This population may also include individuals who currently receive or formerly received state-funded services such as state-only medical, foster care, or child care.

Eligibility

Automatic as a condition of receiving a TANF or SFA grant, continuation of services after a TANF or SFA grant ends, intergovernmental referral, or upon application for non-assistance services.

Services

1. Establishment or modification of administrative child support orders.
2. Enforcement or modification/adjustment of court orders for child support.
3. Enforcement of court orders for spousal maintenance or post-secondary education support.
4. Responsible parent-locate services.
5. Review of support orders for modification or adjustment.
6. Enforcement of medical support obligations, including reimbursement of uninsured medical costs.
7. Free genetic testing to assist parents interested in settling the question of the child's biological father and establishment of parentage by means of an Acknowledgment of Parentage.
8. "Payment Services Only" services, under which DCS receives, records, distributes, and disburses payments.

9. Electronic funds transfer/electronic data interchange for employers.
10. Electronic funds transfer and other payment options for noncustodial parents.
11. Electronic funds transfer and other disbursement options for custodial parents.
12. Tribal support services.
13. Employer information and assistance.
14. Cooperation with the IV-D agencies of other governments, including other states, other countries and Indian tribes.
15. Referral for welfare to work services in conjunction with other parts of DSHS, the Employment Security Department (ESD), and private contractors.
16. Referral to the prosecuting attorney for establishment of paternity or parentage.
17. Referral to the prosecuting attorney for contempt proceedings.
18. Other services allowed by the state plan and applicable state and federal law.

Linkages

1. TANF/WorkFirst
2. Courts
3. Prosecuting Attorneys
4. Community Services Offices (CSOs)
5. Tribal Partners
6. Recognized American Indian Organizations
7. Office of Administrative Hearings
8. Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF)
9. DSHS Division of Finance and Financial Recovery
10. Washington State Support Registry
11. Department of Early Learning
12. DSHS Office of Indian Policy
13. Department of Health
14. Department of Corrections
15. Employment Security Department
16. Department of Labor and Industries
17. Department of Revenue
18. Department of Licensing
19. Department of Veterans Affairs
20. Internal Revenue Service
21. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
22. U.S. Department of Justice
23. U.S. Citizenship and Immigrations Services
24. U.S. Department of Defense
25. Hospitals
26. Community-based organizations

Consolidated Emergency Assistance Program (CEAP) and Disaster Cash Assistance Program (DCAP[4])

Brief Description

CEAP provides benefits to alleviate emergent conditions resulting from insufficient income and resources to provide for food, shelter, clothing, medical care, or other necessary items. Benefits may be authorized for 30 consecutive days only in any consecutive 12-month period.

DCAP is a cash benefit program made available when an emergency or disaster is declared by the Governor. It is designed to provide cash assistance to individuals and families who are impacted by an emergency or disaster and do not have the money to meet their basic needs.[5] Households must have a specific need for food, shelter, clothing, medical care, or other necessary items. Benefits may be authorized for 30 consecutive days in any consecutive 12-month period, or monthly as directed by the governor's emergency proclamation.

Legal Authorization

RCW 74.04.660, Family Emergency Assistance Program

Funding Source

100% General Fund state (Non-TANF MOE). Federal emergency assistance funds may be sought to supplement state funds appropriated for the operation of DCAP as long as other programs are not adversely affected by the receipt of federal funds.

Population Served

CEAP - Pregnant individuals and families with dependent children who face an emergency and do not have the money to meet their basic needs and do not qualify for other cash programs. This includes families who don't qualify for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (TANF) or State Family Assistance (SFA) cash assistance due to immigration status, sanction, and those who have already received 60 months of TANF/SFA and do not qualify for a time limit extension.

DCAP - In the event of a disaster, declared by the Governor, individuals or families (with or without children) living in the affected area may be eligible if:

- They are not eligible for other cash assistance programs;
- Are not eligible for other benefit programs (e.g., Unemployment Compensation, Veterans Benefits);
- Otherwise meet eligibility requirements.

Eligibility

1. Must be residents of Washington.
2. Must be in emergent need and have no resources to meet that need.
3. Family net income must be less than 90% of the TANF payment standard for a household.

[4] DCAP is paid through CEAP.

[5] Part of the funding for the CEAP programs was transferred to the Department of Commerce (formerly the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development) in SFY 2000.

4. Payment is limited to payment maximums for individual emergent need items or the TANF payment standard, whichever is lower.
5. DCAP activations for natural disasters require that the individual/family live in specified disaster area and may not return to their home.

