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 1.9 million people, or one out of every four Washington state residents. We help clients meet their basic needs and achieve economic independence through cash grants, food and medical assistance, employment-focused services, refugee and immigrant assistance, disability determinations and child support collection.



	Description/ Target Population	Financial Eligibility Criteria	Federal/State Statutory Authority	2021-23 Biennium	Avg. Monthly Caseload SFY 23 ¹				
ASSISTANCE FOR	ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES								
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families State Family Assistance	TAN provides cash grants to families with children and pregnant women who are below income and resource limits. People who are caring for a relative's child or caregivers who are acting in the place of a parent are also able to apply for TANF on behalf of these children. SFA does the same for all of the following populations: Families who are lawfully present in the U.S. who do not meet citizenship requirements of TANF. Dependent students age 19 to 20. Pregnant individuals who are ineligible to receive TANF. Some two-parent households that include one pregnant parent or a child under the age of 12 months old.	A family's countable income must fall below established limits. Eligibility is also based on a family's assets. The values of a family's home and one car are exempt from asset considerations.	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 and 45 CFR Part 260 SFA Federal Authority 8 USC 1621 (d) – State authority to provide for eligibility of illegal aliens for state and local public benefits TANF State Authority RCW 74.08A and 74.12 SFA State Authority RCW 74.08A.100, RCW 74.12.035	\$483 million in cash grants to clients (mix of federal and state funds) Includes funding for DCA and AREN	 32,643 families per month (including1,399 solely SFA cases) 17,757 (54.4%) single-parent families 4,487 (13.7%) two-parent families 10,398 (31.9%) child-only cases 				
WorkFirst	Provides job search assistance, employment training and other activities and support to TANF and SFA recipients who are mandatory participants in WorkFirst so they can move toward economic stability.	Families receiving TANF or SFA in which the adult(s) in the household are also aided.	Federal Authority PL 104-193 State Authority RCW 74.08A	\$168 million: in WorkFirst services (mix of federal and state funds) Includes funding for WFS and Tribal TANF share of state Maintenance of Effort funds	26,728 mandatory WorkFirst participants				

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ASSISTANCE FOR I	ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES								
Diversion Cash Assistance	Provides short-term financial assistance for families with an emergent need who do not wish to receive TANF assistance.	The family must meet TANF eligibility criteria in the month of application.	Federal Authority PL 104-193 and 42 USC 604	\$2.5 million GF-	43 families				
	DCA recipients are not likely to need continued assistance if their emergent needs are met.		State Authority RCW 74.08A.210						
	Assistance is limited to \$1,250 for a 30-day period, once every 12 months. ²								
	DCA allows applicants to accept or maintain employment and diverts them from long-term public assistance. If the family goes 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 TANF cash grant.								
Additional Requirements for Emergent Needs	Provides short-term cash assistance to meet emergent housing or utility needs for pregnant individuals 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	Federal Authority 42 USC 604	AREN funding included within TANF and SFA grants budget	41 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 individuals and WorkFirst sanction families who are ineligible for other cash programs, with countable income and assets below established limits.	Federal Authority 42 USC 604 State Authority RCW 74.04.660	\$754,000 GF-S	6 families				

²Effective Jan. 1, 2025, the maximum DCA payment increases to \$2,000 (HB 2415: Chapter 154, Laws of 2024).

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CHILD SUPPORT					
Child Support Enforcement	Supports families in meeting their unique needs throughthe collection and disbursement of child support, medical enforcement and parentage establishment.	No income or resource criteria. Families who receive TANF automatically receive child support services. DCYF may also send referrals for child support services but since August 2022 it is not automatic. Families not receiving TANF who apply for child support services	Federal Authority Title IV-D of Social Security Act (42 USC 608-669b and 45 CFR Volume 2, Chap. III, 300-399) State Authority RCW 26.09; RCW 26.18; RCW 26.21A; RCW 26.23; RCW 26.26A; RCW 26.26B; RCW 70.58; RCW 74.20; RCW 74.20A; RCW 26.19	\$316.6 million: \$96.0 million NGF-S \$0.1 Local \$220.8 million GF-F	256,014 cases 155,500 paternity establishments at the end of the SFY (June) About two-thirds of the state's child support cases involve parents and children who are current (11.8%)
Paternity Establishment	Establish paternity by acknowledgment or by court order for all minor children born out of wedlock.	receive them, as well as families formerly on TANF	Federal Authority 42 USC 654; 42 USC 666; 45 CFR 303.5 State Authority RCW 26.21A; RCW 26.26; RCW 70.58; RCW 74.20; RCW 74.20A		or former (53.3%) TANF recipients
ASSISTANCE FOR	INDIVIDUALS				
Aged, Blind, or Disabled Cash Assistance	ABD provides a cash grant to persons who are aged 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	Countable income and assets must fall below established limits	RCW Chapter 74.62	\$161.6 million GF-S -\$33.4 million in recoveries	27,365 clients
	DSHS receives reimbursement for cash grants paid to ABD recipients who transition to SSI. ABD also provides information and referrals to include veteran's assistance, vocational rehabilitation and supported employment through Health Care Authority's Foundational Community Supports.				

