

Aged,
Blind or
Disabled
(ABD)

SFY

2023

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

ESA Briefing
Book

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Aged, Blind, or Disabled (ABD) Cash Assistance Program Overview

ABD is a state-funded program for low-income adults who have no dependents and who are age 65 or older, blind, or determined likely to meet SSI disability criteria based on an impairment(s) expected to last at least 12 consecutive months. The ABD program provides cash assistance and a referral to the Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) program¹. The Department of Commerce administers the HEN program and determines eligibility for housing assistance and essential needs items through its network of local providers.

Additional information, including the eligibility criteria, funding sources, and services/benefits provided, is available here.

Highlights

The average number of ABD program clients per month in Washington state was **27,365 in SFY 2023**, up from **21,847 in SFY 2022**. The average monthly cash assistance grant per client was **\$354**. The average monthly ABD clients in SFY 2023 included:

- Aged – 5,291 persons
- Disabled – 949 persons
- Pending SSI – 21,123 persons
- Blind – 2 persons
- Institutionalized – 1 person

TECHNICAL NOTES

DATA SOURCES: Data for this chapter was based on the ESA ACES database as of August 2023.

DATA NOTES:

- Percentages may not add up to expected totals due to rounding.
- The monthly counts of cases and clients for the ABD program are nearly identical. Therefore, only client counts are reported.
- All reports of 10-year client trends reflect the monthly average for each state fiscal year (SFY).

¹ [Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2667](#) expanded eligibility for the Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) program to include recipients of the Aged, Blind, or Disabled (ABD) program effective March 13, 2018.

Selected ABD Program Overview, SFY 2022 and SFY 2023

	SFY 2022	SFY 2023	Change	
	(July 2021-June 2022)	(July 2022-June 2023)		
Average Number of Persons Per Month (Range)	21,847 (20,968 - 23,923)	27,365 (24,459 - 28,717)	25.3% (Increase)	↑
State Population² Age 18 and Over	6,164,228	6,255,743	1.5% (Increase)	↑
Average Monthly Recipients as a Percent of State's Population 18 and Over	0.4%	0.4%	No Change	=
Average Monthly Payment Per Case (Range)³	\$184.76 (\$183.39 - \$185.71)	\$354.02 (\$184.27 - \$388.23)	91.6% (Increase)	↑

²Source: Office of Financial Management (OFM) population estimates

³ Payments not adjusted for refunds. Effective September 1, 2022, the ongoing maximum monthly ABD program payment standards increased to \$417 for a single individual and to \$528 for a married couple. The 2022 Supplemental Operating Budget (Chapter 297, Laws of 2022) includes funding to support this change. The change is the result of a legislative request to better support individuals who are aged, blind, or disabled and to align payment standards with other state cash programs.

ABD Clients, SFY 2014 – 2023



SFY	Monthly Average Clients	SFY	Monthly Average Clients
SFY14	24,268	SFY19	20,281
SFY15	21,904	SFY20	20,429
SFY16	20,499	SFY21	21,522
SFY17	20,064	SFY22	21,847
SFY18	19,694	SFY23	27,365

SFY 2023	Clients	Total Grant Expenditures	Average Payment Per Client
July	24,459	\$4,506,949	\$184.27
August	25,113	\$4,638,166	\$184.69
September	26,163	\$10,038,889	\$383.71
October	26,821	\$10,316,176	\$384.63
November	27,382	\$10,545,329	\$385.12
December	27,974	\$10,860,350	\$388.23
January	28,277	\$10,890,567	\$385.14
February	28,717	\$11,072,912	\$385.59
March	28,361	\$10,815,458	\$381.35
April	28,237	\$10,781,023	\$381.80
May	28,360	\$10,840,844	\$382.26
June	28,520	\$10,946,863	\$383.83
Mo. Avg.	27,365	\$9,687,794	\$354.02
Annual Unduplicated	41,047	\$116,253,524	\$2,832.21

