

Aged, Blind or Disabled Program

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services
Economic Services Administration • Community Services Division

Program Description

The Aged, Blind or Disabled program builds stronger communities by providing support to people who are age 65 or older, blind or determined likely to meet federal Supplemental Security Income disability criteria.

We provide support through:

- **Cash assistance.** ABD provides a maximum monthly cash grant of \$417 to individuals and \$528 to married couples to help meet basic needs. To qualify for an ABD cash grant, a single adult must be in financial need and meet age, blindness or disability criteria.
- **Connections to local resources.** We work together with ABD customers to build connections with local resources, including:
 - Health care services. DSHS contracts and partners with medical doctors and mental health professionals throughout the state to perform evaluation services for ABD customers. Providers supply objective medical evidence necessary for DSHS staff to determine eligibility for the program at application and review.
 - Housing assistance through the Housing and Essential Needs program in partnership with the Department of Commerce and Supportive Housing through Washington's Foundational Community Supports program.
 - Referrals for veteran's assistance in partnership with the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs.
 - Employment and training opportunities with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and FCS Supported Employment providers.
- **Facilitation during the SSI process.** We help ABD customers complete and track SSI applications, obtain medical documentation to support their application and file appeals when appropriate. We connect individuals who may not meet SSI eligibility due to citizenship status with naturalization services.

Highlights in SFY 2022

The Social Security Administration approved approximately 4,165 ABD recipients for Supplemental Security Income benefits.

More information:

Alexis Marx, Chief, Office of Programs
and Policy | Phone: 360.819.0675
Email: Alexis.Marx@dshs.wa.gov



Transforming lives

(9/2023)

ABD Facts

Trends

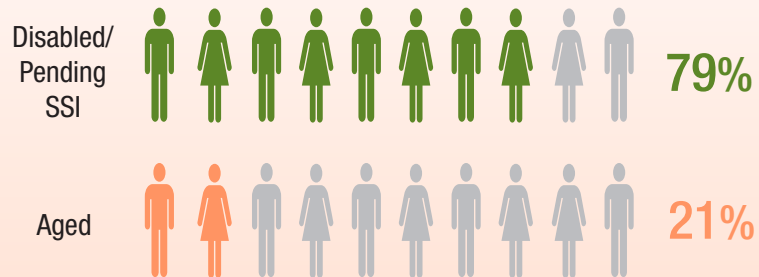
The average number of ABD recipients per month has increased since 2019.

SFY 2019 **20,281**
SFY 2022 **21,847**

Increase

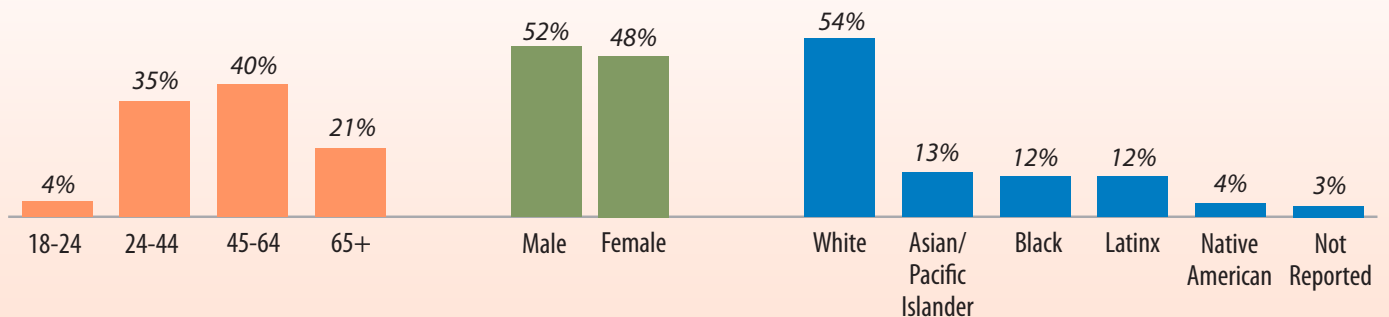
Types of Cases

More than three-quarters of ABD recipients are disabled and awaiting a decision from the Social Security Administration for Supplemental Security Income. Less than one-quarter are aged and not currently eligible for SSI due to citizenship status.



Demographics

The average age of an ABD customer is 50 years old.



Challenges

57%

Have a mental illness

31%

Are experiencing homelessness

Budget

ABD accounted for less than 1% of state spending in the 2021-2023 biennium.

