The Department of Social and Health Services’ Economic Services Administration is a national leader in providing poverty reduction services to nearly 1.9 million people, or one out of every four Washington state residents. We help our clients meet their basic needs and achieve economic independence through cash grants, food and medical assistance, employment-focused services, refugee and immigrant assistance, disability determinations and child support collection.
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<td><strong>ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>State Family Assistance (SFA)</strong></td>
<td>Provides cash grants to families with children and pregnant women who are below income and resource limits. Persons who are caring for a relative's child or guardians who are acting in the place of a parent are also able to apply for TANF on behalf of these children. State Family Assistance provides cash assistance to:  • Families who are lawfully present in the U.S. who do not meet citizenship requirements of TANF,  • Dependent students age 19 to 20,  • Pregnant women who are ineligible to receive TANF, and  • Some two-parent households that include one pregnant parent or a child under the age of 12 months old.</td>
<td>Family’s countable income must fall below established limits. Eligibility is also based on a family’s assets. Value of a family’s home and one car (with equity up to $10,000) is exempt from asset considerations.</td>
<td>TANF Federal Authority PL 109-171 (DRA), Title VII – Human Resources, Subtitle A - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Subsection 7101; PL 104-193 (PRWORA), Title I - Block Grants for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; PL 105-33 +(BBA), Title V - Welfare and Related Provisions; 42 USC 601 &amp; 45 CFR Part 260</td>
<td>$312.7 million: $17.9 million GF-S TANF MOE $294.8 million GF-F TANF</td>
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<td><strong>WorkFirst Employment and Training</strong></td>
<td>Provides job search assistance, employment training, and other activities and supports to TANF/SFA recipients who are mandatory participants in WorkFirst so they can move forward on a pathway to economic stability.</td>
<td>Families must be recipients of TANF or SFA.</td>
<td>Federal Authority PL 104-193 State Authority RCW 74.08A</td>
<td>$138 million: $33.8 million NGF-S $105.1 million GF-F TANF</td>
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¹Unless otherwise noted, caseload data for most programs is sourced from the ESA Briefing Book (SFY 2020) prepared by the ESA Management Accountability and Performance Statistics (EMAPS) unit. Data for the following programs was provided by non-EMAPS staff: U.S. Repatriate Program, Basic Food Employment & Training Services, Basic Food Education & Outreach, and SNAP – Ed (Nutrition Education & Obesity Prevention).
## Overview of Major Statewide Programs and Services

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<td><strong>Diversion Cash Assistance (DCA)</strong></td>
<td>Provides short-term financial assistance for families who have an emergent need and do not wish to receive TANF assistance. DCA recipients are not likely to need continued assistance if their emergent needs are met. Assistance is limited to $1250 for a 30-day period, once every 12 months. DCA allows the applicant to accept or maintain employment and diverts the applicant from TANF and long-term public assistance. If the family goes onto 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 TANF cash grant.</td>
<td>Family must meet TANF eligibility criteria in the month of application.</td>
<td><strong>Federal Authority</strong> PL 104-193 &amp; 42 USC 604</td>
<td><strong>State Authority</strong> RCW 74.08A.210</td>
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<td><strong>Additional Requirements for Emergent Needs (AREN)</strong></td>
<td>Provides short-term cash assistance to meet emergent housing or utility needs for pregnant women or families with an eligible minor child, who receive TANF, SFA or Refugee Cash Assistance. Benefits may be authorized up to a maximum of $750 in a 12-month period.</td>
<td>Family must receive TANF, SFA or RCA.</td>
<td><strong>Federal Authority</strong> 42 USC 604</td>
<td>AREN funds are included in TANF budget; do not have separate AREN budget category Monthly spending is at $50,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Consolidated Emergency Assistance Program (CEAP)</strong></td>
<td>Provides cash grants to needy families who are ineligible for any other program, including families who have stopped receiving a TANF or SFA grant due to WorkFirst sanction, and have a specific emergent need such as shelter, food, clothing, minor medical, utilities, household maintenance or job-related transportation. A family is eligible for CEAP once in 12 months as funding allows.</td>
<td>Families, pregnant women and WorkFirst sanction families who are ineligible for other cash programs and countable income and assets fall below established limits.</td>
<td><strong>Federal Authority</strong> 42 USC 604</td>
<td>$596,000 GF-S</td>
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## Overview of Major Statewide Programs and Services

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<td><strong>CHILD SUPPORT</strong></td>
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<td>Child Support Enforcement</td>
<td>Helps parents contribute to brighter futures for their children through the collection and disbursement of child support, medical enforcement and paternity establishment.</td>
<td>No income or resource criteria. Families who receive TANF and children in foster care automatically receive child support services. Families not receiving TANF who apply for child support services receive them as well as families formerly on TANF.</td>
<td>Federal Authority: Title IV-D of Social Security Act (42 USC 608-669b and 45 CFR Volume 2, Chap. III, 300-399)</td>
<td>State Authority: RCW 26.09; RCW 26.18; RCW 24.21A; RCW 26.23; RCW 26.26; RCW 70.58; RCW 74.20; RCW 74.20A</td>
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<td>Paternity Establishment</td>
<td>Establish paternity by acknowledgment or by court order for all minor children born out of wedlock.</td>
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<td>Federal Authority: 42 USC 654; 42 USC 666; 45 CFR 303.5</td>
<td>State Authority: RCW 26.21A; RCW 26.26; RCW 70.58; RCW 74.20; RCW 74.20A</td>
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## ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS

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<td>Aged, Blind, or Disabled (ABD) Cash Assistance</td>
<td>Provides a cash grant to persons who are age 65 or older, blind or determined likely to meet Social Security Administration disability criteria. Recipients also receive a referral to the Department of Commerce administered Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) program and assistance applying for federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. DSHS receives reimbursement for cash grants paid to ABD recipients who transition to SSI. The program also provides information and referrals to include: veteran’s assistance, vocational rehabilitation, and supported employment through HCA’s Foundational Community Supports.</td>
<td>Countable income and assets must fall below established limits.</td>
<td>RCW Chapter 74.62</td>
<td>$81.5 million GF-S -$18 million Recoveries</td>
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## Overview of Major Statewide Programs and Services

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<td>Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) Referral</td>
<td>Provides a referral for potential housing assistance through the Commerce administered HEN program to individuals unable to work at least 90 days due to a physical or mental incapacity. Recipients of HEN are also eligible to receive essential needs items such as bus passes and personal care items. The program also provides information and referrals to include: veteran's assistance, vocational rehabilitation, and supported employment through HCA's Foundational Community Supports.</td>
<td>Countable income and assets must fall below established limits.</td>
<td>RCW 43.185C.220, RCW Chapter 74.62 - RCW 74.04.805</td>
<td>Department of Commerce</td>
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<td>Pregnant Women Assistance (PWA)</td>
<td>Provides a cash grant and a referral for the Commerce administered Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) program, to individuals who are pregnant and are ineligible for TANF/ SFA benefits for a reason other than failure to cooperate with program requirements.</td>
<td>Countable income and assets must fall below established limits.</td>
<td>RCW Chapter 74.62</td>
<td>$220,000 GF-S</td>
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<td>State Supplemental Payment (SSP)</td>
<td>Provides state funded supplemental monthly payments (SSP) to SSI recipients who: • are grandfathered in, • have an SSI ineligible spouse, • are aged 65 and older, • blind or receiving certain services from the Developmental Disabilities Administration, or • are a foster child receiving specific behavioral services through the Department of Children, Youth and Families who are not eligible for foster care reimbursement under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act.²</td>
<td>Social Security Administration (SSA) determines SSI eligibility. Resource limit of $2,000 for individual and $3,000 for a couple.</td>
<td><strong>Federal Authority</strong> PL 92-603 20 CFR 416 Subpart T <strong>State Authority</strong> RCW 74.04.630</td>
<td>$37.5 million GF-S</td>
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²This type of SSP payment is provided by the Department of Children, Youth and Families.
### Overview of Major Statewide Programs and Services

