

Department of Social and Health Services
Economic Services Administration

Overview of Major Statewide Programs and Services

The Department of Social and Health Services' Economic Services Administration is a national leader in providing poverty reduction services to nearly 1.8 million people in our state. We help our clients meet their basic needs and achieve economic independence through cash grants, food and medical assistance, employment-focused services, refugee assistance, disability determinations and child support collection.



Washington State
Department of Social
& Health Services

Transforming lives

10/2020

	Description/ Target Population	Financial Eligibility Criteria	Federal/State Statutory Authority	2017-19 Biennium	Avg. Monthly Caseload SFY 19 ¹
ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES					
<p>Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)</p> <p>State Family Assistance (SFA)</p>	<p>Temporary Assistance for Needy Families 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.</p> <p>State Family Assistance provides cash assistance to families who are lawfully present non-citizens 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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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 & 45 CFR Part 260</p> <p>SFA Federal Authority 8 USC 1621 (d) – State authority to provide for eligibility of illegal aliens for state and local public benefits</p> <p>TANF State Authority RCW 74.08A and 74.12</p> <p>SFA State Authority RCW 74.08A.100, RCW 74.12.035</p>	<p>\$260.3 million:</p> <p>\$18.6 million GF-S TANF MOE</p> <p>\$241.7 million GF-F TANF</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25,422 families per month (including 745 SFA cases) • 11,651 (45.8%) single parent families • 1,615 (6.4%) two-parent families • 12,156 (47.8%) child-only cases
<p>WorkFirst Employment and Training</p>	<p>Provides 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.</p>	<p>Families must be recipients of TANF or SFA.</p>	<p>Federal Authority PL 104-193</p> <p>State Authority RCW 74.08A</p>	<p>\$156 million:</p> <p>\$34.4 million NGF-S</p> <p>\$121.6 million GF-F TANF</p>	

¹Unless otherwise noted, caseload data for most programs is sourced from the ESA Briefing Book (SFY 2019) prepared by the ESA Management Accountability and Performance Statistics (EMAPS) unit. Data for the following programs was provided by non-EMAPS staff in July and October 2020: U.S. Repatriate Program, Basic Food Employment & Training Services, Basic Food Education & Outreach, and SNAP – Ed (Nutrition Education & Obesity Prevention).

	Description/ Target Population	Financial Eligibility Criteria	Federal/State Statutory Authority	2017-19 Biennium	Avg. Monthly Caseload SFY 19 ¹
ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES					
Diversion Cash Assistance (DCA)	Diversion Cash Assistance 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. Limited to \$1250 in 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 dependency. If the families go on TANF within 12 months of receiving DCA, a prorated amount of the DCA payment must be repaid to the state by monthly deductions equal to 5% of the cash grant.	Family must meet TANF eligibility criteria in the month of application.	<i>Federal Authority</i> PL 104-193 & 42 USC 604 <i>State Authority</i> RCW 74.08A.210	\$5.1 million GF-S TANF MOE	152 families
Additional Requirements for Emergent Needs (AREN)	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.	Family must receive TANF, SFA or RCA.	<i>Federal Authority</i> 42 USC 604	AREN funds are included in TANF budget; do not have separate AREN budget category Monthly spending is at \$98,000	190 families
Consolidated Emergency Assistance Program (CEAP)	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.	Families, pregnant women and WorkFirst sanction families who are ineligible for other cash programs and countable income and assets fall below established limits.	<i>Federal Authority</i> 42 USC 604 <i>State Authority</i> RCW 74.04.660	\$596,000 GF-S	58 families

	Description/ Target Population	Financial Eligibility Criteria	Federal/State Statutory Authority	2017-19 Biennium	Avg. Monthly Caseload SFY 19 ¹
CHILD SUPPORT					
Child Support Enforcement	We help parents contribute to brighter futures for their children through the collection and disbursement of child support, medical enforcement and paternity establishment.	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.	<p>Federal Authority Title IV-D of Social Security Act (42 USC 608-669b and 45 CFR Volume 2, Chap. III, 300-399)</p> <p>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</p>	<p>\$297.4 million:</p> <p>\$88 million NGF-S \$121,000 Local</p> <p>\$209.2 million GF-F</p>	<p>318,444 cases</p> <p>183,495 paternity establishments at the end of SFY 2019 (June 2019)</p> <p>About two-thirds of the state's child support cases involve parents and children who are current (9.1%) or former (54.2%) TANF recipients (SFY 2019)</p>
Paternity Establishment	Establish paternity by acknowledgment or by court order for all minor children born out of wedlock.		<p>Federal Authority 42 USC 654; 42 USC 666; 45 CFR 303.5</p> <p>State Authority RCW 26.21A; RCW 26.26; RCW 70.58; RCW 74.20; RCW 74.20A</p>		
ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS					
Aged, Blind, or Disabled (ABD) Cash Assistance	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 program and assistance applying for federal Supplemental Security Income benefits. DSHS receives reimbursement for cash grants paid to ABD recipients who transition to SSI.	Countable income and assets must fall below established limits.	RCW Chapter 74.62	<p>\$81.5 million GF-S</p> <p>-\$28.3 million Recoveries</p>	20,281 clients

