

# ECONOMIC SERVICES ADMINISTRATION Medicaid Cost Allocation Changes



## 2016 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

Request	FY16	FY17	15-17
FTE	0.0	0.0	0.0
GF-State	\$1,579,000	\$0	\$1,579,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

### DECISION PACKAGE SUMMARY

The Economic Services Administration (ESA) requests \$1,579,000 GF-State funds to address the amount of Medicaid assumed in the 2015-17 Biennium budget that cannot be earned due to the delay in access from July 1, 2015 to October 1, 2015 to Healthplanfinder (HPF) for ESA staff to perform Medicaid eligibility work.

### PROBLEM STATEMENT

As a result of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) implementation in Washington, most people now apply for Medicaid using the online HPF, operated by the Health Benefit Exchange (HBE). Individuals requesting help applying for Medicaid through the HPF may also contact the HBE Call Center, or seek assistance from 'Navigators/Assisters' funded through the Health Care Authority (HCA) and the HBE, who are located in a number of community based organizations and health facilities throughout the state. Prior to implementation of the ACA, this eligibility work was done by ESA staff as part of a consolidated application process for clients seeking cash, food and/or medical benefits. After the change, ESA was able to claim significantly less federal Medicaid funds to support the benefits eligibility determination function.

The 2015-17 Biennium budget requires ESA obtain access to the HPF in order to assist applicants and recipients of public assistance in applying for Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) Medicaid at Community Services Offices (CSOs). The budget included an assumption that with access to the HPF, ESA will be able to earn additional Medicaid funds effective July 1, 2015.

ESA has been working with HBE and HCA to get access to the HPF, complete staff training on the system and perform federally required criminal history background checks for approximately 2,000 CSO staff. As a result, ESA will not be able to begin assisting with MAGI Medicaid applications until October 1, 2015, resulting in a budget shortfall for State Fiscal Year 2016.

### PROPOSED SOLUTION

ESA requests \$1,579,000 GF-State funds to address the Medicaid shortfall.

### EXPECTED RESULTS

Funding the decision package will bring ESA's budget into alignment with the actual start date of providing CSO staff access to HPF and allow ESA to continue to provide the current level of service for clients at CSOs.



#### 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

**STAKEHOLDER IMPACT**

Stakeholders and clients will benefit from this request due to the fact that ESA staff will be able to help clients navigate the two separate systems and process applications for cash, food and medical benefits. In addition, stakeholders will support this enhanced level of service in the CSO offices.