

Aged, Blind or Disabled

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

Program Description

The Aged, Blind or Disabled, or ABD, 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, or SSI, 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 \$5.60 per day. In order to qualify for an ABD cash grant, a single adult must be in financial need with countable income at or 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:
 - Healthcare 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, or HEN, program in partnership with the Department of Commerce and Supportive Housing through Washington's Foundational Community Supports, or FCS, program.
 - 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 2019

- **The Social Security Administration approved approximately 5,853 ABD customers** for SSI or Social Security Disability Insurance, or SSDI, benefits. We also helped more than 13,405 ABD customers file for SSI.
- **We referred 382 ABD customers** to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation for vocational rehabilitation services.

More information:

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



Transforming lives

(10/2020)

ABD Facts

Trends

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

FY 2013 **22,865**
 FY 2019 **20,281**

Decrease

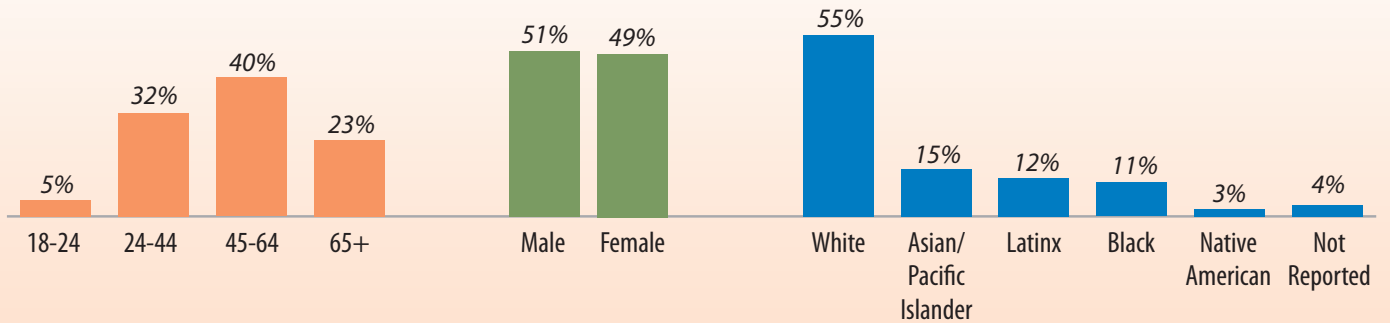
Types of Cases

More than three-quarters of people receiving ABD are disabled and awaiting a decision from the Social Security Administration for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). 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 51 years old.



Average Benefit

The average benefit for an individual receiving ABD.

\$5.60
per day

Challenges

54% Have a mental illness

37% Are experiencing homelessness

Budget

ABD accounted for less than 1% of state spending in the 2017-2019 biennium.