	Description/ Target Population	Financial Eligibility Criteria	Federal/State Statutory Authority	2017-19 Biennium	Avg. Monthly Caseload SFY 19 ¹
ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS					
Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) Referral	Provides a referral for potential housing assistance through the Commerce-administered HEN program to individuals who are ineligible for ABD and unable to work at least 90 days due to a physical or mental incapacity. Recipients are also eligible to receive essential needs items such as bus passes and personal care items.	Countable income and assets must fall below established limits.	RCW 43.185C.220, RCW Chapter 74.62 - RCW 74.04.805	Department of Commerce	5,083 clients
Pregnant Women Assistance	Provides a cash grant to persons who are pregnant and are ineligible for federal TANF/ SFA benefits for a reason other than failure to cooperate with program requirements.	Countable income and assets must fall below established limits.	RCW Chapter 74.62	\$290,000 GF-S	66 clients
State Supplemental Payment	Supplemental monthly payments made to SSI recipients who are grandfathered, 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.	Social Security Administration (SSA) determines SSI eligibility. Resource limit of \$2,000 for individual and \$3,000 for a couple.	<i>Federal Authority</i> PL 92-603 <i>20 CFR 416 Subpart T</i> <i>State Authority</i> RCW 74.04.630	\$37.5 million GF-S	39,522 cases
Ongoing Additional Requirements	Provides a state-funded payment to a person with a need (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 are available to 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.	Must meet eligibility rules for the appropriate program (e.g. ABD, TANF/SFA, PWA, RCA, or SSI)	RCW 74.04.283	\$300,000 GF-S	251 cases

	Description/ Target Population	Financial Eligibility Criteria	Federal/State Statutory Authority	2017-19 Biennium	Avg. Monthly Caseload SFY 19 ¹
ASSISTANCE FOR IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES					
Refugee Cash Assistance	Provides cash grants to people who have recently resettled in Washington communities as refugees, asylees, special immigrants from Iraq or Afghanistan or other humanitarian immigrants. This program is for individuals or couples without dependents, families with children are eligible for TANF cash assistance instead. Typically, recipients can receive cash assistance for a maximum of eight months after they become eligible based on their immigration status.	Same income and resource limits as TANF.	<i>Federal Authority</i> Immigration & Nationality Act, Title IV 8 USC 1522, Refugee Act of 1980, PL 96-212	\$2.1 million GF-F	211 cases
Refugee and Immigrant Services²	ESA's Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance (ORIA) administers programs and services to people who have resettled in our communities as refugees and immigrants. ORIA contracts with 70 different providers that specialize in offering culturally and linguistically appropriate services. Contracted providers participate in programs through competitive procurements and include community-based agencies, refugee resettlement agencies, ethnic community-based organizations, public health and federally qualified health centers, and local government agencies. Services include comprehensive case management, self-sufficiency education, immigration assistance, refugee medical screening program, Refugee Health Promotion Grant, Refugee Mental Health Services, LEP Pathway employment assistance and English language training, ORIA-BFET Program, employment services for highly educated refugees through the Career Ladder for Educated and Vocationally Experienced Refugees (CLEVER), Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Foster Care Program Refugee School Impact Program, and services for older refugees. ORIA's programs and services aim to build strong communities by providing refugees and immigrants the resources they need to thrive.		<i>Federal Authority</i> Refugee Act of 1980, PL 96-212; ; 45 CFR Part 400	\$32.6 million: \$4.7 million GF-S \$27.9 million GF-F	9,867 unduplicated clients served through ORIA programs ³ in SFY 2019

²Data not yet available for Refugee Services as of the time this report was produced.

³This number includes clients served by these ORIA programs: Promoting Refugee Integration, Mobility and Empowerment (PRIME), LEP Pathway and Naturalization Services.