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<td><strong>Ongoing Additional Requirements (OAR)</strong></td>
<td>Provides a state-funded payment to a person with a need of assistance (beyond food, clothing, and shelter) that is necessary to help them continue to live independently. This benefit is available to clients who are active on one of the following programs: TANF, SFA, PWA, RCA, ABD, or SSI. Payments may assist with restaurant or home-delivered meals, food for a service animal, telephone services, and laundry services. Other essential needs may be requested through the exception to rule process.</td>
<td>Must meet eligibility rules for the appropriate program (e.g. ABD, TANF/SFA, PWA, RCA, or SSI)</td>
<td>RCW 74.04.283</td>
<td>$300,000 GF-S</td>
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<td><strong>Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)</strong></td>
<td>Provides cash grants to individuals or couples without dependents who have recently resettled in Washington communities as refugees, asylees, special immigrants from Iraq or Afghanistan, or other humanitarian immigrants. Typically, recipients can receive cash assistance for a maximum of eight months after they become eligible based on their immigration status and date of arrival.</td>
<td>Same income and resource limits as TANF.</td>
<td>Federal Authority Immigration &amp; Nationality Act, Title IV 8 USC 1522, Refugee Act of 1980, PL 96-212</td>
<td>$2 million GF-F</td>
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| **Refugee and Immigrant Services** | Administers programs and services to people who have resettled in our communities as refugees and immigrants. ESA’s Office or Refugee and Immigrant Assistance (ORIA) contracts with 70 different providers that specialize in offering culturally and linguistically appropriate services, including community-based agencies, refugee resettlement agencies, ethnic community-based organizations, public health and federally qualified health centers, and local government agencies. Programs and services focus on refugee health and wellness, employment and training, immigration assistance and naturalization services, and whole family programs. Whole family programs includes services focused on school aged kids, refugee youth, and older adults. ORIA’s programs and services aim to build strong communities by providing refugees and immigrants the resources they need to thrive. | No income or resource limits for these services. | Federal Authority Refugee Act of 1980, PL 96-212; 45 CFR Part 400 | $33.6 million: $4.7 million GF-S $28.8 million GF-F | 9,709 total clients served in the following ORIA programs:  
- Limited English Proficiency (LEP)  
- Promoting Refugee Integration, Mobility and Empowerment (PRIME)  
- Naturalization programs |

¹ Families with children are eligible for TANF cash assistance.

² During the coronavirus pandemic, the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement authorized states to permit eligible people to receive cash assistance for longer than eight months of assistance up to 18 months. This waiver is currently set to expire on September 30, 2021.
## Overview of Major Statewide Programs and Services

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<td>Naturalization Program</td>
<td>Recipients must be receiving one form of public assistance, including cash, food or medical assistance.</td>
<td>State Authority</td>
<td>$5.1 million GF-S</td>
<td>3,397 unduplicated clients in SFY 2020 (468 clients per month)</td>
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<td>Provides assistance to eligible refugees and immigrants to apply for U.S. citizenship. ESA’s Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance (ORIA) contracts with providers who are recognized by the Department of Justice to provide services that include assistance with completing the citizenship application, English language and civics classes, assistance with fee waiver requests for application fees, and help applying for test exemptions for disabled clients.</td>
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<td>RCW 74.08A.130</td>
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<td><strong>BASIC FOOD PROGRAM</strong></td>
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<td>Basic Food Program (Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP)</td>
<td>Gross income at or below 200% federal poverty level (FPL) for most households. Households that include someone disqualified for an Intentional Program Violation must: • Meet gross income test at 130% FPL. • Meet net income test of 100% FPL. • Have assets below established limits.</td>
<td>Federal Authority</td>
<td>Non-budgeted, non-allotted Administrative costs are included in overall ESA program support budget and matched at 50%.</td>
<td>489,893 households (Households with at least one member receiving federal program benefits. Includes mixed cases.)</td>
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<td>Provides food assistance to low-income families and individuals. Benefits are issued through the electronic benefit transfer (EBT) system and used at participating grocery stores. Benefits are 100% federally funded and administrative costs are federally matched at 50%. Household size and net income determine benefit level.</td>
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<td>State Authority</td>
<td>RCW 74.04.500</td>
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<td>Basic Food for Legal Immigrants (Food Assistance for Legal Immigrants or FAP)</td>
<td>Same as Basic Food.</td>
<td>Federal Authority</td>
<td>$39.7 million GF-S</td>
<td>9,747 households (Households with at least one member receiving state program benefits. Includes mixed cases.)</td>
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<td>Provides food assistance to legal immigrants who are ineligible for the federal Basic Food program. For mixed households of persons eligible for state benefits and others eligible for federal benefits, the program helps “fill the gap” between the federal benefits the household is eligible to receive and the benefits the household would receive if all members were eligible for the federal program.</td>
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<td>Federal Authority</td>
<td>Title 7, CFR Food and Nutrition Act of 2008</td>
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<td><strong>Transitional Food Assistance (TFA)</strong></td>
<td>Provides stable food benefits, for up to five months, to families leaving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), State Family Assistance (SFA), or Tribal TANF cash assistance programs. The benefit amount is based on the Basic Food benefit issued to the family for the last month the household received TANF/SFA. The last TANF grant payment is not counted when the TFA benefit amount is calculated. Households were receiving Basic Food Assistance at the time their TANF/SFA closed, and were not in sanction status at the time of closure.</td>
<td><strong>Federal Authority</strong></td>
<td><strong>State Authority</strong></td>
<td><strong>Non-budgeted, non-allotted</strong> Administrative costs are included in overall ESA program support budget and matched at 50%. 7,025 households</td>
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<td><strong>Basic Food and Employment Training Services (BFET)</strong></td>
<td>Provides education, employment and training services, and employability assessments to Basic Food recipients. Services may include:  - Basic skills and training (e.g., literacy, math, vocational English as second language, high school equivalency preparation, life skills)  - Job readiness and vocational training  - Job search assistance  - Job placement  - Case management  - Retention services, and  - Participant reimbursement (e.g. transportation, child care, hygiene, clothing, etc.) Washington state has a strong record of effectively administering the BFET program. The program is an important part of the state's comprehensive workforce development system and plays a vital role in Washington's two-generation approach, reducing poverty, and increasing prosperity for families. BFET's mission is to transform lives by providing protective factors that build foundations and pathways out of poverty. BFET assists basic food recipients to achieve their human potential by encouraging economic well-being through skill acquisition, education, and gainful employment. All federally funded Basic Food Program recipients¹ who are not receiving TANF or RCA.</td>
<td><strong>Federal Authority</strong></td>
<td><strong>Federal Authority</strong></td>
<td>Program budget for FFY 2021: $25.9 million GF-F 6,004 clients including BFET clients served by the Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Washington is currently operating a statewide BFET program and continues to strategize on how to expand education and training program services in rural and underserved areas. All 34 Washington state community and technical colleges, 47 regular community-based organizations, 12 ORIA community-based organizations provide BFET contracted services.</td>
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¹ Food Assistance for Legal Immigrants (FAP) recipients are not eligible for the BFET program.
## Overview of Major Statewide Programs and Services

