

2014 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

ELIGIBILITY STUDY

Request	FY14	FY15	13-15
FTE	0	0	0
GF-State	0	Placeholder	
Total	0		

DECISION PACKAGE SUMMARY

The Economic Services Administration (ESA) is submitting a placeholder for potential changes in the eligibility process and funding sources within ESA. The enacted 2013-15 Budget included a study of the state's medical and public assistance eligibility systems in light of changes related to the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA). At this time, it is unknown what the potential impacts will be, but ESA anticipates funding level changes as a result of the study's recommendations.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Washington State currently uses a consolidated application to qualify individuals for several public assistance programs, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Medicaid programs. Using a consolidated application means the ESA staff time and effort spent obtaining, verifying, and entering information to determine eligibility is essentially spread across multiple programs.

Effective January 1, 2014, the Health Benefit Exchange will be responsible for Medicaid eligibility using a streamlined process for verifying financial eligibility. ESA will no longer be responsible for processing tens of thousands of Medicaid applications. The change will affect the federal funding used to support the work of ESA eligibility staff located in the Community Services Offices around the state. Depending on the results of the study, additional resources may be needed to support the continuing work of ESA staff in determining SNAP, Aged, Blind and Disabled (ABD), State Food Assistance, Refugee and TANF eligibility.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

The Office of Financial Management (OFM), Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and the Health Care Authority (HCA) are currently participating in a workgroup to study current medical and public assistance eligibility systems and determine streamlining opportunities. The initial report is due to the legislature on January 1, 2014. The study will also identify how costs

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RESTORE TANF, SFA, AND RCA GRANTS

will be allocated between state and federal funding sources and options for maximizing federal participation.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The expressed goal of the eligibility study is to simplify procedures, streamline processes, improve customer service, and reduce state expenditures.

This decision package supports the Results Washington goals to:

- Ensure that funding is used responsibly; and
- Ensure efficiency, performance, and accountability to the public by providing transparency and accountability in state agency operations.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACT

As mentioned, OFM and HCA are both participants in the workgroup. In the upcoming months, frontline staff will be involved in Lean projects to map out the current eligibility processes from all points of entry.