Services

Provides for specific emergent needs such as food, shelter, clothing, minor medical care, utilities, household maintenance, job-related transportation or clothing, and transportation for a minor, not in foster care, to the home of a relative or approved caregiver.

Linkages

1. Department of Commerce
2. Low–income emergency housing
3. Food banks
4. Charitable agencies
5. Community medical centers
6. Other public assistance programs

Diversion Cash Assistance (DCA)

Brief Description

Provides an emergency cash benefit up to $2,000, limited to a 30-day period every 12 months, to families that meet eligibility criteria for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (TANF)[6] or State Family Assistance (SFA) but do not need ongoing monthly cash assistance.

Legal Authorization

RCW 74.08A.210, Diversion Program – Emergency Assistance

Funding Source

100% General Fund state (TANF MOE).

Population Served

Low-income families with temporary emergent needs who are not likely to need continued assistance if those needs are met.

Eligibility

1. Must meet TANF eligibility criteria but not be receiving TANF.
2. Have or expect to have enough income or resources to support the family for at least 12 months.
3. Cannot have received DCA within the last 12 months.
4. Cannot have an adult in the family who is ineligible for cash assistance for any reason other than one adult receiving SSI in a two-adult family.
5. Cannot be in WorkFirst sanction or child support non-cooperation status.
6. If the family goes on TANF within 12 months of receiving DCA, a prorated amount of the DCA payment must be repaid to the state by monthly deductions equal to 5% of the cash grant.
7. Benefits may be authorized for only 30 days in a 12 consecutive month period.
8. Effective January 1, 2025, the total of all payments in a 30-day period is limited to $2,000 (WAC 388-432-0005).

Services

1. Payments to cover emergent needs for shelter, transportation, childcare, food, medical care, and employment-related expenses.
2. Usually paid directly to vendors.

Linkages

1. Employment
2. Childcare
3. Child support services
4. Medical assistance
5. Food assistance
6. Other services to assist low-income families

[6] See TANF/SFA program description

Domestic Violence Services for Survivors

Brief Description

Provides statewide services through contracts with local community organizations to help survivors of domestic violence and their dependents; provides education and information on domestic violence to local communities; and supports community-based efforts to prevent domestic violence.

Legal Authorization

Authorized by Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) 42 U.S.C. 10404, Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) 42 U.S.C. 10603, RCW 70.123 Shelters for Victims of Domestic Violence, WAC 388-61A Domestic Violence Victim Services and Prevention Efforts

Funding Source

Blended federal and state funding sources and an Interlocal Agreement with the Department of Commerce (VOCA funds).

Population Served

Survivors of domestic violence and their dependents; community groups and individuals interested in learning about domestic violence services and prevention.

Eligibility

Survivors of domestic violence (RCW 70.123.020) are eligible for free and confidential services provided at community-based nonprofits, local governments, and tribes.

Services

Services focus on survivor-centered advocacy that is individually tailored and based on a survivor's self-defined goals. Services typically include, but are not limited to:

Safety planning, crisis intervention, emergency shelter, assistance with finding and retaining safe housing, assistance to address legal, immigration, financial, medial and behavioral health needs, navigating other social and government service systems, transportation and other emergency financial assistance, age-appropriate services for children and youth, culturally and linguistically specific services, information and referral, community education, and prevention activities.

Linkages

1. Community-based domestic violence agencies
2. Culturally and linguistically specific community-based organizations
3. DV victim services programs operated by Tribes/tribal organizations
4. Domestic violence, sexual assault and crime victims coalitions
5. Local law enforcement and prosecution agencies
6. Courts of various jurisdictions
7. Public assistance programs and organizations providing community resources, such as food banks and utility assistance agencies
8. Homelessness services and housing assistance agencies

9. Department of Commerce, Office of Crime Victims Advocacy
10. Department of Health, Gender Based Violence Prevention
11. Department of Children, Youth and Families: Child Protective Services
12. US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Violence Prevention Services
13. US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime
14. Civil legal aid providers
15. Behavioral health treatment providers
16. Local schools
17. Healthcare providers
18. Community groups

Domestic Violence Intervention Treatment Certification (DVIT)

Brief Description

The DVIT program conducts certification for local community organizations and treatment professionals that provide domestic violence perpetrator treatment. The DVIT program monitors and conducts investigations of certified domestic violence perpetrator treatment programs to determine compliance with program standards (WAC 388-60B).

Legal Authorization

RCW 43.20A.735: Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programs and WAC 388-60B: Domestic Violence Perpetrator Treatment Program Standards

Funding Source

The state's administrative cost for the program is funded by state funds. Treatment costs are typically paid by participants, often at sliding-scale rates offered by treatment providers.

