

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 more than 1.7 million people, or more than one out of every five Washington state residents. We help our 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.



*Transforming lives*

10/2022

	Description/ Target Population	Financial Eligibility Criteria	Federal/State Statutory Authority	2019-21 Biennium	Avg. Monthly Caseload SFY 21 <sup>1</sup>
<b>ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES</b>					
<p><b>Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)</b></p> <p><b>State Family Assistance (SFA)</b></p>	<p>Temporary Assistance for Needy Families provides cash grants to families with children and pregnant individuals who are below income and resource limits. Persons who are caring for a relative's child or guardians who are acting in the place of a parent are also able to apply for TANF on behalf of these children.</p> <p>State Family Assistance provides cash assistance to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Families who are lawfully present in the U.S. who do not meet citizenship requirements of TANF,</li> <li>Dependent students age 19 to 20,</li> <li>Pregnant individuals who are ineligible to receive TANF, and</li> <li>Some two- parent households that include one pregnant parent or a child under the age of 12 months old.</li> </ul>	<p>Family's countable income must fall below established limits. Eligibility is also based on a family's assets.</p> <p>Value of a family's home and one car (with equity up to \$10,000) is exempt from asset considerations.</p>	<p><i>TANF Federal Authority</i> 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 &amp; 45 CFR Part 260</p> <p><i>SFA Federal Authority</i> 8 USC 1621 (d) – State authority to provide for eligibility of illegal aliens for state and local public benefits</p> <p><i>TANF State Authority</i> RCW 74.08A and 74.12</p> <p><i>SFA State Authority</i> RCW 74.08A.100, RCW 74.12.035</p>	<p>\$294.8 million:</p> <p>\$17.9 million GF-S TANF</p> <p>\$276.9 million GF-F TANF</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>29,701 families per month (including 877 SFA cases)</li> <li>15,847 (53.4%) single parent families</li> <li>2,271 (7.6%) two-parent families</li> <li>11,583 (39.0%) child-only cases</li> </ul>
<b>WorkFirst Employment and Training</b>	<p>Provides job search assistance, employment training, and other activities and supports to TANF/SFA recipients who are mandatory participants in WorkFirst so they can move forward on a pathway to economic stability.</p>	<p>Families must be recipients of TANF or SFA.</p>	<p><i>Federal Authority</i> PL 104-193</p> <p><i>State Authority</i> RCW 74.08A</p>	<p>\$137 million:</p> <p>\$31.9 million NGF-S</p> <p>\$105.1 million GF-F TANF</p>	

<sup>1</sup>Unless otherwise noted, caseload data for most programs is sourced from the ESA Briefing Book (SFY 2021) prepared by the ESA Management Accountability and Performance Statistics (EMAPS) unit. Data for the following programs was provided by non-EMAPS staff: U.S. Repatriate Program, Basic Food Employment & Training Services, Basic Food Education & Outreach, and SNAP – Ed (Nutrition Education & Obesity Prevention).

Description/ Target Population	Financial Eligibility Criteria	Federal/State Statutory Authority	2019-21 Biennium	Avg. Monthly Caseload SFY 21 <sup>1</sup>	
<b>ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES</b>					
<p><b>Diversion Cash Assistance (DCA)</b></p>	<p>Provides short-term financial assistance for families who have an emergent need and do not wish to receive TANF assistance.</p> <p>DCA recipients are not likely to need continued assistance if their emergent needs are met. Assistance is limited to \$1250 for a 30-day period, once every 12 months.</p> <p>DCA allows the applicant to accept or maintain employment and diverts the applicant from TANF and long-term public assistance. If the family goes onto 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.</p>	<p>Family must meet TANF eligibility criteria in the month of application.</p>	<p><i>Federal Authority</i> PL 104-193 &amp; 42 USC 604</p> <p><i>State Authority</i> RCW 74.08A.210</p>	<p>\$4.9 million GF-S TANF MOE</p>	<p>24 families</p>
<p><b>Additional Requirements for Emergent Needs (AREN)</b></p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Family must receive TANF, SFA or RCA.</p>	<p><i>Federal Authority</i> 42 USC 604</p>	<p>AREN funds are included in TANF budget; there is no separate AREN budget category.</p> <p>Monthly spending is at \$50,000</p>	<p>33 families</p>
<p><b>Consolidated Emergency Assistance Program (CEAP)</b></p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Families, pregnant individuals and WorkFirst sanction families who are ineligible for other cash programs and countable income and assets fall below established limits.</p>	<p><i>Federal Authority</i> 42 USC 604</p> <p><i>State Authority</i> RCW 74.04.660</p>	<p>\$596,000 GF-S</p>	<p>128 families</p>