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ASSISTANCE FOR I	NDIVIDUALS			'	
Housing and Essential Needs Referral	This program provides a referral for potential housing assistance through the Commerce-administered HEN program to individuals unable to work at least 90 days due to physical or mental incapacity. Recipients of HEN are also eligible to receive essential-needs items such as bus passes and personal care items The program also provides information and referrals to include veteran's assistance, vocational rehabilitation and supported employment through HCA's Foundational Community Supports.	Countable income and assets must fall below established limits.	RCW 43.185C.220, RCW Chapter 74.62 - RCW 74.04.805	Department of Commerce	2,901 clients
Pregnant Women Assistance	Provides a cash grant and referral for the Commerce-administered HEN program to individuals who are pregnant but ineligible for TANF and SFA benefits for a reason other than failure to cooperate with program requirements.	Must be pregnant and ineligible for TANF or SFA, with countable income and assets below established limits.	RCW Chapter 74.62	\$404,000 GF-S	
State Supplemental Payment (SSP)	Provides state funded supplemental monthly payments to SSI recipients who: • Are grandfathered in. • Have an SSI ineligible spouse. • Are aged 65 and older. • Are blind or receiving certain services from the Developmental Disabilities Administration. • Are a foster child receiving specific behavioral services through the Department of Children, Youth and Families but not eligible for foster care reimbursement under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act. ³	Social Security Administration determines SSI eligibility. Resource limit of \$2,000 for individual and \$3,000 for a couple	Federal Authority PL 92-603 20 CFR 416 Subpart T State Authority RCW 74.04.630	\$37 million GF-S	41,290 cases

³This type of SSP payment is provided by the Department of Children, Youth and Families.

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ASSISTANCE FOR	IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES				
Ongoing Additional Requirements	OAR provides a state-funded payment to a person in need of assistance (beyond food, clothing and shelter) as necessary to help them continue to live independently. This benefit is available to clients who are active in TANF, SFA, PWA, RCA, ABD, HEN Referral or SSI. Payments may assist with restaurant or home-delivered meals, telephone (landline) services, internet, transportation, laundry services, care for service animals (food, vet, boarding), hearing aid and eyeglass replacements and optometrist visits for eyeglass replacement. Other essential needs may be requested through the exception-to-rule process.	Must meet eligibility rules for the appropriate program (e.g., ABD, HEN Referral, TANF or SFA, PWA, RCA or SSI).	RCW 74.04.283	\$300,000 GF-S	471 cases
Refugee Cash Assistance	RCA provides cash grants to individuals or couples without dependents who recently resettled in Washington communities as refugees, asylees, special immigrants from Iraq or Afghanistan or other humanitarian immigrants. Typically, recipients can receive cash assistance for a maximum of 12 months after they become eligible, based on their immigration status and date of arrival. As of June 1, 2022, the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement extended service durations from eight to 12 months of cash assistance.	Same income and resource limits as TANF.	Federal Authority Immigration and Nationality Act, Title IV 8 USC 1522, Refugee Act of 1980, PL 96- 212	\$27 million GF-F	3,779 cases
Refugee and Immigrant Services	ESA's Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance administers programs and services to people who resettled in our communities as refugees and immigrants. ORIA contracts with more than 80 providers that specialize in offering culturally and linguistically appropriate services, including nonprofit organizations, resettlement agencies, ethnic-community-based organizations, public health and federally qualified health centers and local government agencies. Programs and services focus on refugee health and wellness, employment and training, immigration assistance, naturalization services and whole-family programs. Whole-family programs include services focused on school-aged kids, refugee youth and older adults. ORIA's programs and services aim to build strong communities by providing refugees and immigrants the resources they need to thrive.	No income or resource limits for these services.	Federal Authority Refugee Act of 1980, PL 96- 212; ; 45 CFR Part 400	\$47.6 million: \$9.7 million GF-S \$37.8 million GF-F	19,479 total clients served in the following ORIA programs: • Limited English Proficiency • ORIA Basic Food Employment and Training • Promoting Refugee Integration, Mobility and Empowerment • Naturalization programs