Population Served

The DVIT Program serves certified domestic violence perpetrator treatment programs and interested parties who work directly with perpetrator treatment programs.

Eligibility

To obtain initial certification and to re-certify, domestic violence perpetrator treatment programs must submit policies and procedures, letters of support from interested parties, identify evidence-based and promising practices, and adhere to staffing, continuing education, facility, and quality management standards.

Services

The Department certifies and re-certifies (every two years) domestic violence perpetrator treatment programs, conducts on-site reviews and investigations of certified programs, and delivers technical assistance, consultation, and trainings for certified programs and interested parties.

Linkages

1. Domestic violence perpetrator treatment programs
2. Courts of various jurisdictions
3. Probation departments
4. The Department of Children, Youth and Families: Child Protective Services
5. Guardians ad litem
6. Court appointed special advocates
7. Domestic violence victim services programs
8. The Department of Corrections
9. The Department of Health
10. Local law enforcement agencies

Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) Referral Program[7]

Brief Description

Provides a referral to the HEN program, which offers potential access to housing supports and essential needs items (e.g., bus passes and personal care items). Eligibility for HEN assistance is determined by the Department of Commerce through a network of local grantees.

Legal Authorization

Authorized by RCW 74.04.805

Funding Source

Incapacity examinations used by the Department to determine HEN Referral eligibility are 100% General Fund-State (GF-S)

Population Served

Adults 18-64 years of age who are unable to work for at least 90 days due to a behavioral health or physical incapacity.

Eligibility

1. Recipients must meet income and resource limits.
2. Recipients must be unable to work for at least 90 days due to a mental incapacity, physical incapacity, or substance use disorder.
3. Recipients who are assessed as in need of treatment by a certified substance use disorder professional are required to participate in participate in substance use disorder treatment as a condition of eligibility.
4. Aged, Blind, or Disabled recipients.
5. Pregnant Women Assistance recipients.

Services

1. Referral to the Department of Commerce administered HEN program.
2. Case management, coaching and other referral services (e.g. veteran's assistance, crisis resolution, etc.).
3. Access to healthcare through the Medical Care Services (MCS) program for recipients who do not meet requirements to receive federally funded medical assistance.
4. Access to Ongoing Additional Requirements if additional assistance is needed to assist a recipient in continuing to live independently.

Linkages

1. Department of Commerce HEN providers
2. Health Care Authority Foundational Community Supports (Supported Employment and Supportive Housing)
3. Behavioral Health Organizations
4. Washington Department of Veterans Affairs
5. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
6. Local resources (such as food banks, emergency shelter, housing, etc.)
7. Health Care Authority Eligibility Policy Innovation and Community Support (MCS Medical program)

[7] During the 2013 legislative session, the Legislature passed Substitute House Bill 2069, which created the HEN Referral program effective January 1, 2014. Up until that point, potential HEN eligibility was linked to the Medical Care Services (MCS) program

Medical Assistance Programs

Brief Description

Includes state and federally funded medical assistance programs providing health care coverage to individuals who are refugees, Medicare recipients, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients, individuals who are age 65 or older, blind or have a disability and legally present recipients of Aged, Blind, or Disabled (ABD) cash assistance and Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) Referral programs who are ineligible for Medicaid.

Legal Authorization

Title XIX Social Security Act

Title IV Immigration & Nationality Act

RCW 74.09 Medical care.

Funding Source

Funded by General Fund State and Title 19 federal medical funds

Population Served

Low-income persons with disabilities, refugees, and aged federally or non-federally qualified immigrants.

Eligibility

Eligibility requirements for specific programs vary based on program relatability, such as:

1. Recipients must meet income and resource limits.
2. Be aged 65 or older, blind, or disabled.
3. Meet program citizenship or immigration requirements.
4. Receive Supplemental Security Income or be eligible to receive SSI.
5. Low-income Medicare beneficiaries.
6. Recipients of ABD cash, SFA cash for Survivors of Certain Crimes or HEN Referral who are ineligible for Medicaid due to immigration status.

Services

1. Alien Emergency Medical.
2. SSI Medicaid.
3. SSI-Related Medicaid.
4. Medicare Savings Programs.
5. Refugee Medical Assistance.
6. Medical Care Services.
7. Apple Health Expansion

Linkages

1. DSHS Online Services Application
2. Dental coverage
3. Washington HealthPlanFinder
4. Children and family services
5. Community medical centers
6. Senior outreach
7. Maternity and Infants
8. Health Care Authority Eligibility Policy Innovation and Community Support

Ongoing Additional Requirements (OAR)

Brief Description

Payments to meet a need beyond essential food, clothing, and shelter, necessary to help a person to continue living independently.