	Description/ Target Population	Financial Eligibility Criteria	Federal/State Statutory Authority	2017-19 Biennium	Avg. Monthly Caseload SFY 19 ¹
ASSISTANCE FOR IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES					
Naturalization Program	Provides assistance to help people who meet the eligibility requirements and are receiving public assistance to apply for U.S. citizenship. ESA's 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.		State Authority RCW 74.08A.130	\$3.3 million GF-S	3,196 unduplicated clients in SFY 2019 <i>(459 clients per month)</i>
BASIC FOOD PROGRAM					
Basic Food Program <i>(Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP)</i>	Provides food assistance to low-income families and individuals. Benefits are issued through the 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.	Gross income at or below 200% FPL for most households. Households that include someone disqualified for an Intentional Program Violation must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet a gross income test at 130% FPL. • Meet a net income test of 100% FPL. • Have assets below established limits. 	Federal Authority Title 7, CFR Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 State Authority RCW 74.04.500	<i>Non-budgeted, non-allotted</i> Administrative costs are included in overall ESA program support budget and matched at 50%.	486,542 households <i>(Households with at least one member receiving federal program benefits. Includes mixed cases.)</i>
Basic Food for Legal Immigrants <i>(Food Assistance for Legal Immigrants or FAP)</i>	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 is used to "fill the gap" between the federal benefits the household is eligible to receive and the benefits the household would receive if all household members were eligible for the federal program.	Same as Basic Food.	Federal Authority Title 7, CFR Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 State Authority RCW 74.04.500 RCW 74.08A.120	\$38.6 million GF-S	10,081 households <i>(Households with at least one member receiving state program benefits. Includes mixed cases.)</i>

	Description/ Target Population	Financial Eligibility Criteria	Federal/State Statutory Authority	2017-19 Biennium	Avg. Monthly Caseload SFY 19 ¹
BASIC FOOD PROGRAM					
Basic Food and Employment Training Services	<p>The Washington State Basic Food Employment and Training program provides education, employment and training services to Basic Food recipients.</p> <p>BFET provides employability assessments and a menu of services to eligible participants, which can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job readiness training • Basic skills/English as a Second Language training (e.g., literacy, math, vocational ESL, High School Equivalency preparation) • Vocational training • Job search assistance • Job placement • Case management • Life Skills • Retention services; and • Participant Reimbursement (e.g., transportation, child care, hygiene, clothing, etc.). <p>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, personal responsibility and gainful employment.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All federally funded Basic Food Program recipients who are not receiving TANF or RCA. 2. Individuals receiving benefits under the state-funded Food Assistance Program for SNAP- ineligible, legal immigrants are <i>not</i> eligible for BFET. 	<p>Federal Authority Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, [Public Law 88-525; Enacted Aug. 31, 1964; 78 Stat. 703] [As Amended Through P.L. 116-94, Enacted December 20, 2019] CFR 273.7, Work Provisions</p>	<p>Program budget for FFY 2019: \$27.1 million GF-F</p>	<p>6,465 clients including BFET clients served by the Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance</p> <p>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..</p> <p>All 34 Washington state community and technical colleges, 43 regular community-based organizations and 12 ORIA community-based organizations provide BFET contracted services.</p>

	Description/ Target Population	Financial Eligibility Criteria	Federal/State Statutory Authority	2017-19 Biennium	Avg. Monthly Caseload SFY 19 ¹
BASIC FOOD PROGRAM					
Basic Food Education and Assistance (Outreach)	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.	None – for prospective clients.	<i>Federal Authority</i> Section 11(e) (1) (A) of The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008	Program Budget for FFY 2019: \$3.8 million GF-S & GF-F	SNAP – Outreach (Basic Food): Basic Food Outreach (BFO) contracts with two Master Contractors: WithinReach and People for People, to provide outreach activities across Washington to help individuals enroll in SNAP. In FFY 2019, BFO reported 715,201 outreach activities and 14,923 Washington Connection changes.
SNAP – Ed (Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention)	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.	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.	<i>Federal Authority</i> 7 USC 2020 Sec. 11(f) Nutrition Education; 7 CFR Ch. II, Part 277 Nutrition Education and Training Program	Nutrition Education Program Budget for FFY 2019: \$9.6 million 100% federal	SNAP-Ed services are currently contracted through three implementing agencies: Washington State University Extension, Washington State Department of Health and Spokane Regional Health District. In addition, SNAP-Ed contracts with Washington State Farmers Market, WSU and DOH for statewide initiatives which include program and outcome evaluation; curriculum and training; statewide support and local farmer's market coordination and collaboration.
WASHCAP (Washington Combined Application Project)	Provides Basic Food Program benefits to SSI recipients who are single and unemployed. Clients can apply through the SSA or by sending a simplified application to the centralized WASHCAP unit. One centralized call center handles all WASHCAP clients.	Same as Basic Food.	<i>Federal demonstration project under agreement with SSA and FNS</i>	WASHCAP budget within overall ESA program support budget (Budget Unit M01)	79,326 cases