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Description/ Target Population	Financial Eligibility Criteria	Federal/State Statutory Authority	2019-21 Biennium	Avg. Monthly Caseload SFY 21 <sup>1</sup>	
<b>CHILD SUPPORT</b>					
<p><b>Child Support Enforcement</b></p>	<p>Helps parents contribute to brighter futures for their children through the collection and disbursement of child support, medical enforcement and parentage establishment.</p>	<p>No income or resource criteria.</p> <p>Families who receive TANF and children in foster care automatically receive child support services.</p> <p>Families not receiving TANF who apply for child support services receive them as well as families formerly on TANF.</p>	<p><i>Federal Authority</i> Title IV-D of Social Security Act (42 USC 608-669b and 45 CFR Volume 2, Chap. III, 300-399)</p> <p><i>State Authority</i> RCW 26.09; RCW 26.18; RCW 24.21A; RCW 26.23; RCW 26.26; RCW 70.58; RCW 74.20; RCW 74.20A</p>	<p>\$316.9 million:</p> <p>\$96.0 million NGF-S</p> <p>\$0.1 million Local</p> <p>\$220.8 million GF-F</p>	<p>294,069 cases</p> <p>170,246 paternity establishments at the end of the SFY (June)</p> <p>About two-thirds of the state's child support cases involve parents and children who are current (10.1%) or former (52.3%) TANF recipients</p>
<p><b>Paternity Establishment</b></p>	<p>Establish parentage by acknowledgment or by court order for all minor children born out of wedlock.</p>	<p><i>Federal Authority</i> 42 USC 654; 42 USC 666; 45 CFR 303.5</p> <p><i>State Authority</i> RCW 26.21A; RCW 26.26A; RCW 70.58A; RCW 74.20; RCW 74.20A</p>			
<b>ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS</b>					
<p><b>Aged, Blind or Disabled (ABD) Cash Assistance</b></p>	<p>Provides a cash grant to persons who are age 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 (HEN) program and assistance applying for federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.</p> <p>DSHS receives reimbursement for cash grants paid to ABD recipients who transition to SSI.</p> <p>The program also provides information and referrals to include: veteran's assistance, vocational rehabilitation, and supported employment through HCA's Foundational Community Supports.</p>	<p>Countable income and assets must fall below established limits.</p>	<p><i>RCW Chapter 74.62</i></p>	<p>\$81.5 million GF-S</p> <p>-\$18 million Recoveries</p>	<p>21,522 clients</p>

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<b>ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS</b>					
<b>Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) Referral</b>	<p>Provides a referral for potential housing assistance through the Commerce administered HEN program to individuals unable to work at least 90 days due to a physical or mental incapacity. Recipients of HEN are also eligible to receive essential needs items such as bus passes and personal care items.</p> <p>The program also provides information and referrals to include: veteran's assistance, vocational rehabilitation, and supported employment through HCA's Foundational Community Supports.</p>	Countable income and assets must fall below established limits.	RCW 43.185C.220, RCW Chapter 74.62 - RCW 74.04.805	Department of Commerce	3,421 clients
<b>Pregnant Women Assistance (PWA)</b>	Provides a cash grant and a referral for the Commerce administered Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) program, to individuals who are pregnant and are ineligible for TANF/SFA benefits for a reason other than failure to cooperate with program requirements.	Countable income and assets must fall below established limits.	RCW Chapter 74.62	\$220,000 GF-S	2 clients
<b>State Supplemental Payment (SSP)</b>	<p>Provides state funded supplemental monthly payments to SSI recipients who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>are grandfathered in.</li> <li>have an SSI ineligible spouse.</li> <li>are aged 65 and older.</li> <li>blind or receiving certain services from the Developmental Disabilities Administration.</li> <li>are a foster child receiving specific behavioral services through the Department of Children, Youth and Families who are not eligible for foster care reimbursement under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act.<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>	<p>Social Security Administration (SSA) determines SSI eligibility.</p> <p>Resource limit of \$2,000 for individual and \$3,000 for a couple.</p>	<p><i>Federal Authority</i> PL 92-603 <i>20 CFR 416 Subpart T</i></p> <p><i>State Authority</i> RCW 74.04.630</p>	\$37.5 million GF-S	40,764 cases

<sup>2</sup>This type of SSP payment is provided by the Department of Children, Youth and Families.