Legal Authorization

RCW 74.08.283.

Funding Source

100% General Fund State

Population Served

Recipients of Aged, Blind or Disabled cash assistance, Housing and Essential Needs Referral, Pregnant Woman Assistance, Refugee Cash Assistance, Supplemental Security Income, State Family Assistance, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Eligibility

A person must receive cash benefits or a HEN referral. Social Services Specialists must determine that the person has an essential need for an item or service to continue to live independently.

Services

Cash payments for:

3. Restaurant or home-delivered meals
4. Food for service animals
5. Veterinary care for a service animal
6. Boarding for a service animal
7. Basic telephone service
8. Internet Service
9. Laundry
10. Transportation
11. Medically related items:
    a. Dentures
    b. Optometrist exam
    c. Eyeglasses
    d. Hearing aids

Linkages

1. Community or social services agencies
2. Home and Community Services Offices within DSHS's Home and Community Living Administration
3. Developmental Disabilities Community Services

Pregnant Women Assistance (PWA)

Brief Description

Provides cash assistance and a referral to the Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) program to low-income pregnant individuals who are ineligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (TANF) or State Family Assistance program (SFA) due to the 60-month federal time limits. Eligibility for 24 consecutive months of HEN assistance is determined by the Department of Commerce through a network of local grantees.

Legal Authorization

RCW 74.62.030, RCW 74.04.805

Funding Source

100% General Fund state

Population Served

Pregnant individuals who are ineligible for TANF/SFA due to the 60-month time limit, and do not qualify for time limit extension may be eligible for PWA.

Eligibility

1. Recipients must meet TANF income and resource limits.
2. Recipients who are assessed as in need of treatment by a certified chemical dependency professional are required to participate in substance use disorder treatment as a condition of eligibility.

Services

1. Cash assistance
2. Case management
3. Referral services
4. A referral to the HEN program, which remains valid for 24 consecutive months.
5. Access to Ongoing Additional Requirements if additional assistance is needed to assist a recipient in continuing to live independently.

Linkages

1. Local resources (such as low-income housing and emergency shelter providers, and food banks)
2. Children and family services
3. Community medical centers
4. Charitable organizations

Refugee Cash and Medical Assistance (RCA/RMA)

Brief Description

Provides limited cash assistance for newly arrived refugees and eligible humanitarian immigrants who are single or married individuals and ineligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Provides limited medical assistance for newly arrived refugees and eligible humanitarian immigrants who are ineligible for MAGI Medicaid or Classic Medicaid. The length of time on RCA and RMA is set by the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement. Effective May 5, 2025, RCA and RMA can be provided for up to four months.

Legal Authorization

45 CFR §400.45 – 400.69 and §400.93 – 400.107, Refugee Act of 1980, Public Law 96-212; the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003 (TVPRA), Pub. L. No. 108-193; and the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-118

Funding Source

100% Federal

Population Served

1. People who have recently resettled in Washington state as refugees. Refugees are authorized by the federal government to immigrate to the U.S., because they are unwilling or unable to return to their country of nationality due to persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.
2. Individuals whose immigration status allows them access to refugee benefits under federal law, such as Afghan Humanitarian Parolees and Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees.

Eligibility

1. People with the following U.S. immigration status: refugee, asylee, Cuban/Haitian entrant, Amerasian, certified victims of human trafficking and their eligible family members, Iraqi/Afghan Special Immigrants (SIV), Afghan Humanitarian Parolees (AHP) paroled into the U.S. between July 31, 2021 and September 30, 2023, Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (UHP) paroled into the U.S. between February 24, 2022 and September 30, 2024, spouses and children of AHPs and UHPs paroled after September 30, 2023, and parents or legal guardians of AHPs and UHPs, if determined to be an unaccompanied minor or child, paroled after September 30, 2023.
2. Applicants must meet the financial need criteria and be ineligible for TANF, because they are without dependent children.
3. Applicants for medical assistance must be ineligible for MAGI Medicaid or Classic Medicaid due to income or resources but still meet certain financial need criteria.
4. Unless exempt, adults must register for employment and language training services.
5. Refugees must also provide the name of the refugee resettlement agency which helped to bring them into the U.S.

Services

1. Cash assistance for food, clothing, and shelter.

2. Medical assistance.
3. Access to Ongoing Additional Requirements if additional assistance is needed to assist a recipient in continuing to live independently.