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<tr>
<td>Basic Food Education and Assistance (Outreach)</td>
<td>USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service provides federal funding to interested states to finance activities aimed at improving Basic Food participation by eligible households through outreach and education efforts. In Washington state, ESA contracts with public and private nonprofit community organizations to improve awareness of Basic Food for low-income households and assist persons who have difficulty with the application process.</td>
<td>None – for prospective clients.</td>
<td>Federal Authority Section 11(e) (1) (A) of The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008</td>
<td>Program Budget for FFY 2019: $3.8 million GF-S &amp; GF-F</td>
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<td>SNAP – Ed (Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention)</td>
<td>USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service provides federal funding to interested states to finance activities aimed at improving the likelihood that SNAP recipients and other low-income Washington state residents will make healthy choices within a limited budget and choose active lifestyles consistent with the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans and MyPlate.</td>
<td>SNAP participants. Low-income individuals eligible to receive SNAP benefits or other means-tested federal assistance programs. Individuals residing in communities with a significant low-income population.</td>
<td>Federal Authority 7 USC 2020 Sec. 11(f) Nutrition Education; 7 CFR Ch. II, Part 277 Nutrition Education and Training Program</td>
<td>Nutrition Education Program Budget for FFY 2019: $9.6 million 100% federal</td>
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<td>WASHCAP (Washington Combined Application Project)</td>
<td>Provides Basic Food Program benefits to SSI recipients who are single and unemployed. Clients can apply through the Social Security Administration or by sending a simplified application to the centralized WASHCAP unit. One centralized call center handles all WASHCAP clients.</td>
<td>Same as Basic Food.</td>
<td>Federal demonstration project under agreement with SSA and FNS</td>
<td>WASHCAP budget within overall ESA program support budget (Budget Unit M01)</td>
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<td><strong>U.S. Repatriation Program</strong></td>
<td>Provides temporary emergency cash, food, housing, medical and transportation assistance to U.S. citizens and their dependents who have returned or been brought to the United States in cases involving destitution, illness, war, threat of war, invasion or similar crisis, and who are without available resources to return.</td>
<td>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services identifies who qualifies for aid under this program and notifies the state.</td>
<td><strong>Federal Authority</strong> Title XI, Section 1113 of Social Security Act; PL 86-571</td>
<td>$120,000 GF-F</td>
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<td><strong>Working Family Support (WFS)</strong></td>
<td>Provides an additional food benefit of up to $10 to low-income families receiving Basic Food, FAP or Transitional Food Assistance, are working at least 35 hours per week and have a qualifying child within their Basic Food household. Benefits are covered by state funds.</td>
<td>Must be recipients of Basic Food, FAP or Transitional Food Assistance but not receiving TANF.</td>
<td><strong>Federal Authority</strong> PL 104-193 &amp; 42 USC 604 <strong>State Authority</strong> RCW 74.04.050</td>
<td>$1.9 million GF-S</td>
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## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAMS

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<td><strong>Domestic Violence Victim Services</strong></td>
<td>Provides statewide services through local community organizations to help people who are harmed by domestic violence and provides education and information on domestic violence to local communities. Services are provided through contracts with community-based and local government agencies and include: safety planning, crisis intervention and crisis helplines, emergency shelter, individual advocacy, legal advocacy, support groups, emergency transportation assistance, community education and prevention activities, and age appropriate supportive services and resources for children and youth residing in emergency shelter.</td>
<td>None</td>
<td><strong>Federal Authority</strong> Federal Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) 42 U.S.C. 10404, Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) 42 U.S.C. 10603</td>
<td>$14.6 million GF-S $2.4 million Domestic Violence Prevention Account (DVPA)</td>
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<td><strong>Domestic Violence Intervention Treatment (DVT)</strong></td>
<td>Conducts certification for local community organizations and treatment professionals that provide domestic violence perpetrator treatment. The DVT program monitors and conducts investigations of certified domestic violence perpetrator treatment programs to determine compliance with program standards outlined in WAC 388-60B.</td>
<td>None</td>
<td><strong>State Authority</strong> RCW 70.123</td>
<td>$4.1 million FFY 2018 &amp; 2019 FVPSA grant award</td>
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¹ Approximate
### MEDICAL PROGRAMS

| Medical Care Services | Provides state-funded health care coverage to ABD and HEN Referral recipients who are legally in Washington state but ineligible for Medicaid due to their immigration status. | Countable income and assets must fall below established limits. | RCW 41.05.021  
RCW 74.09.035 | Health Care Authority | 2,058 clients |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Alien Emergency Medical (AEM) | Provides partial Medicaid coverage for immigrants who would qualify for full-scope Medicaid except for their alien status. Coverage is limited to emergency medical conditions. ESA determines AEM eligibility for individuals age 65 and older; eligibility for all other AEM cases is determined by the state’s Health Care Authority. | Income eligibility is based on rules for related full-scope Medicaid programs (e.g., coverage for families, infants, children, pregnant women and aged, blind or disabled). | **Federal Authority**  
42 U.S.C. Subchapter XIX  
State Authority  
Chapter 74.09 & 74.09A RCW | Health Care Authority | 155 clients |
| SSI Medicaid | Provides Medicaid coverage for persons who are aged, blind or have a disability who receive SSI or who are otherwise deemed to be eligible for SSI Medicaid under federal law. | SSA determines eligibility for SSI using income rules based on Title XVI of the Social Security Act. | **Federal Authority**  
Title XIX of the Social Security Act  
42 CFR Chapter 430  
State Authority  
RCW 74.04 and 74.09 | Health Care Authority | 110,739 clients |
| SSI-related Medicaid | Low-income aged, blind or disabled persons who do not receive SSI. | Persons with countable income that would qualify them for SSI ($783 for a single person) are Categorically Needy Medicaid. Those with higher incomes are Medically Needy and may be responsible for medical costs equal to their excess income (spenddown). | **Federal Authority**  
Section 1902 of the Social Security Act  
42 U.S.C. 1396a  
State Authority  
RCW 74.04 and 74.09 | Health Care Authority | 25,446 clients |
### Overview of Major Statewide Programs and Services

#### NON-GRAIN MEDICAL PROGRAMS

|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Medicare Savings Programs (MSP) | Pays Medicare premiums, coinsurance and deductibles for low-income Medicare beneficiaries. | Income limits vary depending on program from 100% FPL to 200% FPL. | Federal Authority  
Section 1905 of the Social Security Act  
42 U.S.C. 1396d  
State Authority  
RCW 74.04 and 74.09 | Health Care Authority | 188,582 clients |
| Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) | Provides medical coverage for refugees ineligible for MAGI Medicaid due to being over income.  
Eligibility ends after the first eight months of residency in the United States. | Categorically needy coverage is available to persons with income that does not exceed 200% FPL. | Federal Authority  
Immigration & Nationality Act, Title IV 8 USC 1522, Refugee Act of 1980, PL 96-212 | Health Care Authority | 5 clients |
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 small amount of cash each month to help individuals meet their basic needs. The average benefit for an individual receiving ABD is $5.65 per day. To qualify for an ABD cash grant, a single adult must be in financial need with countable income below $197 per month (18.5% of the federal poverty level).