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<b>ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS</b>					
<b>Ongoing Additional Requirements (OAR)</b>	Provides a state-funded payment to a person with a need of assistance (beyond food, clothing, and shelter) that is necessary to help them continue to live independently. This benefit is available to clients who are active on one of the following programs: TANF, SFA, PWA, RCA, ABD or SSI. Payments may assist with restaurant or home-delivered meals, food for a service animal, telephone services, and laundry services. Other essential needs may be requested through the exception to rule process.	Must meet eligibility rules for the appropriate program (e.g. ABD, TANF/SFA, PWA, RCA or SSI)	RCW 74.04.283	\$300,000 GF-S	234 cases
<b>ASSISTANCE FOR IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES</b>					
<b>Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)</b>	Provides cash grants to individuals or couples without dependents who have 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 services months from eight to twelve months of cash assistance.	Same income and resource limits as TANF.	<i>Federal Authority</i> Immigration & Nationality Act, Title IV 8 USC 1522, Refugee Act of 1980, PL 96-212	\$2 million GF-F	175 cases
<b>Refugee and Immigrant Services</b>	Administers programs and services to people who have resettled in our communities as refugees and immigrants. ESA's Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance contracts with 70 different 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 and 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.	<i>Federal Authority</i> Refugee Act of 1980, PL 96-212; 45 CFR Part 400	\$33.5 million: \$4.7 million GF-S \$28.8 million GF-F	8,616 total clients served in the following ORIA programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited English Proficiency (LEP)</li> <li>Promoting Refugee Integration, Mobility and Empowerment (PRIME)</li> <li>Naturalization programs</li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup> Families with children are eligible for TANF cash assistance. <sup>4</sup> During the coronavirus pandemic, the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement authorized states to permit eligible people to receive cash assistance for longer than eight months of assistance up to 18 months.

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<b>ASSISTANCE FOR IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES</b>					
<b>Naturalization Program</b>	Provides assistance to eligible refugees and immigrants to apply for U.S. citizenship. ESA's Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance contracts with providers who are recognized by the Department of Justice to provide services that include assistance with completing the citizenship application, English language and civics classes, assistance with fee waiver requests for application 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.	<i>State Authority</i> RCW 74.08A.130	\$5.1 million GF-S	3,796 unduplicated clients in the SFY.  <i>(an average of 590 clients per month)</i>
<b>BASIC FOOD PROGRAM</b>					
<b>Basic Food Program</b>  <i>(Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP)</i>	Provides food assistance to low-income families and individuals. Benefits are issued through the electronic benefit transfer (EBT) 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 benefit level.	Gross income at or below 200% federal poverty level (FPL) for most households.  Households that include someone disqualified for an Intentional Program Violation must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet gross income test at 130% FPL.</li> <li>• Meet net income test of 100% FPL.</li> <li>• Have assets below established limits.</li> </ul>	<i>Federal Authority</i> Title 7, CFR Food and Nutrition Act of 2008  <i>State Authority</i> RCW 74.04.500	<i>Non-budgeted, non-allotted</i>  Administrative costs are included in overall ESA program support budget and matched at 50%.	532,298 households  <i>(Households with at least one member receiving federal program benefits. Includes mixed cases.)</i>
<b>Basic Food for Legal Immigrants</b>  <i>(Food Assistance for Legal Immigrants or FAP)</i>	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.	<i>Federal Authority</i> Title 7, CFR Food and Nutrition Act of 2008  <i>State Authority</i> RCW 74.04.500 RCW 74.08A.120	\$39.7 million GF-S	10,695 households  <i>(Households with at least one member receiving state program benefits. Includes mixed cases.)</i>