Linkages

1. Refugee resettlement agencies
2. Ethnic community-based organizations
3. Community employment providers
4. State Colleges
5. Low-income housing providers
6. Food banks
7. Community medical centers
8. Charitable agencies
9. Workforce development councils
10. Public health departments
11. Other local agencies

Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance (ORIA)

Brief Description

Provides statewide services through local community partners to help people who are refugees and immigrants achieve economic stability and integration into Washington communities.

Legal Authorization

Refugee Act of 1980, Public Law 96-212; 45 CFR Part 400, RCW 74.08A

Funding Source

Blended federal and state funding sources, from the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program Employment and Training.

Population Served

Refugees, humanitarian entrants, and certain immigrants residing in the U.S.

Eligibility

1. People who have one of the following U.S. immigration statuses: refugee, asylee, Cuban/Haitian entrant, Amerasian, certified victims of human trafficking and their eligible family members, Iraqi/Afghan Special Immigrants and their eligible family members who have had their eligibility for five years or less.
2. People who have special immigration statuses, as specified below.
3. Afghan Humanitarian Parolees (AHP) paroled into the U.S. between July 31, 2021 and September 30, 2023, and Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees (UHP) paroled into the U.S. between February 24, 2022 and September 30, 2024, spouses and children of AHPs and UHPs paroled after September 30, 2023, and parents or legal guardians of AHPs and UHPs, if determined to be an unaccompanied minor or child, paroled after September 30, 2023.
4. Refugees, humanitarian entrants, and certain immigrants residing in the U.S. who are Limited English Proficient and on TANF/SFA or are eligible for Basic Food Employment and Training activities.
5. All lawful permanent residents who are eligible to become U.S. citizens and are receiving public assistance.
6. Refugee minors under age 18 who are unaccompanied refugees, entrants, asylees, or victims of trafficking.

Services

The following ORIA services are provided through contracts with community-based agencies, refugee resettlement agencies, ethnic community-based organizations, public health departments, community and technical colleges, and other state and local agencies:

1. Employment readiness and job placement services.
2. Job skills training.
3. English language training.
4. Refugee Health Screenings and health management services.
5. Comprehensive case management services.
6. Self-sufficiency education workshops.
7. Immigration-Related Legal Services.
8. Services for Older Refugees

9. Refugee children and youth programming.
10. Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM) foster care services.
11. Mental health services.
12. Naturalization services.
13. Housing Stabilization Services

Linkages

1. Community-based employment providers
2. Ethnic community-based organizations
3. Refugee resettlement agencies
4. Public health departments.
5. Community and technical colleges
6. Community-based organizations
7. School Districts
8. Head Start and Early Childhood Education and Assistance (ECEAP) programs
9. Area Agencies on Aging
10. Local employers
11. State and local government agencies
12. Housing Authorities
13. Other organizations providing community resources, such as food banks and utility assistance agencies

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Brief Description

Provides cash assistance to parents/caregivers with children and pregnant individuals to bolster their ability to meet their foundational needs. Persons who are caring for a relative's child, legal guardians, or acting in the place of a parent, are also able to apply for TANF benefits on behalf of these children.

Legal Authorization

Title IV-A of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 602-619)

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Public Law 104-193

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997, Public Law 105-33

The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, Public Law 109-171

The Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, Public Law 118-5

RCW 74.04 (General Provisions Administration)

RCW 74.08 (Eligibility Generally —Standards of Assistance)

RCW 74.08A (Washington WorkFirst/TANF)

RCW 74.12 (TANF), as amended by the Washington TANF Act, ESHB-3901.

Funding Source

Funded by a federal block grant (Title IV-A of the Social Security Act) and a required Maintenance of Effort expenditure of state funds.

Population Served

1. Children under age 18.
2. Children under age 19 attending high school or a GED program full-time.
3. Parents or needy caretaker relatives of these children.
4. Unmarried teen parents under age 18.
5. Pregnant individuals with no other children.

Eligibility

1. The family or assistance unit must include a child (or a pregnant individual with no other children) who is in financial need. The child and one of the parents of unmarried parent's household can be excluded from recipient assistance units at the option of the parents.
2. Family net monthly income may not exceed the payment standard plus authorized additional requirements. Under TANF, the first $500 of the family's gross earnings plus 50% of gross earnings are exempt when determining eligibility and payment amount.
3. Families can own a home, household goods, and up to $12,000 in countable assets. The entire equity value of one vehicle is exempt; equity in additional nonexempt vehicles counts towards the $12,000 asset limit.
4. Teen parents must meet all TANF eligibility requirements, live in an approved living situation, and attend high school. When not living in an approved living situation, the

child of the teen is opened on TANF as a child-only case.