ABD Clients by Program Type, SFY 2023

SFY 2023	ABD Combined					
	Caseload	Aged	Blind	Disabled	Pending SSI	Institutionalized ⁴
July	24,459	4,945	3	543	18,965	3
August	25,113	4,967	1	556	19,587	2
September	26,163	5,084	2	920	20,156	1
October	26,821	5,176	2	973	20,670	0
November	27,382	5,236	2	1,009	21,135	0
December	27,974	5,289	1	1,012	21,672	0
January	28,277	5,315	2	1,042	21,918	0
February	28,717	5,383	1	1,048	22,285	0
March	28,361	5,446	1	1,075	21,839	0
April	28,237	5,499	1	1,078	21,659	0
May	28,360	5,532	1	1,086	21,741	0
June	28,520	5,622	1	1,051	21,846	0
Mo. Avg.	27,365	5,291	2	949	21,123	1

⁴ Effective September 1, 2022, ABD was expanded to individuals between the ages of 21 and 64 who reside in a public mental health institution (e.g. Eastern or Western State Hospital). These newly eligible individuals are reported in the Disabled category within the ABD program.

ABD Clients Exiting to Other Programs, SFY 2023

SFY 2023	Total ABD Clients ⁵	During Subsequent Month							
		Clients Remaining on ABD		Clients Moving from ABD to HEN Referral Program		Clients Moving From ABD to SSI/SSDI		Clients Exiting ABD ⁶	
		# of Clients	Percent	# of Clients	Percent	# of Clients	Percent	# of Clients	Percent
July	24,459	23,639	96.6%	32	0.1%	332	1.4%	456	1.9%
August	25,113	23,989	95.5%	43	0.2%	392	1.6%	689	2.7%
September	26,163	25,268	96.6%	34	0.1%	333	1.3%	528	2.0%
October	26,821	25,807	96.2%	58	0.2%	367	1.4%	589	2.2%
November	27,382	26,473	96.7%	56	0.2%	372	1.4%	481	1.8%
December	27,974	26,770	95.7%	31	0.1%	444	1.6%	729	2.6%
January	28,277	27,169	96.1%	62	0.2%	303	1.1%	743	2.6%
February	28,717	26,501	92.3%	194	0.7%	430	1.5%	1,592	5.5%
March	28,361	26,458	93.3%	119	0.4%	491	1.7%	1,293	4.6%
April	28,237	26,456	93.7%	118	0.4%	486	1.7%	1,177	4.2%
May	28,360	26,856	94.7%	85	0.3%	405	1.4%	1,014	3.6%
June	28,520	26,863	94.2%	113	0.4%	399	1.4%	1,145	4.0%
Mo. Avg.	27,365	26,021	95.1%	79	0.3%	396	1.4%	870	3.2%

⁵ These are clients who received ABD services during the reporting month. Additional columns in the table represent programs the client enrolled/participated in during the subsequent month.

⁶ These are adults who were not enrolled in HEN Referral, SSI/SSDI, or other cash programs in the following month.

ABD Clients by DSHS Region and CSO of Issuance and Residence, June 2023 Snapshot

The following pages detail the ABD clients, June 2023 snapshot, by both the CSO of Issuance and CSO of Residence.

- CSO of Issuance: Based on the location from which benefits were issued. While most benefits are issued through ESA's Community Service Offices (CSO), benefits may be issued by Customer Service Contact Centers (CSCC), Home and Community Service Offices (HCS) within DSHS's Aging and Long-Term Support Administration (ALSA), Developmental Disability Administration (DDA), or Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe (PGST).
- CSO of Residence: Based on the CSO coverage area in which a client lives.

