

Aged, Blind or Disabled Program

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.

The program provides support through:

- **Cash assistance.** ABD provides a maximum monthly cash grant of \$450 to individuals and \$570 to married couples to help meet their basic needs. To qualify for an ABD cash grant, a person must be in financial need and meet age, blindness or disability criteria.
- **Connections to local resources.** We work together with ABD customers to build connections with local resources, including:
 - Evaluation services. DSHS contracts with mental health professionals and partners with medical doctors throughout the state to perform evaluation services. Providers supply objective medical evidence necessary for DSHS employees 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 assistance in partnership with the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs.
 - Employment and training opportunities with the DSHS Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Foundational Community Support Supported Employment providers.
- **Facilitation during the SSI process.** We help ABD customers complete and track SSI applications, obtain medical documentation to support their applications and file appeals when appropriate. We connect people who might not meet SSI eligibility due to citizenship status with naturalization services.



Highlights in State Fiscal Year 2024

The Social Security Administration approved 5,863 ABD recipients for Supplemental Security Income benefits.

More information:

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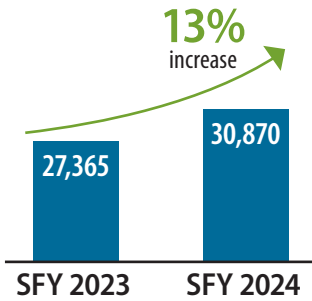
Email: Alexis.Marx@dshs.wa.gov

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ABD Facts

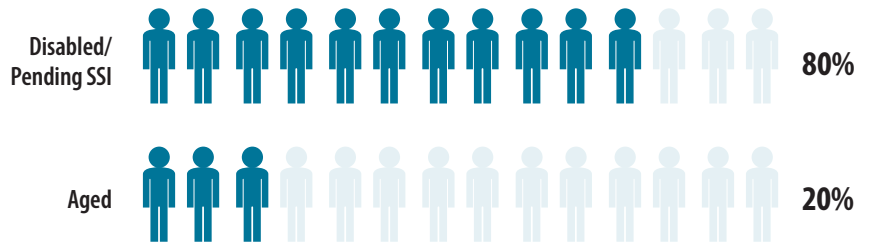
Trends

The average number of ABD recipients per month has increased since 2019.



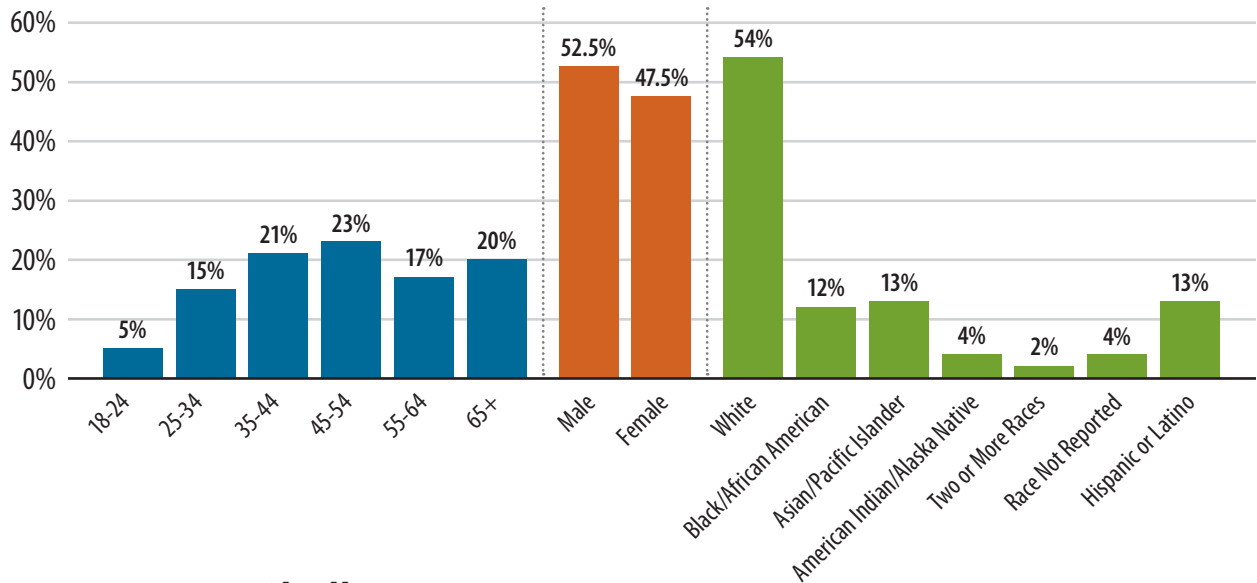
Types of Cases

More than three-quarters of ABD recipients 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.

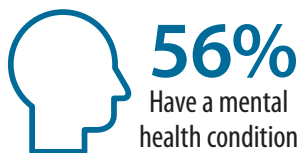


Demographics

The average age of an ABD customer is 50.



Challenges



Source: Briefing Book SFY 2024 Aged, Blind, or Disabled Cash Assistance
 Note: The Social Security Administration collects identified-at-birth binary information only. ACES records must match with SSA.