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<b>BASIC FOOD PROGRAM</b>					
<b>Transitional Food Assistance (TFA)</b>	Provides stable food benefits, for up to five months, to families leaving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, 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/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/SFA closed, and were not in sanction status at the time of closure.	<i>Federal Authority</i> Title 7, CFR Food and Nutrition Act of 2008  <i>State Authority</i> RCW 74.08A.010 RCW 74.04.500 RCW 74.04.510	<i>Non-budgeted, non-allotted</i>  Administrative costs are included in overall ESA program support budget and matched at 50%.	11,180 households
<b>Basic Food and Employment Training Services (BFET)</b>	Provides education, employment and training services, and employability assessments to Basic Food recipients.  Services may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic skills and training (e.g., literacy, math, vocational English as second language, high school equivalency preparation, life skills).</li> <li>• Job readiness and vocational training.</li> <li>• Job search assistance.</li> <li>• Job placement.</li> <li>• Case management.</li> <li>• Retention services.</li> <li>• Participant reimbursement (e.g. transportation, child care, hygiene, clothing, etc.).</li> </ul> <p>Washington state has a strong record of effectively administering the BFET program. The program is an important part of the state's comprehensive workforce development system and plays a vital role in Washington's two-generation approach, reducing poverty and increasing prosperity for families. BFET's mission is to transform lives by providing protective factors that build foundations and pathways out of poverty. BFET assists basic food recipients to achieve their human potential by encouraging economic well-being through skill acquisition, education and gainful employment.</p>	All federally funded Basic Food Program recipients <sup>5</sup> who are not receiving TANF or RCA.	<i>Federal Authority</i> 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 December 20, 2019] CFR 273.7, Work Provisions	Program budget for FFY 2021: \$25.9 million GF-F	4,361 clients including BFET clients served by the Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance  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.

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



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<b>BASIC FOOD PROGRAM</b>					
<b>Basic Food Outreach (BFO)</b>	USDA'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 assist persons who have difficulty with the application process.	None – for prospective clients.	<i>Federal Authority</i> 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 Lead Contractors: WithinReach and People for People, to provide outreach activities across Washington to help individuals enroll in SNAP.  In FFY 2021, BFO reported 708,284 outreach activities and 16,325 Washington Connection changes.
<b>SNAP-Ed (Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention)</b>	USDA's Food and Nutrition Service provides federal funding to interested states to finance activities aimed at improving the likelihood that 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.	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.	<i>Federal Authority</i> 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 2019: \$9.6 million 100% federal	SNAP-Ed services are currently contracted and subcontracted through implementing agencies throughout the state, including Washington State University (WSU), Washington State Department of Health (DOH), and nonprofits and other organizations.  In addition, SNAP-Ed contracts with Washington State Farmers Market Association, WSU and DOH for statewide initiatives which include program and outcome evaluation; curriculum and training; statewide support and local farmer's market coordination and collaboration.
<b>WASHCAP (Washington Combined Application Project)</b>	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.	<i>Federal demonstration project under agreement with SSA and FNS</i>	WASHCAP budget within overall ESA program support budget (Budget Unit M01)	79,295 cases

# Overview of Major Statewide Programs and Services

Description/ Target Population	Financial Eligibility Criteria	Federal/State Statutory Authority	2019-21 Biennium	Avg. Monthly Caseload SFY 21 <sup>1</sup>	
<b>OTHER PROGRAMS</b>					
<b>Working Family Support (WFS)</b>	Provides an additional food benefit of up to \$10 to low-income families receiving Basic Food, FAP or Transitional Food Assistance, 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.	<i>Federal Authority</i> PL 104-193 & 42 USC 604  <i>State Authority</i> RCW 74.04.050	\$1.9 million GF-S	7,068 cases

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<b>DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAMS</b>					
<b>Domestic Violence Victim Services</b>	Provides statewide services through local community organizations to help people who are harmed by domestic violence and provides 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	<i>Federal Authority</i> Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) 42 U.S.C. 10404, Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) 42 U.S.C. 10603  <i>State Authority</i> RCW 70.123	\$14.6 million GF-S  \$2.4 million Domestic Violence Prevention Account (DVPA)  \$4.1 million FFY 2018 & 2019 FVPSA grant award  \$31.4 million Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) FY20 & 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 1,482 clients.
<b>Domestic Violence Intervention Treatment (DVT)</b>	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/local -certification fees from DVIT programs	71 certified DVIT programs conducted domestic violence perpetrator treatment