Overview	Office of Issuance		Office of Residence	
	# of Clients	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total
Region 1 CSOs	5,959	20.9%	6,263	22.0%
Region 2 CSOs	12,816	44.9%	13,669	47.9%
Region 3 CSOs	8,322	29.2%	8,582	30.1%
CSCCs	12	<0.1%	N/A	
ALSA (HCS)	1,408	4.9%		
DDA	3	<0.1%		
Tribal Locations	0	0.0%		
Not Reported / Unidentifiable	0	0.0%	6	<0.1%
State Total	28,520	100.0%	28,520	100.0%

Clients by DSHS Region and CSO of Issuance and Residence, June 2023 Snapshot (continued)

Region 1 CSO	CSO of Issuance		CSO of Residence	
	# of Clients	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total
CLARKSTON	89	0.3%	93	0.3%
COLFAX	68	0.2%	75	0.3%
COLVILLE	126	0.4%	133	0.5%
ELLENSBURG	144	0.5%	144	0.5%
GOLDENDALE	73	0.3%	74	0.3%
KENNEWICK	768	2.7%	824	2.9%
MOSES LAKE	490	1.7%	506	1.8%
NEWPORT	63	0.2%	67	0.2%
OKANOGAN	153	0.5%	154	0.5%
REPUBLIC	25	0.1%	23	0.1%
SPOKANE MAPLE	1,355	4.8%	1,475	5.2%
SPOKANE TRENT	1,321	4.6%	1,350	4.7%
SUNNYSIDE	110	0.4%	123	0.4%
TOPPENISH	113	0.4%	120	0.4%
WALLA WALLA	143	0.5%	153	0.5%
WENATCHEE	213	0.7%	224	0.8%
WHITE SALMON	21	0.1%	21	0.1%
YAKIMA	684	2.4%	704	2.5%
Region 1 Total	5,959	20.9%	6,263	22.0%

Clients by DSHS Region and CSO of Issuance and Residence, June 2023 Snapshot (continued)

Region 2 CSO	CSO of Issuance		CSO of Residence	
	# of Clients	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total
ALDERWOOD	824	2.9%	882	3.1%
AUBURN	696	2.4%	751	2.6%
BELLINGHAM	571	2.0%	586	2.1%
BELLTOWN	1,290	4.5%	1,341	4.7%
CAPITOL HILL	753	2.6%	787	2.8%
EVERETT	1,167	4.1%	1,208	4.2%
FEDERAL WAY	510	1.8%	556	1.9%
KING EASTSIDE	973	3.4%	1,104	3.9%
KING NORTH	1,100	3.9%	1,169	4.1%
KING SOUTH	885	3.1%	984	3.5%
MOUNT VERNON	551	1.9%	539	1.9%
OAK HARBOR	165	0.6%	189	0.7%
RAINIER	629	2.2%	694	2.4%
RENTON	670	2.3%	748	2.6%
SKYKOMISH VALLEY	287	1.0%	300	1.1%
SMOKEY POINT	784	2.7%	812	2.8%
WHITE CENTER	961	3.4%	1,019	3.6%
Region 2 Total	12,816	44.9%	13,669	47.9%

Clients by DSHS Region and CSO of Issuance and Residence, June 2023 Snapshot (continued)

Region 3 CSO	CSO of Issuance		CSO of Residence	
	# of Clients	% of State Total	# of Clients	% of State Total
ABERDEEN	546	1.9%	551	1.9%
BREMERTON	764	2.7%	774	2.7%
CHEHALIS	368	1.3%	367	1.3%
COLUMBIA RIVER	1,363	4.8%	1,415	5.0%
FORKS	22	0.1%	24	0.1%
KELSO	614	2.2%	620	2.2%
LAKESWOOD	989	3.5%	1,073	3.8%
LONG BEACH	49	0.2%	50	0.2%
OLYMPIA	821	2.9%	865	3.0%
PIERCE NORTH	709	2.5%	717	2.5%
PIERCE SOUTH	722	2.5%	742	2.6%
PORT ANGELES	282	1.0%	279	1.0%
PORT TOWNSEND	54	0.2%	55	0.2%
PUYALLUP VALLEY	637	2.2%	665	2.3%
SHELTON	290	1.0%	294	1.0%
SOUTH BEND	52	0.2%	52	0.2%
STEVENSON	40	0.1%	39	0.1%
Region 3 Total	8,322	29.2%	8,582	30.1%

ABD Caseload by Customer Service Contact Centers (CSCC) and Other Locations, June 2023 Snapshot