- **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 Washington state to perform evaluation services for ABD customers. These 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.
  - 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. For individuals who may not meet SSI eligibility due to citizenship status, we also assist with connections to naturalization services.

Highlights in SFY 2020

The Social Security Administration approved approximately 4,046 ABD customers for Supplemental Security Income and/or Social Security Disability Insurance benefits. We also helped more than 13,139 ABD customers file for SSI.
**ABD Facts**

**Trends**
The average number of ABD customers per month has decreased since 2013.

FY 2013: **22,865**  
FY 2020: **20,429**  

**Decrease**

**Types of Cases**
More than three-quarters of people receiving ABD 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.

- **Disabled/Pending SSI**: 78%
- **Aged**: 22%

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24-44</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-64</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinx</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Reported</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Average Benefit**
The average benefit for an individual receiving ABD.

$5.65 per day

**Challenges**

- **58%** Have a mental illness
- **43%** Are experiencing homelessness

**Budget**
ABD accounted for less than 1% of state spending in the 2019-2021 biennium.

Share of spending on ABD = 0.10%
Program Description

The Basic Food program provides assistance for individuals and families to purchase and access nutritious foods, which plays a critical role in supporting our communities in reaching their full potential. Basic Food refers to a combination of Washington state’s federally funded Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the state-funded Food Assistance Program, which is for legal immigrants who do not yet qualify for federal SNAP benefits.

We provide tools and resources to promote well-being through:

- **Access to healthy foods.** Healthy food is foundational to our well-being and without it we struggle to fully contribute to our community. Basic Food provides monthly food benefits to ensure children and adults have a full belly and access to nutritional foods that help us through all stages of life by ensuring healthy brain development, greater school attendance, increased health and social inclusion. In order to qualify for Basic Food, a household’s earnings must fall below 200% of the federal poverty level ($52,400 for a family of three). The average daily benefit for a household receiving Basic Food is $8.12 per day.

- **Outreach and education.** In addition to food assistance, the program conducts statewide educational efforts to spread healthy eating awareness and increase physical activities through SNAP-Education. When our community members have the tools we all need to thrive, including knowledge about fresh, healthy food, resource management and food safety, they can create lifelong habits that build a solid foundation for themselves and their families.

- **Connection to employment and training opportunities.** The Basic Food Employment and Training program is a partnership between DSHS, community-based organizations and the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges. BFET gives youth and adults the opportunity to make use of their gifts and talents to increase their skills and expertise so they have a broader range of options for future employment.

**Highlights**

- **During the months of March through June 2020, the average monthly food benefit increased by $214.38** as a result of federal Emergency Allotment increases related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **The BFET program operates in 36 of 39 counties in Washington state** and is one of the most robust employment and training programs in the country.
**Basic Food Facts**

**Trends**
The number of people served by Basic Food has decreased from FY 2019 to FY 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of People Served</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 2019</td>
<td>841,927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2020</td>
<td>838,550</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Meeting the Need**
The percent of households receiving Basic Food increased during the last recession and decreased as the economy continued to improve. For every 100 households living below 200% of the federal poverty line, 48 were served in 2020.

**Characteristics of People Served**
Adults, females and people who racially identify as white make up the majority of the caseload.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinx</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiracial</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Average Benefit**
The average benefit for a household receiving Basic Food.

- **$8.12** per day

**Receipt of Other Benefits**
73% of people receiving Basic Food do not receive any other cash benefit.

**Budget**
Basic Food accounted for less than 1% of state spending in the 2019-2021 biennium.

- **Share of spending on Basic Food = 0.09%**
Program Description

The Department of Social and Health Services Economic Services Administration’s Community Services Division supports government-to-government relationships with Washington tribes. CSD focuses on recognizing tribal sovereignty in developing and delivering programs and services consistent with the Centennial Accord and DSHS Administrative Policy 7.01, American Indian Policy.

The CSD Tribal Relations Program Administrator serves as the lead resource regarding Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families programs and provides technical assistance and guidance to state and tribal leadership and staff. CSD shares information and collaborates with tribes and Recognized American Indian Organizations at the Indian Policy Advisory Committee, the ESA IPAC subcommittee and DSHS Administrative Policy 7.01 and other meetings. CSD partners with all federally recognized tribes and RAIOs in Washington state to share information, discuss and resolve issues, provide training and coordinate services.

CSD has oversight and program development responsibilities for the state’s TANF program and other public assistance and related employment and training programs. CSD works closely with 11 TANF programs (involving 15 federally recognized tribes). Tribal TANF programs are designed to address the specific and unique needs of American Indian and Alaskan Native families within their service areas. Washington provides a fair and equitable share of State Maintenance of Effort, or MOE, funds to Tribal TANF programs per RCW 74.08A.040. CSD negotiates Intergovernmental TANF Agreements, Operating Agreements and Data Share Agreements with Tribal TANF programs.

Highlights

• In November 2020, CSD submitted a comprehensive plan to the United States Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Services for approval to expand a demonstration project that would allow interested tribes to determine SNAP eligibility. CSD recognizes that tribes are in the unique position to better serve tribal members in their area and that some community members face barriers in accessing SNAP services, but could access those services if offered by a tribal program. The plan follows the successful and ongoing demonstration project that started in 2009 with the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe.

• In 2021, CSD established a project team to develop a process and agreement for CSD staff to issue Electronic Benefits Transfer cards at selected tribal outstations. This project is anticipated to move forward once CSD staff return to in-person services following the Governor’s Roadmap to Recovery plan.

Tribal TANF Programs

- Colville Confederated Tribes (2001)
- Quinault Indian Nation (2001)
- Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe (1998)
- Lummi Nation (2007)
- Nooksack Indian Tribe (2005)
- Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe (1998)
- Spokane Tribe of Indians (2003)
- South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency: Nisqually, Squaxin Island, Skokomish (2004), Shoalwater Bay (2019) and tribal members on the Puyallup Reservation
- Quileute Nation (2001)
- Tulalip Tribes (2005)
- Upper Skagit Indian Tribe (2007)

More information:
Mary Anderson, Tribal Relations Program Administrator
Phone: 360.628.6442
Email: mary.anderson@dshs.wa.gov
The Washington State Child Support Program

- Helps families weather the challenges of child rearing through the collection and distribution of more than $695,311,638 for SFY 20 in child support annually.
- Partners with parents to address the changing needs of families by providing resources to modify child support orders.
- Provides support for families who are rebuilding after experiencing one of life’s storms with referrals to resources for services inside and outside DSHS.

DCS contributes to the well-being of our children, parents and communities by:

- **Providing as much as 63% of the income of very poor families.** Stable family incomes create strong foundations for children as they grow, allowing them to realize their full potential.
- **Connecting parents** who need living-wage jobs to training programs and other resources.
- **Improving our comprehensive family-centered approach** by investing in innovative practices such as using analytics to most effectively handle cases, using better interviewing techniques and focusing on the needs of each family member.