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<b>MEDICAL PROGRAMS</b>					
<b>Medical Care Services</b>	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.	Countable income and assets must fall below established limits.	RCW 41.05.021 RCW 74.09.035	Health Care Authority	1,751 clients
<b>Alien Emergency Medical (AEM)</b>	Provides partial Medicaid coverage for immigrants who would qualify for full-scope Medicaid except for their alien status. Coverage is limited to emergency medical conditions. ESA determines AEM eligibility for individuals age 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).	<i>Federal Authority</i> 42 U.S.C. Subchapter XIX  <i>State Authority</i> Chapter 74.09 & 74.09A RCW	Health Care Authority	191 clients
<b>SSI Medicaid</b>	Provides Medicaid coverage for persons who are aged, blind or have a disability who receive SSI or who are otherwise deemed to be eligible for SSI Medicaid under federal law.	SSA determines eligibility for SSI using income rules based on Title XVI of the Social Security Act.	<i>Federal Authority</i> Title XIX of the Social Security Act 42 CFR Chapter 430  <i>State Authority</i> RCW 74.04 and 74.09	Health Care Authority	108,752 clients
<b>SSI-related Medicaid</b>	Low-income aged, blind or disabled persons who do not receive SSI.	Persons with countable income that would qualify them for SSI (\$783 for a single person) are Categorically Needy Medicaid. Those with higher incomes are Medically Needy and may be responsible for medical costs equal to their excess income (spenddown).	<i>Federal Authority</i> Section 1902 of the Social Security Act 42 U.S.C. 1396a  <i>State Authority</i> RCW 74.04 and 74.09	Health Care Authority	32,678 clients

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<b>NON-GRANT MEDICAL PROGRAMS</b>					
<b>Medicare Savings Programs (MSP)</b>	Pays Medicare premiums, coinsurance and deductibles for low-income Medicare beneficiaries.	Income limits vary depending on program from 100% FPL to 200% FPL.	<i>Federal Authority</i> Section 1905 of the Social Security Act 42 U.S.C. 1396d  <i>State Authority</i> RCW 74.04 and 74.09	Health Care Authority	197,098 clients
<b>Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)</b>	Provides medical coverage for refugees ineligible for MAGI Medicaid due to being over income.  Eligibility ends after the first twelve months of residency in the United States.	Categorically needy coverage is available to persons with income that does not exceed 200% FPL.	<i>Federal Authority</i> Immigration & Nationality Act, Title IV 8 USC 1522, Refugee Act of 1980, PL 96-212	Health Care Authority	2 clients

# 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 maximum monthly cash grant of \$417 each month to help individuals meet their basic needs. To qualify for an ABD cash grant, a single adult must be in financial need and meet age or disability criteria.
- **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 the state to perform evaluation services for ABD customers. 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 in partnership with the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs.
  - Employment and training opportunities with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and FCS Supported Employment providers.
- **Facilitation during the SSI process.** We help ABD clients 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 2021

**The Social Security Administration approved approximately 3,848 ABD clients** for Supplemental Security Income benefits.

### More information:

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Transforming lives

(9/2022)

# ABD Facts

## Trends

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

FY 2013 **22,865**  
FY 2021 **21,522**

Decrease

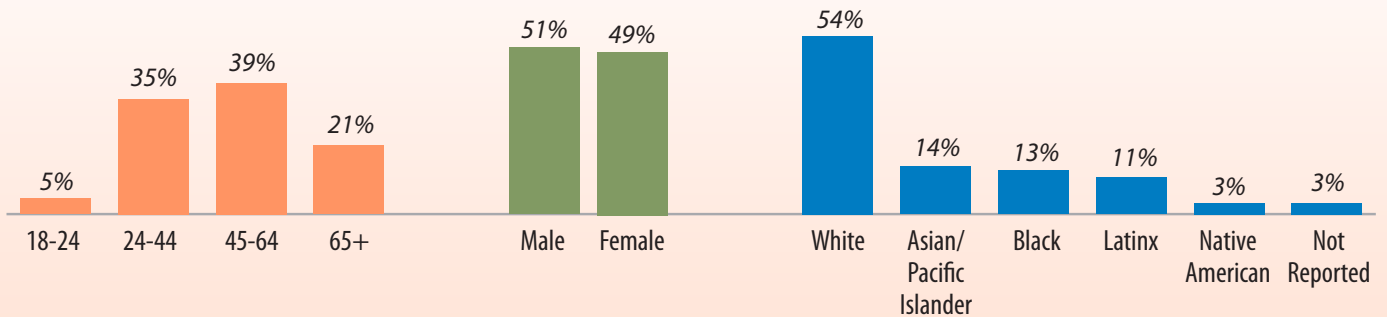
## Types of Cases

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 recipient is 50 years old.