Customer Service Contact Centers (CSCC)	Office of Issuance	
	Clients	% of State Total
CSCC Central Sound	0	0.0%
CSCC Northeast	0	0.0%
CSCC Northwest	0	0.0%
CSCC South Sound	0	0.0%
CSCC Southeast	0	0.0%
CSCC Southwest	0	0.0%
CSCC Virtual Case Management Center	2	<0.1%
CSCC WASHCAP	10	<0.1%
CSCC and WASHCAP Total	12	<0.1%

DDA Locations	Office of Issuance	
	Clients	% of State Total
DDA Behavioral Health Financial Unit	1	<0.1%
DDA Long-Term Care & Special Programs	2	<0.1%
DDA Locations Total	3	<0.1%

Tribal Locations	Office of Issuance	
	Clients	% of State Total
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe (PGST)	0	0.0%

ABD Clients by Home and Community Services Offices (HCS), June 2023 Snapshot

AL TSA Home and Community Service Offices (HCS) – Region 1	HCS of Issuance	
	# of Clients	% of State Total
CLARKSTON HCS	0	0.0%
COLVILLE HCS	1	<0.1%
ELLENSBURG HCS	2	<0.1%
MEDICAL LAKE HCS	163	0.6%
MOSES LAKE HCS	24	0.1%
OKANOGAN HCS	0	0.0%
SPOKANE HCS	43	0.2%
SUNNYSIDE HCS	26	0.1%
TRI-CITIES HCS	43	0.2%
WALLA WALLA HCS	7	<0.1%
WENATCHEE HCS	0	0.0%
YAKIMA HCS	5	<0.1%
Region 1 Total	314	1.1%

AL TSA Home and Community Service Offices (HCS) – Region 2	HCS of Issuance	
	# of Clients	% of State Total
ALDERWOOD HCS	116	0.4%
BELLINGHAM HCS	27	0.1%
EVERETT HCS	72	0.3%
HOLGATE HCS	558	2.0%
MOUNT VERNON HCS	60	0.2%
SMOKEY POINT HCS	0	0.0%
Region 2 Total	833	2.9%

Clients by Home and Community Services Offices (HCS), June 2023 Snapshot (continued)

ALTA Home and Community Service Offices (HCS) – Region 3	HCS of Issuance	
	# of Clients	% of State Total
ABERDEEN HCS	7	<0.1%
BREMERTON HCS	6	<0.1%
CHEHALIS HCS	0	0.0%
KELSO HCS	0	0.0%
OLYMPIA HCS	25	0.1%
PORT ANGELES HCS	0	0.0%
STEILACOOM HCS	90	0.3%
TACOMA HCS	82	0.3%
VANCOUVER HCS	51	0.2%
Region 3 Total	261	0.9%

ABD Clients by County of Residence, June 2023 Snapshot

County	# of Clients	% of Total	County	# of Clients	% of Total
Adams	65	0.2%	Lewis	368	1.3%
Asotin	90	0.3%	Lincoln	32	0.1%
Benton	593	2.1%	Mason	294	1.0%
Chelan	171	0.6%	Okanogan	154	0.5%
Clallam	304	1.1%	Pacific	102	0.4%
Clark	1,414	5.0%	Pend Oreille	67	0.2%
Columbia	12	<0.1%	Pierce	3,197	11.2%
Cowlitz	607	2.1%	San Juan	20	0.1%
Douglas	53	0.2%	Skagit	519	1.8%
Ferry	23	0.1%	Skamania	40	0.1%
Franklin	231	0.8%	Snohomish	3,200	11.2%
Garfield	3	<0.1%	Spokane	2,794	9.8%
Grant	441	1.5%	Stevens	132	0.5%
Grays Harbor	551	1.9%	Thurston	865	3.0%
Island	189	0.7%	Wahkiakum	13	<0.1%
Jefferson	55	0.2%	Walla Walla	141	0.5%
King	9,152	32.1%	Whatcom	586	2.1%
Kitsap	774	2.7%	Whitman	75	0.3%
Kittitas	145	0.5%	Yakima	947	3.3%
Klickitat	95	0.3%	Not Reported/ Unidentifiable	6	<0.1%