Other innovations include:

- Working to ensure consistent month-to-month payments from parents.
- Leveraging grants and public-private partnerships to test new methods of communicating with parents such as text messaging and social media.

**DCS helps parents and children** reach their full potential and contribute to our communities by making sure they have the resources to thrive. When parents contribute, they are more likely to have closer relationships with their children, which benefits the entire family. Child support makes sure children have what we all need to build a solid foundation in our lives: healthy meals, safe housing and educational opportunities.
Child Support Facts

Current Support
New ways of working with parents got better results. 67.3% represents over $481 million in child support collected last fiscal year, in the month it was due.

$481 M in 2020

66.8% FFY 2017
67.3% FFY 2020

Helping Kids Reach Their Full Potential
We collaborate with government and community partners to help children and families achieve their full potential and contribute to our state's vibrant, healthy communities. In SFY 20 the Division of Child Support served over 800,000 clients (monthly average for SFY 20), more than the combined population of Seattle and Kennewick in 2018.

We served these customers by providing a variety of child support services such as establishing parentage; enforcing, establishing and modifying child support orders; providing medical support enforcement; and collecting and disbursing payments.

All Washingtonians
We are here for all Washington residents at all stages in their life. Last year, one in six residents benefited from our programs. We help people find the support they need to achieve well-being. People we help range in age from infants who need parentage established to grandparents who need child support to raise their grandchildren.

Children who are supported financially and emotionally contribute to their communities as healthier, better-educated and more employable adults.

Cost Avoidance
Child support cost avoidance is the reduction of public expenses such as Basic Food and medical assistance expenses attributable to the effort of child support enforcement. In SFY 20 the Division of Child Support was responsible for nearly $156 million in avoided assistance expenditures in the following programs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Cost Avoidance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid</td>
<td>$101,741,596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Food</td>
<td>$39,066,985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TANF</td>
<td>$15,308,405</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Program Description

The Division of Child Support supports and promotes government-to-government relationships with the 29 federally recognized Indian tribes in Washington state. DCS works with tribes, Recognized American Indian Organizations, stakeholders and partners in the development and delivery of culturally appropriate policy and program services that meet the needs of American Indian and Alaskan Native families.

The Tribal Relations Team

- Is a primary resource in the facilitation of DCS’ government-to-government commitments that help to build and strengthen relationships with tribes and tribal programs, partners and stakeholders.
- Educates and trains agency and partner staff to recognize tribal sovereignty and the principles of the Centennial Accord and DSHS American Indian Policy (Administrative Policy 7.01).
- Coordinates division participation at Indian Policy Advisory Committee and ESA subcommittee meetings, and regional DSHS Administrative Policy 7.01 meetings that seek tribal collaboration on proposed DCS legislation, policy and forms, while advocating for policies, procedures and laws that respect tribal sovereignty.
-Drafts, negotiates and monitors Treasury Offset Agreements with seven tribes including the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, as well as Data-Sharing Agreements with 13 Tribal TANF and Child Support programs.
- Offers technical assistance and support to the efforts of over 30 DCS statewide Tribal Liaisons who serve as local and regional contacts, organize and attend outreach, and represent the division at tribal meetings, conferences and cultural gatherings.

Of the 60 tribal child support programs currently operating across the United States, eight are located within Washington state:

- Tulalip Tribes
- Colville Confederated Tribes
- Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe
- Suquamish Tribe
- Quinault Indian Nation
- Nooksack Tribe
- Lummi Nation
- Puyallup Tribe of Indians

Tribal child support programs provide full child support services, including: paternity establishment; location and identification of individuals; withholding of income from tribal businesses or other sources; and establishment and modification of child support orders.

Highlights

- State and tribal relationships founded on trust and mutual respect have led to increased understanding, shared vision and improved services to children and families.
- Tribes and states around the nation continue to recognize DCS for its efforts to partner with tribes in Washington state, and with those from neighboring states (i.e. Nez Perce and Coeur d’Alene, Idaho; Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska).
**Program Description**

Within the Department of Social and Health Services’ Economic Services Administration, the Division of Disability Determination Services makes determinations for individuals applying for Title II Social Security Disability, Title XVI Supplemental Security Income benefits and Title XIX State Medical Assistance claims.

**Overview**

DDDS provides medical eligibility determination for claims filed to the Social Security Administration for disability benefits by the residents of Washington state. The division serves Washington residents of all ages who meet the requirements under Section 221 (b) of the Social Security Act. DDDS has an annual budget of $45,725,167 million federal dollars (FY2020). In 2020, DDDS served 57,486 individuals.

**Program impact:**

In federal fiscal year 2020, DDDS processed:

- 22,917 Title II-SSDI disability decisions.
- 22,083 Title XVI-SSI disability decisions.
- 1,156 Title XIX State Medical Assistance disability decisions.
- 11,330 Concurrent workload decisions.

**As of August 2021:**

- 156,902 Washingtonians receive an average of $1,362 a month in Social Security Disability Insurance benefits, bringing $213.7 million a month into communities throughout the state.
- 125,334 Washingtonians receive an average of $605 a month in SSI benefits, bringing $75.8 million a month into communities throughout the state.

More information:
James Shuck, Division Resource Manager | Phone: 360.664.7440
Email: james.shuck@ssa.gov

(9/2021)
Program Description
The Department of Social and Health Services’ Economic Services Administration’s Domestic Violence Victim Services program distributes state and federal funding dedicated to providing emergency shelter and supportive services for victims of domestic violence and their dependent children. Domestic violence programs consistently report that DSHS funding is critical to keeping their doors open and providing life-saving services to members of their communities.

Domestic violence is the infliction or threat of physical harm against an intimate partner and includes physical, sexual and psychological abuse against the partner. It is part of a pattern of assaultive, coercive and controlling behaviors directed at achieving compliance from or control over that intimate partner. It may include, but is not limited to, a categorization of offenses as defined in RCW 10.99.020, committed by one intimate partner against another.

Services are provided through contracts with community-based agencies and local government agencies and include:

- Safety planning, crisis intervention and crisis helplines, emergency shelter, individual advocacy, legal advocacy, support groups, child care assistance during advocacy and support group sessions, age-appropriate supportive services and resources for children and youth residing in emergency shelter, emergency transportation assistance, information and referrals, community education and prevention activities.

The majority of service recipients receive non-shelter-based services such as advocacy, assistance with protection orders and other legal issues, and access to support groups.

Contracted domestic violence agencies provide services to individuals and their dependent children hurt or harmed by domestic violence. Education and outreach activities are conducted with community groups and individuals interested in learning about domestic violence, available services and prevention.

Highlights in SFY 2020

- Local domestic violence programs served a total of 17,588 victims and their children, of whom 4,318 received emergency shelter-based services and 17,588 received non-shelter-based services.
- 39 domestic violence shelter programs provided 188,766 shelter bed-nights to victims and their families. Victims stayed in shelter an average of 40 days.
Program Description

The Department of Social and Health Services’ Economic Services Administration’s employment and training programs, in partnership with other state agencies and partners, focus on supporting individuals and families in building their skills and fully making use of their talents through employment and/or education and training. Each program is tailored to serve a particular target population based on eligibility for other assistance programs. Participants are eligible for support services with a focus on engagement by reducing barriers, such as assisting with transportation and accessing quality child care.