5. Families must be Washington state residents and not living in a public institution (with some exceptions).
6. All eligible family members must have a Social Security Number or cooperate in obtaining one.
7. Families must assign rights to child support and cooperate with the DSHS Division of Child Support by identifying the non-custodial parent of the child(ren) and in obtaining child support with some exceptions.
8. If TANF has not been received within the past thirty days, and will be a mandatory WorkFirst participant once approved, WorkFirst orientation must be completed by the adults before the application is approved.
9. Adults and certain teens must participate in WorkFirst program. There are a few exceptions to participation requirements. If an individual refuses to engage in activities required by the state, the state will apply a penalty in the form of grant reduction. The family's grant may be reduced by one person's share or 40%, whichever is more, and may be terminated after a year of non-compliance.
10. There is no income or resources cap or work participation requirement for non-needy relatives and other non-parent adults applying for or receiving child-only TANF on behalf of needy children.
11. Benefits have a five-year time limit with some exceptions.

Services

1. Cash assistance.
2. WorkFirst services.
3. Additional Requirements-Emergent Need (AREN) payments for special needs, such as obtaining housing or preventing eviction or utility shut-off.
4. SSI Facilitation, providing assistance with completing and monitoring an SSA Title II or Title XVI application.
5. All TANF/SFA households receiving at least a $10 grant with an eligible child under age 3 receive an additional $100 cash payment to assist with diapers and other basic needs for early development.
6. Access to Ongoing Additional Requirements (OAR) if additional assistance is needed to assist a recipient in continuing to live independently.

Linkages

1. Low–income housing
2. Tribal Partners
3. Food banks
4. Children and family services
5. Community medical centers
6. Charitable organizations
7. Childcare assistance (subsidy) through DCYF

State Family Assistance (SFA)

Brief Description

Provides state-funded cash assistance for legal immigrant families, students ages 19 to 20, and pregnant individuals who are ineligible to receive TANF.

Legal Authorization

RCW 74.08A.100, Immigrants-Eligibility

RCW 74.12.035, Additional Eligibility Requirements (Students)

WAC 388-400-0010, Who is eligible for state family assistance?

WAC 388-400-0010, Additional Eligibility, Survivor of certain crimes

Funding Source

100% General Fund State (mix of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ((TANF)) Maintenance of Effort ((MOE)) and non-MOE)

Population Served

1. Immigrants ineligible for TANF because of federal citizenship and alien status eligibility requirements.
2. Survivor of certain crimes as defined by WAC 388-424-0001(4).
3. Children under age 21 who are ineligible for TANF and participating in secondary school or same level of vocational training, or receiving education due to a disability.
4. Needy caretaker relatives of these children.
5. At the discretion of the department, some TANF eligible members may receive SFA rather than TANF if:
    a. They are otherwise eligible for TANF as a parent; and
    b. Another parent in the assistance unit is eligible for TANF or SFA; and they are pregnant or their assistance unit has a child less than twelve months of age

Eligibility

1. Recipients must meet all other TANF eligibility criteria.
2. Immigrants must be:
    a. Qualified aliens ineligible for TANF because of the five–year period of ineligibility; or
    b. Lawfully present non-qualified aliens residing indefinitely in Washington state, and the Department of Homeland Security is not taking steps to enforce their departure.
3. Children ages 19 and 20 who are in high school or a GED program full-time.
4. If SFA has not been received in the past thirty days, and will be a mandatory WorkFirst participant once approved, WorkFirst orientation must be completed before the application can be approved.
5. Like TANF, benefits have a five–year time limit with some exceptions.

Services

1. Cash assistance.
2. SFA recipients are eligible for WorkFirst services.
3. Additional Requirements for Emergent Need payments for special needs, such as rent and utilities if eviction or shut–off notices have been issued.

4. All TANF/SFA households receiving at least a $10 grant with an eligible child under age 3 receive an additional $100 cash payment to assist with diapers and other basic needs for early development.
5. Access to Ongoing Additional Requirements if additional assistance is needed to assist a recipient in continuing to live independently.

Linkages

1. Low–income housing
2. Food banks
3. Children and family services
4. Community medical centers
5. Charitable organizations

WorkFirst

Brief Description

Provides support services and activities to TANF and SFA recipients so they can find and keep jobs to move forward on a pathway to economic stability.

Legal Authorization

Title IV-A of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 602-619), as amended by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Public Law 104-193

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997, Public Law 105-33

The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, Public Law 109-171

The Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, Public Law 118-5

RCW 74.04 (General Provisions Administration)

RCW 74.08 (Eligibility Generally —Standards of Assistance)

RCW 74.08A (Washington WorkFirst/ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ((TANF))

RCW 74.12 (TANF), as amended by the Washington Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Act, ESHB-3901

Funding Source

Funded by a federal block grant (Title IV-A of the Social Security Act) and a TANF required Maintenance of Effort expenditure of state funds.