	Description/ Target Population	Financial Eligibility Criteria	Federal/State Statutory Authority	2017-19 Biennium	Avg. Monthly Caseload SFY 19 ¹
OTHER PROGRAMS					
U.S. Repatriation Program	Provides temporary emergency cash assistance, food, housing, medical and transportation 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.	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services identifies who qualifies for aid under this program and notifies the state.	<i>Federal Authority</i> Title XI, Section 1113 of Social Security Act; PL 86-571	\$120,000 GF-F	U.S. Repatriation Program serves individuals referred by HHS and their eligibility is limited to the 90 days from return to the country, so there are discrete clients rather than an average monthly caseload. Between July 2018 and June 2019, DSHS served eleven individual clients. There were no mass evacuation events during that time period.
Working Family Support (WFS)	Working Family Support is a cash program that 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.	Must be recipients of Basic Food, FAP or TFA but not receiving TANF.	<i>Federal Authority</i> PL 104-193 & 42 USC 604 <i>State Authority</i> RCW 74.04.050	\$2.4 million GF-S	7,788 cases

	Description/ Target Population	Financial Eligibility Criteria	Federal/State Statutory Authority	2017-19 Biennium	Avg. Monthly Caseload SFY 19 ¹
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAMS					
Domestic Violence Victim Services	The Domestic Violence Victim Services program provides statewide services through local community organizations to help people who are hurt or 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, age appropriate supportive services and resources for children and youth residing in emergency shelter, emergency transportation assistance, information and referral, community education and prevention activities.	None	<i>Federal Authority</i> Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) 42 U.S.C. 10404, Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) 42 U.S.C. 10603 <i>State Authority</i> RCW 70.123	\$12.26 million GF-S \$2 million Domestic Violence Prevention Account (DVPA) \$4.4 million FFY 2017 & 2018 FVPSA grant award \$27 million Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) FFY 2016 & 2017 through interlocal with Department of Commerce	39 Domestic Violence and Emergency Shelter and Supportive Services programs and 11 Community-Based Domestic Violence programs provide services statewide
Domestic Violence Intervention Treatment	The Domestic Violence Intervention Treatment (DVIT) program conducts certification for local community organizations and treatment professionals that provide domestic violence perpetrator treatment. The DVIT program monitors and conducts investigations of certified domestic violence perpetrator treatment programs to determine compliance with program standards outlined in WAC 388-60B.	None	RCW 26.50.150	\$253,000 GF-S \$65,000 private/local -certification fees from DVIT programs	83 certified DVIT programs conducted domestic violence perpetrator treatment

	Description/ Target Population	Financial Eligibility Criteria	Federal/State Statutory Authority	2017-19 Biennium	Avg. Monthly Caseload SFY 19 ¹
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	2,181 clients
Alien Emergency Medical (AEM)	Provides partial medical 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		AEM SSI-related: 150 clients
SSI Medicaid	Aged, blind or disabled persons 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.			113,251 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).			25,026 clients

	Description/ Target Population	Financial Eligibility Criteria	Federal/State Statutory Authority	2017-19 Biennium	Avg. Monthly Caseload SFY 19 ¹
NON-GRANT MEDICAL PROGRAMS					
Medicare Savings Programs	These programs pay Medicare premiums, coinsurance and deductibles for low-income Medicare beneficiaries.	Income limits vary depending on program from 100% FPL to 200% FPL.			187,323 clients
Refugee Medical Assistance	<p>Refugees may be eligible for medical assistance through the Refugee Medical Assistance program if they are ineligible for MAGI Medicaid due to being over income.</p> <p>Refugee Medical clients have been transitioned to the state's Health Benefit Exchange beginning Oct. 1, 2013 as a result of the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.</p> <p>Eligibility ends after the first eight months of residency in United States.</p>	<p>Categorically Needy coverage is available to persons with income that does not exceed 200% FPL.</p> <p>Transitional coverage is also provided to those who lose eligibility for RCA due to increased earnings.</p>	<i>Federal Authority</i> Immigration & Nationality Act, Title IV 8 USC 1522, Refugee Act of 1980, PL 96-212		Categorically Needy Coverage: 3 clients