ESA strives to align its employment and training programs with other programs and services implemented under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, which allows partner agencies who administer education, employment and training programs to leverage resources and coordinate approaches to help workers and job seekers, including youth (age 16-24 years old) and adults with low incomes, acquire skills and credentials that meet employers’ needs.

Providing participants access to these supports increases the ability of Washington state residents, employers and communities to realize their full economic and social potential and overall well-being:

- **Helping parents prepare and go to work.** WorkFirst is for families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or State Family Assistance. WorkFirst provides families with opportunities to engage in work activities that support financial stability and resilience through partnerships with Employment Security Department, State Board of Community and Technical Colleges, Department of Commerce and CBOs.

- **Connecting job seekers to education, employment and training.** Basic Food Employment and Training is Washington’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-related Employment and Training Program. To be eligible, participants must be receiving Basic Food assistance and not participating in TANF or Refugee Cash Assistance programs. BFET’s program success is accredited to partnerships with tribal entities, State Board of Community and Technical Colleges, WDCs and CBOs. BFET partners offer participants the opportunity to increase their skills through training and education to improve their employment prospects and financial well-being.

- **Providing immediate opportunities.** Employment Pipeline is a DSHS-administered program that quickly connects individuals receiving DSHS services to livable wage employment opportunities. Employment Pipeline navigators work with local workforce development partners, such as WorkSource, to identify opportunities that fit the job seeker’s skill level and interest. Navigators provide up to one year of post-employment support to help maximize job retention outcomes for the newly hired individual.

**Highlights**

- **75% of WorkFirst families participate** in work or training activities that strengthen their skill sets.
- **62% of clients remained employed** a year after exiting the BFET program.
- **Despite COVID-19 restrictions, the Employment Pipeline program placed 176 participants in employment** with an average wage of $16.96/hr during SFY21.
Fathering Washington’s Future: Maximizing Children’s Potential

ESA transforms lives by connecting children, adults and families to the resources and opportunities that help them reach their full potential in life.

Washington state recognizes that investing in children, especially young children, is a paramount duty. The people of Washington cannot expect a healthier, more resilient, more prosperous future if we don’t invest in our children now — and that includes investing in fathers and families. Fatherhood programs can positively engage fathers and father figures in the lives of their children. Doing so, especially starting at birth, has proven to contribute to language development, reading and math skills, and social-emotional development that will have long-term impacts on children’s emotional and economic well-being.

The positive and protective impact of fatherhood and the father-child bond on early childhood development is undeniable, and is particularly important for the child’s development before the age of 3.

A father’s role is unique. It functions in concert with the presence of the mother, enhancing the mother-child relationship and facilitating positive adjustment in children. Conversely, the absence of a father figure — even in infancy — can result in negative behavioral outcomes and delayed development. Quality of time is important. While resident fathers are more likely to interact consistently with their children, resident and non-resident fathers have a positive influence through intentional interaction.

Continued on next page
ESA’s Goal to Reduce Poverty by 2025 and the Role of Fathers and Father Figures

The well-established benefits of reducing poverty and inequality inspired ESA to establish a 2025 goal to reduce poverty by half in a way that eliminates disparities. ESA is proud to be a founding and sustaining partner of the Washington Interagency Fatherhood Council, a cross-cutting, collaborative, transformational group of more than 25 state and local providers, academics and — most importantly — fathers with lived expertise, which helps further the goals of reducing poverty and inequality.

• Vision: Fathers and father figures in Washington become the parents their children and families need them to be.
• Mission: Amplify the voices of fathers and father figures in Washington state to promote fatherhood inclusion, equity, diversity and research activity that strengthens families and maximizes children’s potential.

Dad Allies Initiative

Launched in 2021 and under the WIFC umbrella, the Dad Allies Initiative builds capacity in community and programs to increase fatherhood-specific, inclusive education and support services. WIFC will leverage the Dads Allies Initiative to increase visibility and workforce capacity to meet the unique needs of fathers and marginalized families.

Activities include:

• A series of Fathering Community Cafés across the state and within specific populations to amplify the voices of fathers, engage community providers and coalesce around our North Star Father-Friendly Principles.
• Formation and promotion of a set of North Star Father-Friendly Principles that will guide WIFC’s collective work to transform systems for children and families. Partners will be asked to implement the principles at their home agency.
• An ongoing father-friendly Provider Learning Collaborative series delivered by local and national thought leaders on timely issues facing fathers and father figures in meeting their needs for education and support to build a strong father-friendly provider network.

North Star Father-Friendly Principles

WIFC subscribes to a set of guiding principles as it works to promote a stronger father-friendly provider network of services for fathers and father figures. The council asks all providers to consider these principles and actively engage stakeholder dialogue around how they would align their work with the principles.

How Do We Become a Father-Friendly State?

Promote Fatherhood Inclusion
Policy and programmatic action will require strategic assessment of how services can be tailored and sustained for the multitude of family needs and can better align with and reinforce the unique needs, interests and strengths of fathers and father figures.

Reduce Toxic Stress and Promote Equity
Policies and systems must strengthen safety-net programs, identify and remove barriers to resources for fathers and parents, promote equity, and prioritize systemic racism elimination and violence prevention.

Foster Positive Co-Parenting Relationships
Consider how policies, programs and services can foster positive co-parenting and reduce the stress associated with single-parent households. Adapt to the shifting socio-cultural dynamics of families; embolden efforts to strengthen families.

Invest in Fatherhood Research
Research that incorporates a fatherhood-focus is limited. Invest in stronger data that articulates the role that fathers play in their children’s lives and the expressed needs of fathers through their own voices.

Coming Soon

The fourth annual Washington State Interagency Fatherhood Council Summit is coming in April 2022. A full schedule, list of speakers and summit theme will be available soon.
A Washington Without Poverty and Injustice

ESA transforms lives by connecting children, adults and families to the resources and opportunities that help them reach their full potential in life. A strong foundation of trusting relationships, a safe and stable home, abundant and nutritious food, with the building blocks of opportunity we all need to succeed – a high-quality education from cradle to career, a job that pays a living wage and healthy communities to support how we live, love, work and play. ESA works with state and local partners to provide essential services like cash, food, medical and housing assistance as well as education, employment and job training opportunities to two million Washingtonians annually.

The sheer number of Washingtonians served by ESA each year is indicative of deeper, systemic challenges – too many Washingtonians are living on a faulty foundation that threatens our collective well-being and progress as a state. In 2020, just prior to the economic consequences of COVID-19, over 1.4 million Washingtonians were unable to meet their most foundational needs, such as food, housing, child care, and health care. Indigenous, Black and Brown communities experience the undue burden of poverty in our state, and structural racism intersects with other forms of systemic inequality to produce disparities in poverty rates among single parents with young children, youth, the LGBTQ community, rural families, people with disabilities, and immigrants and refugees. The majority of households living below the Self-Sufficiency Standard have at least one adult working.

ESA 2025 Goal and State Poverty Reduction Efforts

Systemic poverty, structural racism and inequality undermine the well-being of children, adult, and families, preventing us from reaching our full potential as a state. Indeed, the weight of the evidence shows there is a causal relationship between income, poverty and negative child outcomes in education, health, juvenile and criminal justice, child welfare and future employment. The cost of child poverty is so great that estimates suggest that every $1 spent on reducing it yields $7 in return. The well-established benefits of reducing poverty and inequality inspired ESA in DSHS to establish a 2025 goal to reduce poverty by half in a way that eliminates disparities.

