

Aged, Blind or Disabled Program

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

Program Description

The Aged, Blind or Disabled 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 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 \$5.65 per day. To qualify for an ABD cash grant, a single adult must be in financial need with countable income 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:
 - Health care 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 program in partnership with the Department of Commerce and Supportive Housing through Washington's Foundational Community Supports program.
 - Referrals for 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 2020

The Social Security Administration approved approximately 4,046 ABD customers for Supplemental Security Income and/or Social Security Disability Insurance benefits. We also helped more than 13,139 ABD customers file for SSI.

More information:

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Transforming lives

(9/2021)

ABD Facts

Trends

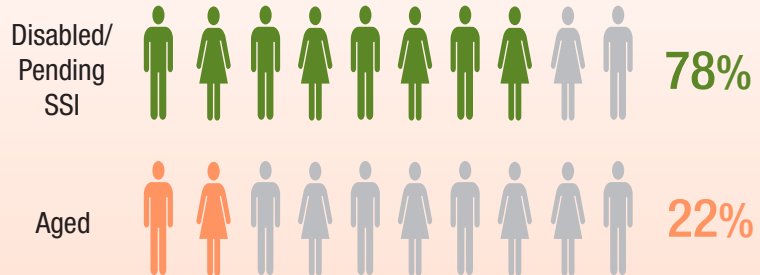
The average number of ABD customers per month has decreased since 2013.

FY 2013 **22,865**
FY 2020 **20,429**

Decrease

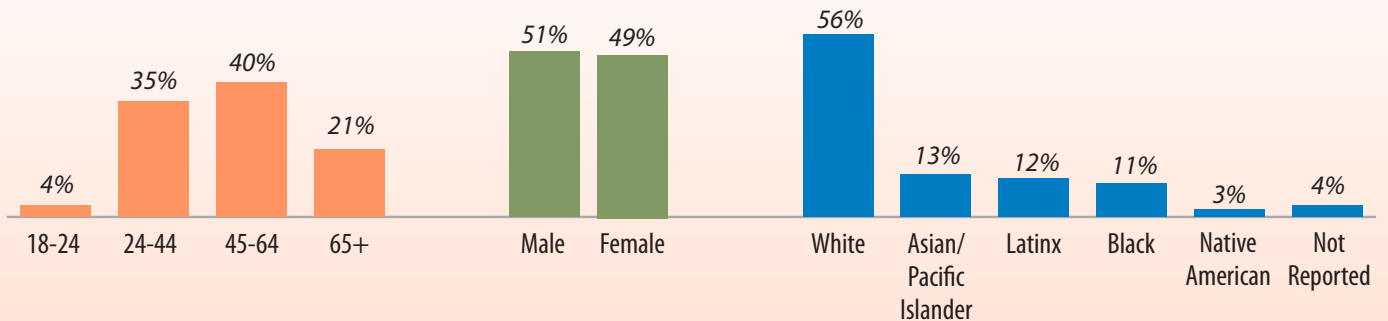
Types of Cases

More than three-quarters of people receiving ABD are disabled and awaiting a decision from the Social Security Administration for Supplemental Security Income. 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 50 years old.



Average Benefit

The average benefit for an individual receiving ABD.

\$5.65
per day

Challenges

58% Have a mental illness

43% Are experiencing homelessness

Budget

ABD accounted for less than 1% of state spending in the 2019-2021 biennium.