## Challenges

57%

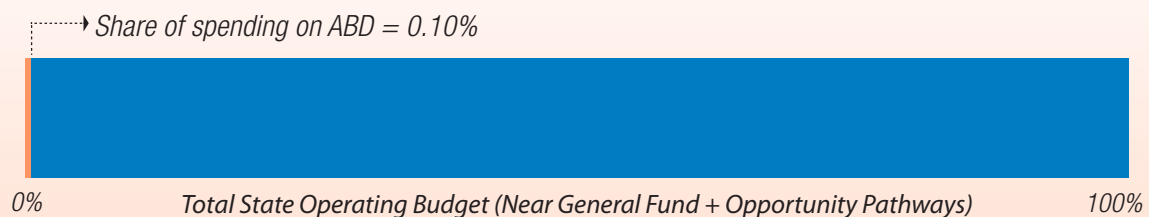
Have a mental illness

33%

Are experiencing homelessness

## Budget

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



# Basic Food

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

## Program Description

The Basic Food program provides assistance for individuals and families to purchase and access nutritious foods, and plays a critical role in supporting our communities in reaching their full potential. Washington state's federally funded Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is mirrored by the state-funded Food Assistance Program, which is for legal immigrants who do not yet qualify for federal SNAP benefits.

We provide tools and resources to promote well-being through:

- **Access to healthy foods.** Healthy food is foundational to our well-being, and without it we struggle to fully contribute to our community. Basic Food provides monthly food benefits to ensure children and adults have a full belly and access to nutritional foods that help us through all stages of life by ensuring healthy brain development, greater school attendance, increased health and social inclusion. In order to qualify for Basic Food, a household's earnings must fall below 200% of the federal poverty level (\$46,060 for a family of three). The average daily benefit for a household receiving Basic Food is \$11.96 per day.
- **Outreach and education.** In addition to food assistance, the program conducts statewide educational efforts to spread healthy eating awareness and increase physical activities through SNAP-Education. When our community members have the tools we all need to thrive, including knowledge about fresh, healthy food, resource management and food safety, they can create lifelong habits that build a solid foundation for themselves and their families.
- **Connection to employment and training opportunities.** The Basic Food Employment and Training program is a partnership between DSHS, community-based organizations and the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges. BFET gives youth and adults the opportunity to make use of their gifts and talents to increase their skills and expertise so they have a broader range of options for future employment.

## Highlights from 2021

- **Beginning Oct. 1, 2021, the Thrifty Food Plan was permanently revised** increasing Basic Food benefits to all eligible households by roughly 25%.
- **The BFET program operates in 35 of 39 counties in Washington state** and is one of the most robust employment and training programs in the country.

### More information:

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(8/2022)



# Basic Food Facts

## Trends

The number of people served by Basic Food has increased from FY 2020 to FY 2021.

