

# SERVICES AND ENTERPRISE SUPPORT ADMINISTRATION



## DSHS Emergency Preparedness and Response System

Request	FY16	FY17	15-17
FTE	5.5	5.5	5.5
GF-State	\$521,000	\$521,000	\$1,042,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$635,000</b>	<b>\$635,000</b>	<b>\$1,270,000</b>

### DECISION PACKAGE SUMMARY

The Services and Enterprise Support Administration requests funding for FTEs, equipment, and software to build the fully functional Emergency Preparedness and Response System (EPRS). The existing EPRS prototype is the only system in the state capable of identifying locations of vulnerable clients during disasters. By funding this request, SESA is expected to securely provide first responders with critical location and health information for clients and provide emergency planners with information to support disaster preparedness. EPRS helps achieve State statutory emergency management requirements under RCW 38.52, and the National Preparedness Goal established by the Presidential Directive on National Preparedness (PPD-8).

### PROBLEM STATEMENT

Washington ranks 50th in the nation in disaster preparedness (2014 report card, American College of Emergency Physicians). Meanwhile, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has made 62 major emergency declarations for Washington since 2000. With significant care needs, DSHS clients are among the most vulnerable Washingtonians in a disaster.

The EPRS prototype is the only statewide system able to identify the residential location and special needs of vulnerable persons in the path of a disaster. During the 2012-13 Eastern Washington wildfires, DSHS was able to identify the location of providers, clients, and foster families and share that information with local responders. After the SR530 Slide, EPRS quickly provided the Snohomish Office of Emergency Management a list of 479 vulnerable clients who lived in the evacuation area. Lives are safeguarded because addresses, contact information, and client needs are pre-identified in the EPRS. For comparison, it took several months in 2009 to compile similar information for preparedness efforts related to the potential Green River flooding. Since then, SESA received federal funding (ending June 2014) to develop the EPRS prototype. Given there is no other system that can provide this information, DSHS believes that a state funded production system should be developed from the EPRS prototype.

If the current request is not funded, DSHS will no longer be able to identify, within minutes, vulnerable persons in harm's way as another disaster unfolds. The information from the system needed for emergency preparedness planning by local jurisdictions will not be available.

### PROPOSED SOLUTION

The funding will pay for 5.5 FTE positions to (1) maintain and enhance the EPRS, (2) support disaster response, and (3) extend capability to support state and local disaster preparedness efforts. Additionally, the funding will cover costs for IT services, equipment and software.



#### DSHS VISION

People are healthy • People are safe • People are supported • Taxpayer resources are guarded

#### DSHS MISSION

To transform lives

#### DSHS VALUES

Honesty and Integrity • Pursuit of Excellence • Open Communication • Diversity and Inclusion • Commitment to Service

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### DSHS Emergency Preparedness and Response System

In order for the system to work as intended and to fully leverage the investment to-date, it is imperative to fund the proposed activities in their entirety.

#### EXPECTED RESULTS

This request supports Governor Priorities, Secretary Goals and State IT Objectives:

**DSHS Goal 1: Health – Each individual and each community will be healthy.** The decision package is essential to implementing SESA Strategic Objective 1.1: Increase access to coordinated delivery of medical, behavioral health and long-term services through access to integrated data. EPRS uses integrated data to provide Office of Emergency Management and partners with critical location and health risk information for coordinated life-saving disaster response. As an interactive application, EPRS provides secure access based on individual preparedness or response roles.

**DSHS Goal 3: Protection – Each individual who is vulnerable will be protected.** The decision package is essential to implementing SESA Strategic Objective 3.3: Improve the safety and permanency of individuals who are at-risk or are in state care, treatment, or out-of-home placement. In the hands of emergency responders, EPRS can identify clients in the path of an imminent disaster and protect those clients. EPRS provides planners with geographic and risk factor information about vulnerable DSHS clients to support emergency preparedness planning.

**Results Washington Goal 4: Healthy & Safe Communities,** to ensure all Washingtonians are healthy, safe and supported. When EPRS historical data about vulnerable DSHS clients including their addresses and particular access and functional needs are combined with data from the American Community Survey, EPRS will be used to support and inform near-term and long-term emergency preparedness planning for DSHS and other state and local agencies.

**State IT Strategic Objective:** The decision package aligns with the following objectives:

Mobility – EPRS supports mobility by giving staff and emergency responders quick access to detailed needs of especially vulnerable persons in the area impacted by an emergency. EPRS recognizes mobile devices and will optimize for them.

Modernization and Agility – The EPRS prototype is an innovative solution built using Agile practices to reduce investment risks through incremental implementation. High value, readily available data is prioritized and made available to the customer. As high value, more difficult to obtain information becomes available, it will be integrated into the system. EPRS lets DSHS provide jurisdictions with detailed information which first responders can use immediately in evacuations and search and rescue operations to protect human life.

Security - EPRS limits access to client information based on the user roles that comply with HIPAA and state confidentiality laws, using secure access technologies.

Transparency and Accountability – EPRS has two primary goals. 1) Make non-confidential data openly available to facilitate local emergency preparedness. 2) Make client needs and locations available to jurisdictions upon request for emergency response. Performance measures include number of vulnerable clients identified in an emergency.

#### STAKEHOLDER IMPACT

Local jurisdictions and tribes support continued development of EPRS. Agency stakeholders are Emergency Management



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Division of the Military Department, Department of Health, Department of Early Learning and Health Care Authority.



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