As part of our 2025 goal efforts, we are proud to co-lead Governor Inslee’s Poverty Reduction Work Group, which recently created the 10-year Plan to Dismantle Poverty in Washington: A Blueprint for a Just and Equitable Future (available at www.dismantlepovertyinwa.com). The eight strategies and 60 recommendations in the 10-year Plan are data-driven and grounded in evidence and informed by a steering committee consisting of people experiencing poverty, whose expertise guided our priorities. As Washington continues to meet the demands brought by COVID-19, the 10-year Plan serves a blueprint for an equitable economic recovery and long-term economic growth.

More information:
Lori Pfingst, Senior Director
Email: PRWG@dshs.wa.gov
DismantlePovertyinWA.com
2021-23 Priorities to Achieve the 2025 Goal

Investments in health and human services are essential to an equitable economic recovery and long-term, inclusive economic growth. It is essential that Washington state leverage all federal and state resources to mitigate the economic downturn on children, adults and families, and make a sizable down payment on an equitable and inclusive economy in the long-term.

ESA priorities for the upcoming legislative and budget cycle include:

1. **Build interagency intention, accountability and action on the 10-Year Plan to Dismantle Poverty.** With the submission of the 10-Year Plan, state poverty reduction efforts can shift toward prioritizing and implementing the 60 recommendations. This next phase of the work requires a new model for interagency collaboration and accountability to align state agencies and strategic partners to implement the 10-Year Plan and Create state accountability for closing racial, social and geographic disparities in economic well-being.

2. **Create a new model to include and compensate people and communities historically excluded from social and economic well-being in state decisions.** Stubbornly high rates of poverty and inequality are the product of inherently unjust and unequal policies, programs and practices that have underwritten our economy for decades. ESA is partnering with Results Washington Goal 2.1 to develop a process to elevate the influence and expertise of people and communities historically excluded from well-being in policy, program and funding decisions to guide the state toward a just and equitable future.

3. **Raise and stabilize the economic floor for Washingtonians.** Economic stability is foundational to mobility from poverty, as well as making progress on the state’s education, health, criminal justice, child welfare, workforce development, environment and employment goals. Prototyping and scaling a state model to ensure children, adults and families can meet their foundational needs and create an economic floor that no Washingtonian can fall through is vital to our collective well-being.

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**Percent of People Living Below Self-Sufficiency Standard**

*Washington State Public Use Microdata Areas, 2020*

1. Self-Sufficiency Standard; University of Washington Center for Women’s Welfare.
2. Self-Sufficiency Standard; University of Washington Center for Women’s Welfare.

Map: Source: UW Center for Women’s Welfare Self-Sufficiency Standard data; Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs) are non-overlapping, statistical geographic areas that partition each state or equivalent entity into geographic areas containing no fewer than 100,000 people each.
Approximately one in four Washington residents rely on assistance such as cash grants, food, child support, disability determination and supports for transition to employment among other services administered by the Department of Social and Health Services’ Economic Services Administration.

As we pursue our shared mission of reducing poverty 50% by 2025, a strong program integrity effort is vital for the public to have trust and confidence that ESA programs, policies and processes work together to achieve accurate results for the people we serve. By collaborating with internal and external stakeholders, we improve our processes, identify gaps and balance program integrity risks with timely and equitable recipient access to benefits.

What are some ways we help prevent fraud?

- **Recipient education** – We explain the allowable use of food and cash benefits using forms such as “Your DSHS Cash or Food Benefits” and the “Client Rights and Responsibilities,” which require recipient signature. These complement the distribution of various messages related to appropriate use of benefits, program requirements and ways to report suspected fraud.

- **Electronic Benefit Transfer card monitoring** – Recipients who receive multiple replacement EBT cards are provided additional information about appropriate card use and their responsibility to keep the card secure, and are informed that transactions are closely monitored for potential trafficking and misuse. We also monitor for out-of-state EBT usage, high balance accounts and inactivity.

- **Fraud Early Detection** – Eligibility staff identify potential or suspected fraud and make a case referral to the Office of Fraud and Accountability for investigation.

- **Risk mitigation services** – Division of Child Support uses risk mitigation services through their banking contract to reduce issuance and liability of forged or fraudulent funds.

- **Administrative data matching** – Approximately two dozen data matching systems are used to cross-check eligibility data elements. This enables us to identify recipients who are deceased or incarcerated and take appropriate action for any open benefits. We also access the National Directory of New Hires to identify recipients with potential unreported income. Many of these systems are integrated within our eligibility system for real-time access when customers apply.

- **Interstate data sharing** – When an interstate match indicates a recipient has received benefits in more than one state, we collaborate with staff in the other state to verify residency and other pertinent case details. This may result in establishment of benefit overpayments or further fraud investigation.

- **Program Disqualification** – We address Intentional Program Violations by asking the recipient to sign a Disqualification Consent Agreement. This eliminates the need to attend an administrative hearing and results in the client agreeing to be barred from receiving program benefits during a penalty period.

- **Online application monitoring** – We review online application activity to flag potentially fraudulent requests for benefits. These are examined to verify legitimacy and prevent erroneous issuances as early as possible as well as improve front-end fraud prevention efforts.
Refugee Cash Assistance and Refugee Medical Assistance
Washington State Department of Social and Health Services
Economic Services Administration · Community Services Division

The Department of Social and Health Services’ Economic Services Administration’s Refugee Cash Assistance program is a federally funded cash assistance program that provides up to eight months of cash assistance to single and married adults with eligible immigration status, and who do not have children under the age of 18.

Refugee Medical Assistance is a federally funded medical assistance program available to refugees and eligible immigrants for up to eight months for those who are otherwise ineligible for Washington Apple Health. Since the expansion of Medicaid, less than 1% of all refugee families are ineligible for Washington Apple Health. In an average year, fewer than 50 refugees a year receive RMA.

DSHS seeks to improve the lives of clients receiving RCA by:
• Ensuring refugees receive consistent referrals to employment, education and social service providers.
• Coordinating across systems, agencies and programs by increasing accountability to advance economic security.

Who is eligible for RCA?
• Refugees
• People granted asylum ("asylees")
• Certified Victims of Human Trafficking
• Amerasians
• Cuban-Haitian Entrants
• Special Immigrant Visa holders from Iraq and Afghanistan

Who are refugees?
Refugees are individuals and families who are unable to return to their home country due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on their race, religion, ethnicity, membership in a particular group or political opinion. They resettle through the federal U.S. Refugee Admissions Program.