Population Served

Low-income families with dependent children and pregnant individuals.

Eligibility

TANF/SFA applicants and recipients.

Services

Case Management may include the following:

1. Information about the WorkFirst program.
2. Evaluation and assessment to identify a participant's strengths, needs of their family, participation options, and best pathway to employment.
3. Referrals for services that a family may need including:
   a. Family Planning for every individual.
   b. Equal Access for individuals with a mental, neurological, physical or sensory impairment or other problems that prevent them from program benefits that an unimpaired person would receive.
   c. Family violence.
   d. Learning disabilities.
   e. Substance use disorder.
   f. Mental health services
   g. Pregnant or parenting a child under 24 months.
   h. Home Visiting & Parent Support programs
4. Development of Individual Responsibility Plans.
5. Intensive social services for those with significant issues and needs.
6. Help for pregnant or parenting minors to find a suitable living arrangement and

complete high school, which are both program requirements.

7. Support services that include, but are not limited to, funding for transportation, work clothing, professional fees, and testing.

Services While Working

1. Wage progression and job retention services (e.g., education and training).
2. Re-employment services following job loss.

Services While Looking for Work

1. Employment support services (e.g., help with transportation).
2. Employment services (e.g., job leads, access to resource rooms, phone banks, and job fairs).
3. Job preparation (e.g., employment competencies, work skills assessment, and employment workshops).
4. Part-time language training for limited-English proficient participants in job search.
5. Customized job skills (short-term training course that leads to an available job at an above-average wage).

Services While Preparing for Work

1. Community Jobs, a paid short-term subsidized employment program for participants who may benefit from additional support in securing permanent employment.
2. A varying mixture of subsidized or unpaid work, job search, treatment, education, training, and/or other services.

Linkages

1. Employment Security Department
2. Organizations contracted through the Department of Commerce to support with subsidized employment and other work readiness services
3. Community & Technical Colleges
4. Child care subsidy assistance (Working Connections Child Care) through the Department of Children, Youth and Families
5. Workforce services provided by local Workforce Development Councils, operating under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
6. Tribal TANF programs
   a. Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe – Started October 1998
   b. Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe – Started October 1998
   c. Quinault Indian Nation – Started April 2001
   d. Quileute Tribe – Started May 2001
   e. Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation – Started November 2001
   f. Spokane Tribe of Indians – Started March 2003
   g. South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency (SPIPA), comprised of four tribes: Shoalwater Bay, Nisqually, Skokomish, Squaxin Island, and Puyallup Tribes – Started September 2004
   h. Tulalip Tribes – Started March 2005
   i. Nooksack Tribe – Started May 2005
   j. Lummi Nation - Started July 2007
   k. Upper Skagit Tribe - Started July 2007
7. Community programs
8. ORIA contracted providers including community-based employment providers, community and technical colleges, refugee resettlement agencies and ethnic community-based organizations
9. Local Planning Areas

State Supplemental Payment (SSP)

Brief Description

Provides a state-funded supplemental cash payment to some recipients of federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability benefits in addition to their regular SSI payment.

Legal Authorization

Title XVI of the Social Security Act

20 CFR 416.2095
RCW 74.04.600

Funding Source

100% General Fund State for the supplement

Population Served

SSP is paid to the following populations:

1. Mandatory Income Level (MIL) – persons who received state aged, blind or disabled cash assistance in 1973 and were converted to receiving federal SSI in January 1974.
2. SSI recipients whose spouse is not eligible for SSI in their own right.
3. Developmentally disabled persons who meet Social Security disability criteria.
4. SSI recipients who are aged or blind.
5. Certain foster children receiving SSI.
6. SSI recipients that receive care in a medical institution or residential setting.

Eligibility

1. Must be eligible for SSI as determined by the Social Security Administration and meet the criteria described above.
2. Must meet resource limit of $2,000 for an individual and $3,000 for a married couple (not all resources are counted).

Services

1. The MIL SSP varies by individual and federal requirement.
2. The SSP for the aged, blind, or ineligible spouse is $35.50 per month.
3. Developmentally disabled SSP varies by individual and client need.
4. Foster child SSP varies by individual need.
5. The SSP for an eligible person who is residing in a medical institution is $70 per month.
6. A person eligible for SSI is automatically eligible for Categorically Needy medical coverage.