	Description/ Target Population	Financial Eligibility Criteria	Federal/State Statutory Authority	2021-23 Biennium	Avg. Monthly Caseload SFY 23 ¹
ASSISTANCE FOR I	MMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES				
Naturalization Program	ESA's ORIA provides assistance to eligible refugees and immigrants to apply for U.S. citizenship. ORIA contracts with providers who are recognized by the Department of Justice to provide services that include assistance with completing citizenship applications, English language and civics classes, assistance with fee waiver requests for applications fees and help applying for test exemptions for disabled clients	Recipients must be receiving one form of public assistance, including cash, food or medical assistance.	State Authority RCW 74.08A.130	\$5.1 million GF-S	4,322 unduplicated clients in the SFY. (an average of 602 clients per month)
BASIC FOOD PROC	GRAM				
Basic Food Program (Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP)	The Basic Food program provides food assistance to low-income families and individuals. Benefits are issued through the electronic benefit transfer 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 the benefit level.	Gross income at or below 200% federal poverty level for most households. Households that include someone disqualified for an Intentional Program Violation must: • Meet gross income test at 130% FPL. • Meet 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	Non-budgeted, non-allotted Administrative costs are included in overall ESA program support budget and matched at 50%.	517,127 households (households with at least one member receiving federal program benefits, including mixed cases)
Basic Food for Legal Immigrants (Food Assistance for Legal Immigrants or FAP)	FAP 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 helps "fill the gap" between the federal benefits the household is eligible to receive and the benefits the household would receive if all 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	\$57.55 million GF-S (SFY23 annual average)	15,145 households (households with at least one member receiving state program benefits, including mixed cases)

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BASIC FOOD PROC	BASIC FOOD PROGRAM									
Transitional Food Assistance	TFA provides stable food benefits for up to five months to families leaving TANF, State Family Assistance or Tribal TANF cash assistance programs. The benefit amount is based on the Basic Food benefit issued to the family for the last month the household received TANF or SFA. The last TANF grant payment is not counted when the TFA benefit amount is calculated.	Households were receiving Basic Food Assistance at the time their TANF or SFA closed, and were not in sanction status at time of closure.	Federal Authority Title 7, CFR Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 State Authority RCW 74.08A.010 RCW 74.04.500 RCW 74.04.510	Non-budgeted, non-allotted Administrative costs are included in overall ESA program support budget and matched at 50%.	11,852 households					
Basic Food and Employment Training Services	BFET provides education, employment and training services and employability assessments to Basic Food recipients. Services may include: Basic skills and training (e.g. literacy, math, vocational English as second language, high school equivalency preparation, life skills) Job readiness and vocational training Job search assistance Job placement Case management Retention services Participant reimbursement	All federally funded Basic Food Program recipients ⁵ who are not receiving TANF or RCA.	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 Dec. 20, 2019] CFR 273.7, Work Provisions	Program budget for FFY 2024: \$22.8 million GF-F	4,464 clients, including BFET clients served by the ORIA. 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. All 34 Washington state community and technical colleges, 47 regular, community-based organizations and 12 ORIA community-based organizations provide BFET-contracted services.					

⁵ Food Assistance for Legal Immigrants (FAP) recipients are not eligible for the BFET program.

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BASIC FOOD PROG	BASIC FOOD PROGRAM								
Basic Food Outreach	United States Department of Agriculture'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 to assist persons who have difficulty with the application process.	None – for prospective clients.	Federal Authority 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 FNS provides federal funding to interested states to finance activities aimed at improving the likelihood 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. In Washington, the SNAP-Ed program is administered through DSHS to two implementing agencies—the Department of Health and Washington State University Extension – that in turn support around 60 local SNAP-Ed providers in communities across the state.	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.	Federal Authority 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 2023: \$11.3 million, 100% federal	In federal fiscal year 2023 (Oct. 1, 2022, through Sept. 20, 2023), SNAP-Ed services reached: • Over 5,000 youth and nearly 300 adults through direct education. • 1.5 million individuals through indirect activities. • 1.15 million through policy, systems and environmental strategies.				
Washington Combined Application Project	WASHCAP provides Basic Food Program benefits to SSI recipients who are single and unemployed. Clients can apply through the Social Security Administration or by sending a simplified application to the centralized WASHCAP unit. One centralized call center handles all WASHCAP clients.	Same as Basic Food	Federal demonstration project under agreement with Social Security Administration and FNS	WASHCAP budget within overall ESA program support budget (Budget Unit M01)	75,080 cases				