More information:
Sarah Peterson, MSW - Chief, Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance - State Refugee Coordinator
Phone: 360.890.0691 | Email: sarah.peterson@dshs.wa.gov
Refugee Cash Assistance Facts 2020

RCA Caseload by Country of Origin
June 2020 Snapshot

- Ukraine: 53.6%
- Moldova: 5.7%
- Russia: 5.7%
- Eritrea: 3.9%
- Afghanistan: 9.6%
- Countries with less than 10 clients: 21.4%

Expenditures for State Fiscal Year 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Total Caseload</th>
<th>Grant Expenditures</th>
<th>Average Payment Per Case</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>$72,340</td>
<td>$309.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>$85,809</td>
<td>$318.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>$99,340</td>
<td>$330.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>$102,619</td>
<td>$353.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>$96,434</td>
<td>$351.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>$101,692</td>
<td>$338.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>$99,378</td>
<td>$321.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>$99,211</td>
<td>$336.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>$88,601</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>$77,946</td>
<td>$355.92</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>$77,875</td>
<td>$344.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>$84,558</td>
<td>$356.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>$90,484</td>
<td>$337.63</td>
</tr>
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</table>

RCA Caseload 2009-2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Monthly Average Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>605</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>464</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>414</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>425</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>428</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>268</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RCA Caseload by DSHS Region and Community Service Office of Issuance
June 2020 Snapshot

- Region 3
  - Columbia River
  - Lakewood
  - Pierce North
  - Pierce South
  - Puyallup Valley

- Region 2
  - Alderwood
  - Auburn
  - Bellingham
  - Belltown
  - Everett
  - Federal Way
  - King Eastside
  - King North
  - King South
  - Mt. Vernon
  - Rainier
  - Renton
  - Sky Valley
  - Smokey Point
  - White Center

- Region 1
  - Kennewick
  - Moses Lake
  - Spokane Maple
  - Spokane Trent
Washington state has a long legacy of welcoming people who are refugees and immigrants. The Department of Social and Health Services' Economic Services Administration's Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance offers programs and services that help people who are refugees and immigrants reach their full potential and contribute to thriving and diverse communities in Washington state.

**DSHS serves individuals and families by providing client services**

*Culturally responsive*: ORIA contracts with more than 60 providers across Washington state to offer culturally and linguistically appropriate services. These providers include refugee resettlement agencies, community-based organizations, ethnically focused organizations, state agencies and colleges.

*Ensuring success in resettlement*: ORIA helps improve the resettlement process for individuals and families coming to Washington and offers client services through 11 different programs in four core areas:

- **Refugee Health and Wellness** offers programs that support newly arriving refugees with medical screenings, provide culturally responsive mental health services and offer access to immediate medical care and intensive case management through the Refugee Health Promotion Program.

- **Employment and Training** services are available to help people learn English, get jobs and gain skills through ORIA's programs, including the WorkFirst Limited English Proficiency Pathway Program, ORIA Basic Food Employment and Training Program and Career Ladder for Educated and Vocationally Experienced Refugees.

- **Immigration Assistance and Naturalization Services** are offered by specialized immigration legal services organizations, accredited by the Department of Justice, that assist refugees and immigrants with federal applications to become lawful permanent residents (green card holders) or United States citizens.

- **Whole Family Services** include the Promoting Refugee Integration, Mobility, and Empowerment Program which provides case management, education, and immigration services; the Refugee School Impact Program which supports school-age children and their families improve academic performance and integration; Refugee Elder Services for elders over the age of 60 which support integration and wellness by offering opportunities to connect with their communities and peers; and specialized youth services through the Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Program and the Refugee Youth Mentoring Program (ages 18-24).

**Who is eligible for ORIA services?**

- People resettled as refugees in the United States for five years or less.
- People with certain immigration status receiving cash, food or medical assistance.
- People who are English language learners who are receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or State Family Assistance.

**Who are refugees?**

The term refugee is a legal status given to people who permanently resettle in the United States as part of a humanitarian program. These individuals have been forced to flee their home country due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on their race, religion, ethnicity, membership in a particular group, or political opinion. They are resettled through the federal U.S. Refugee Admissions Program.

For ORIA services, the term "refugee" also refers to people who have been granted asylum, victims of human trafficking, Amerasians, Cuban-Haitian entrants and people with Special Immigrant Visas from Iraq and Afghanistan.

More information:
Sarah Peterson, MSW - Chief, Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance - State Refugee Coordinator
Phone: 360.890.0691 | Email: sarah.peterson@dshs.wa.gov
State Fiscal Year 2020 Highlights

- Over 10,000 refugees and immigrants participate in services through ORIA's three largest programs (LEP Pathway, Naturalization Services and PRIME).
- 4,115 refugees and immigrants participated in employment and English as a Second Language services through the WorkFirst LEP Pathway Program.
- 3,397 people received services through the Naturalization Services Program, and 372 people became U.S. Citizens through the program.
- 2,623 people participated in case-management services, self-sufficiency workshops or immigration assistance through the PRIME Program.
- 1,792 people received new arrival refugee health screenings.
- 538 refugee students and families received specialized services through the Refugee School Impact Program.
- 242 people participated in the ORIA BFET Program.
- 167 refugee children in care with specially trained families via the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program.

Where do refugees resettle in Washington?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>King</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snohomish</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pierce</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clark</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spokane</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benton-Franklin</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Counties</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Washington State Refugee Arrivals

Top Countries of Origin
FFY 2016 - 2020 (YTD)

- Ukraine
- Afghan
- Former Soviet Union
- Iraq
- Somalia
- Burmese
- Iran
- Eritrea
- Syria
- Bhutanese
- Ethiopia

Washington State Refugee and Special Immigrant Visa Arrivals


Program Description

The Department of Social and Health Services’ Economic Services Administration’s Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and State Family Assistance programs provide cash assistance to parents/caregivers with children and pregnant individuals to bolster their ability to meet their families’ foundational needs. These programs also offer families the opportunity to access employment and training-related activities that assist them on their way to reaching their potential and fully contributing to their communities.

We provide the tools and resources to support well-being through:

- **Cash assistance to help children and families meet basic needs.** TANF/SFA provides a small amount of cash each month to increase a family’s ability to purchase the things we all need to thrive, including a safe home, healthy food, reliable transportation and school supplies. The average benefit for a family is $14.74 per day, a small contribution toward the costs of meeting a family’s basic needs.

- **Building a stable foundation so parents have access to good jobs.** One-quarter (26%) of people receiving TANF/SFA need support to build a stable foundation prior to seeking employment. TANF/SFA case managers connect children and families to services that help them even out rough terrain, such as mental health services, family violence counseling and/or substance use treatment.

- **Employment and training opportunities through WorkFirst.** TANF/SFA case managers connect parents and caregivers to education, job training and employment opportunities through WorkFirst, a partnership between DSHS, Employment Security Department, State Board of Community and Technical Colleges and Department of Commerce as well as many community-based organizations.

- **Gateways to financial opportunity.** TANF/SFA is an important gateway to many opportunities that provide a stable foundation for children and families, including health care, safe homes and early learning opportunities that help children develop strong brains and bodies.

**Highlights**

- **59% of WorkFirst participants take part** in work or training activities that strengthen their skillsets.
- **73% of people who exit TANF remain off** the program for at least a year.
- **In FY 2020, 58% of families exiting TANF in Washington reported leaving** due to reaching financial stability.
- **73% of all TANF/SFA recipients are children.**
Trends
The number of people served by TANF and SFA has dropped since 2010.

FY 2010: 156,317
FY 2020: 58,892

Meeting the Need
The ability of the TANF program to meet the need for assistance has weakened over time. In 2019, 29 families were served by TANF for every 100 families living below the poverty level, dropping from 55 families in 2010.

Characteristics of People Served
Children, females and people who racially identify as white make up the majority of the caseload.

Average Benefit
The average benefit for a family receiving TANF.

$448.25 per month

Average Length of Stay
Two-parent households exit TANF at twice the rate of single-parent households.

Budget
TANF accounted for less than 1% of state spending in the 2019-2021 biennium.