Linkages

1. Low-income housing
2. Senior citizens centers
3. Ongoing additional requirements
4. Food banks
5. Developmental disability programs
6. Congregate care facilities
7. Adult family homes
8. Nursing homes
9. Medical facilities
10. Mental health centers
11. Other community charitable and social service agencies

SUN Bucks – Summer EBT

Brief Description

Summer EBT, known as SUN Bucks, is a new permanent Child Nutrition Program. Sun Bucks provides $120 in food assistance to school-aged children who lose access to free or reduced-price meals at school during the summer months.

The program is administered by the DSHS in partnership with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).

Legal Authorization

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023

7 CFR §292

RCW 74.04 (General Provisions Administration)

RCW 74.08 (Eligibility Generally —Standards of Assistance)

Funding Source

SUN Bucks administrative expenses are covered by both federal and state 50/50 funding, and benefits are 100% federally funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Services.

Population Served

Children who have lost access to free and reduced-price meals during the summer months following the academic school year.

Eligibility

School-aged children are eligible through automatic enrollment or through an application.

Children may be automatically enrolled in SUN Bucks if, during the school year, they were:

1. Enrolled at a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program (NSLP / SBP) and approved for free or reduced-price meals.
2. Enrolled at a Community Eligibility Provision school and submitted a Family Income Survey or Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application to their school and live in a household with income below 185% Federal Poverty Level (FPL).
3. Ages 8 -18 (the compulsory age for school attendance in Washington state), and a member of a household that receives benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

Families who do not qualify automatically can apply online or by paper application. Eligible children must be enrolled in an NSLP / SBP participating school during the year and live in a household with income below 185% FPL.

SUN Bucks is designed to provide food over the summer period; benefits expire 122 days after issuance.

Services

SUN Bucks recipients receive food benefits via an individual EBT card issued to each eligible child for the designated summer period.

Linkages

1. Food assistance

2. TANF
3. USDA FNS Child Nutrition Programs
4. Early Learning
5. K-12 Education
6. Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.
7. Washington School Districts

United States Repatriation Program

Brief Description

A federal program providing social services and a cash loan for food, housing, medical, or transportation needs to help a U.S. citizen and/or dependent(s) resettle after emergent conditions require the person to return to the U.S.

Legal Authorization

45 CFR Parts 211 and 212.

Funding Source

Initial expenditures are state funds that are reimbursed from federal funds.

Population Served

U.S. citizens and/or their dependent(s) returning from a foreign country.

Eligibility

The U.S. Department of State determines eligibility and authorizes repatriation based on poverty, mental illness, physical illness, or international crisis.

Services

1. Resettlement assistance for up to 90 days after return to the U.S., unless an extension is granted.
2. Cash loan based on the TANF payment standard for household size to pay for food, shelter, medical care and other emergent needs, or travel costs to the state of residence or final destination.
3. Social services to facilitate connection to social and community programs and services to establish access to housing and other ongoing needs.

Linkages

1. Federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
2. Temporary Assistance to Needy Families or other public assistance programs, if eligible
3. Food assistance
4. Division of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) when the repatriate is an unaccompanied minor
5. U.S. State Department and Administration for Children and Families (ACF) for program policy and coordination
6. International Social Services is contracted by ACF to refer eligible people and process claims for reimbursement

Working Family Support (WFS)

Brief Description

The Working Family Support program is a cash program that provides an additional food benefit to qualifying families receiving Basic Food, Food Assistance Program for Legal Immigrants (FAP), or Transitional Food Assistance (TFA) who are working at least 35 hours per week.

Legal Authorization

WAC 388-493-0010.

Funding Source

100% General Fund State

Population Served

Working families with a household income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) that are recipients of Basic Food, FAP, or TFA.

Eligibility

1. Households must be recipients of Basic Food, FAP, or TFA.
2. Receipt of the monthly benefit does not cause the household's countable food assistance income to exceed the 200% FPL.
3. No one in the food assistance unit can be receiving TANF.
4. The household must:
    a. Include a child who is under the age of 18 that is the parent's child through birth or adoption or is their stepchild.
    b. Be residents of Washington State.
    c. Include the qualifying child's parent, their spouse, or their co-parent that is working 35 hours per week and can provide verification of the hours of employment.
5. Program is limited to a maximum of 10,000 households.

Services

Monthly food benefit of up to $10 that can be used on items allowed under Basic Food, FAP, or TFA. This benefit lasts six months and may be extended if the household recertifies and continues to meet the eligibility criteria.

Linkages

1. Nutrition education programs
2. School lunch programs
3. Low-income housing
4. Food banks
5. Children and family services
6. Community medical centers
7. Senior outreach
8. Charitable agencies