	Description/ Target Population	Financial Eligibility Criteria	Federal/State Statutory Authority	2021-23 Biennium	Avg. Monthly Caseload SFY 23 ¹
OTHER PROGRAMS	S				
Working Family Support	Provides an additional food benefit of up to \$10 to low-income families that are receiving Basic Food, FAP or Transitional Food Assistance and 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 Transitional Food Assistance but not receiving TANF.	Federal Authority PL 104-193 and 42 USC 604 State Authority RCW 74.04.050	\$2.4 million GF-S	7,071 cases
SUN Bucks (Summer EBT)	SUN Bucks provides food benefits to children during summer months when free and reduced-price meals are no longer available at school.	Children aged 8-18 in a household that receives SNAP, FAP, TANF or SFA are automatically enrolled. Children enrolled in a school that participates in the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program and who qualify to receive free or reduced-price meals are automatically enrolled unless in a Community Eligibility Provision school. Children who are not automatically enrolled may apply for SUN Bucks and must be enrolled in a school that participates in NSLP or SBP and have income under 185% FPL to match Child Nutrition program income requirements.	Federal Authority Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023; 7 CFR 292	\$7.4 million GF-S administrative funds matched at 50% and \$82.5 benefits, 100% federally funded	Over 550,000 eligible children

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DOMESTIC VIOLEI	NCE PROGRAMS				
Domestic Violence Victim Services	ESA's Community Services Division provides statewide services through local community organizations to help people who are harmed by domestic violence as well as 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, emergency transportation assistance, community education and prevention activities and age-appropriate supportive services and resources for children and youth residing in emergency shelter.	None	Federal Authority Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) 42 U.S.C. 10404, Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) 42 U.S.C. 10603 State Authority RCW 70.123	\$14.6 million GF-S \$2.4 million Domestic Violence Prevention Account (DVPA) \$4.1 million FFY 2018 and 2019 FVPSA grant award \$31.4 million Victims of Crime Act FY20 and FY21 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. In this SFY, these programs served a monthly average of 1,441 clients.
Domestic Violence Intervention Treatment	ESA's Community Services Division 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 \$130,000 private or local -certification fees from DVIT programs	71 certified DVIT programs that conducted domestic violence perpetrator treatment

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MEDICAL PROGRA	MS				
Medical Care Services	Provides state-funded health care coverage to victims of human trafficking as defined in RCW 74.04.005, or ABD and HEN Referral recipients who legally reside in Washington state but are ineligible for Medicaid due to their immigration status.	Determined by DSHS to be eligible for benefits under the ABD Cash program, HEN referral program or SFA/survivor of certain crimes.	RCW 41.05.021 RCW 74.09.035	Health Care Authority	1,171 clients
Alien Emergency Medical	Provides partial Medicaid coverage for immigrants who would qualify for full-scope Medicaid if not for their alien status. Coverage is limited to emergency medical conditions. ESA determines AEM eligibility for individuals aged 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 individuals and aged, blind or disabled).	Federal Authority 42 U.S.C. Subchapter XIX State Authority Chapter 74.09 & 74.09A RCW	Health Care Authority	253 clients
SSI Medicaid	Provides Categorically Needy Medicaid coverage for persons who are aged, blind or disabled and receive SSI.	Social Security Administration determines eligibility for SSI using income rules based on Title XVI of the Social Security Act.	Federal Authority Title XIX of the Social Security Act 42 CFR Chapter 430 State Authority RCW 74.04 and 74.09	Health Care Authority	104,105 clients
SSI-Related Medicaid	Provides Medicaid coverage for low-income aged, blind or disabled persons who do not receive SSI.	Persons with countable income that would qualify them for SSI (\$943 for a single person) and are on Categorically Needy Medicaid. Those with higher incomes are "Medically Needy" and may be responsible for medical costs equal to their excess income (spenddown).	Federal Authority Section 1902 of the Social Security Act 42 U.S.C. 1396a State Authority RCW 74.04 and 74.09	Health Care Authority	48,618 clients

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NON-GRANT MEDI	CAL PROGRAMS				
Medicare Savings Programs	Pays Medicare premiums, copayments, coinsurance charges and deductibles for low-income Medicare beneficiaries.	Income limits vary by program, from 110% FPL to 200% FPL.	Federal Authority Section 1905 of the Social Security Act 42 U.S.C. 1396d State Authority RCW 74.04 and 74.09	Health Care Authority	206, 988 clients
Refugee Medical Assistance	Provides medical coverage for refugees who are ineligible for Modified Adjusted Gross Income Medicaid due to being over income. Eligibility ends after the first 12 months of residency in the United States.	Categorically needy coverage is available to persons with income that does not exceed 200% FPL.	Immigration and Nationality Act, Title IV 8 USC 1522, Refugee Act of 1980, PL 96-212	Health Care Authority	30 clients