	# of Clients	% of Total
State Total	28,520	100.0%

ABD Client Demographics, June 2023 Snapshot

All Clients		
Characteristic	# of Clients	% of Total Clients
Total Clients	28,520	100.0%

All Clients		
Gender	# of Clients	% of Total Clients
Female	13,489	47.3%
Male	15,029	52.7%
Unknown	2	<0.1%

All Clients		
Ethnicity and Race	# of Clients	% of Total Clients
Hispanic or Latino	3,396	11.9%
Not Hispanic or Latino⁷	25,124	88.1%
White	15,634	54.8%
Black/African American	3,410	12.0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	3,618	12.7%
American Indian/Alaska Native	982	3.4%
Two or More Races	573	2.0%
Race Not Reported	907	3.2%

All Clients		
Marital Status	# of Clients	% of Total Clients
Separated	2,091	7.3%
Married	3,068	10.8%
Never Married	13,396	47.0%
Divorced	6,945	24.4%
Widowed	2,949	10.3%
Not Reported/Unidentifiable	71	0.2%

All Clients		
Citizenship Status	# of Clients	% of Total Clients
U.S. Citizen	22,491	78.9%
Resident Noncitizen	5,965	20.9%
U.S. National⁸	62	0.2%
Survivors of Certain Crimes⁹	2	<0.1%
Not Reported/Unidentifiable	0	0.0%

⁷ Includes clients not reporting whether or not they are of Hispanic or Latino origin.

⁸ U.S. National: A national of the United States or a person who, though not a citizen of the United States, owes permanent allegiance to the United States (e.g., persons born in American Samoa or Swains Island).

⁹ Effective July 1, 2022, the Aged, Blind or Disabled (ABD) cash assistance program and the Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) program are available to noncitizens who have been harmed by a crime and have filed or are preparing to file with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services an application for T visa for trafficking victims, U visa for victims of qualifying crimes or asylum status. This population is referred to as survivors of certain crimes (SCCs).

ABD Client Demographics, June 2023 Snapshot (continued)

Characteristic	All Clients	
	# of Clients	% of Total Clients

Homeless Status		
	All Clients	
Homeless ¹⁰	8,388	29.4%

Disability		
	All Clients	
Mental	15,861	55.6%
Physical	7,023	24.6%
Aged ¹¹	5,622	19.7%
Other ¹²	14	<0.1%

Education Status		
	All Clients	
Less than a High School Diploma	6,539	22.9%
High School Graduate or GED	12,937	45.4%
Some College or College Degree	8,110	28.4%
Not Reported/Unidentifiable	934	3.3%

Age		
	All Clients	
Under 18 Years Old	N/A	N/A
18 - 24 Years Old	1,228	4.3%
25 - 34 Years Old	4,038	14.2%
35 - 44 Years Old	6,076	21.3%
45 - 54 Years Old	6,756	23.7%
55 - 64 Years Old	4,798	16.8%
65+ Years Old	5,624	19.7%
Average Age of Clients	49.9 Years	

¹⁰ Homeless is defined (based on the self-reported living arrangement code in ACES) as: homeless without housing, homeless with housing (staying temporarily with family or friends—commonly referred to as "couch surfing"), emergency shelter, or domestic violence shelter.

¹¹ Clients with a program type code of 'A' regardless of the presence of a disability type code.

¹² These are the clients who had a disability determination made by DSHS Division of Disability Determination Services (DDDS).

ABD Client Demographics, June 2023 Snapshot (continued)

Average Length of Stay ¹³	<u>All Clients</u>
Average Length of Stay Since November 2011	28.1 Months
Average Length of Stay on ABD-Pending SSI Since November 2011	23.9 Months
Average Length of Stay on ABD-Aged Since November 2011	42.9 Months
Average Length of Stay on ABD-Blind/ Disabled/ Institutionalized Since November 2011 (Average Number of Months on ABD)	15.8 Months

¹³ Length of Stay is based on cumulative months since November 2011 when the ABD program started.