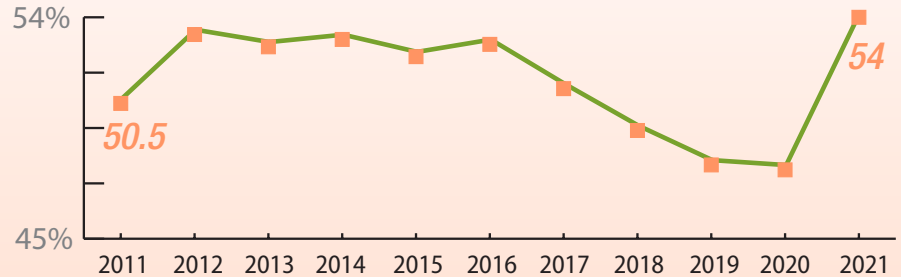


FY 2020 **838,550**

FY 2021 **950,592**

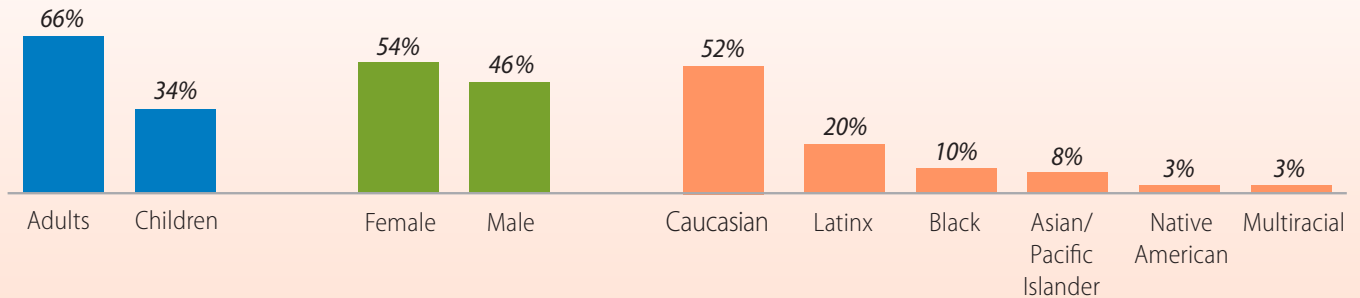
## Meeting the Need

The percentage of households receiving Basic Food increased during the last recession and decreased as the economy continued to improve. For every 100 households living below 200% of the federal poverty line, 54 were served in 2021.



## Characteristics of People Served

Adults, females and people who racially identify as Caucasian make up the majority of the caseload.

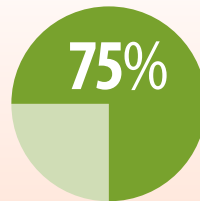


## Average Benefit

The average benefit for a household receiving Basic Food.

**\$11.96**  
per day

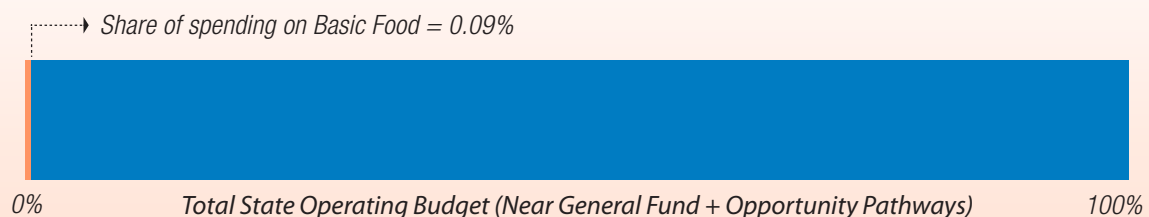
## Receipt of Other Benefits



75% of people receiving Basic Food do not receive any other cash benefit.

## Budget

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



# Basic Food Work Registration Requirements and ABAWDs

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

## Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents

Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents are a subset of Basic Food recipients who are required to participate in specific employment-related activities to maintain their assistance (WAC [388-444-0030](#)).

## Who is an ABAWD?

An ABAWD is an able-bodied adult who:

- Is age 18-49.
- Has no dependent children living with them.
- Is physically and mentally able to work.
- Has no exemptions from work registration (WAC [388-444-0010](#)).

## What are the work requirements?

To receive Basic Food assistance beyond three months of non-participation, non-exempt ABAWDs must complete one of the following activities:

- Work an average of at least 20 hours per week or 80 hours per month.
- Volunteer in the community through an approved Workfare site monthly. The number of volunteer hours is determined based on the benefit amount.
- Participate in an employment or training program such as Basic Food Employment Training, volunteer in an unpaid work program or another state-approved program for 20 hours per week average or 80 hours per month.

## Is there an ABAWD Waiver?

The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) requests waivers annually from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, to identify counties or areas of the state requiring ABAWD participation. This participation is dependent on unemployment rates in comparison to the national average.

Effective February 1, 2023, the current statewide ABAWD waiver exempting all counties in Washington state from ABAWD time limits expires. DSHS is preparing to submit a new waiver request to FNS prior to the expiration of the current waiver. Based on available data, it is likely the waiver will not be statewide, but there will be counties and tribal lands and reservations waived in 2023. DSHS will provide new waiver details to stakeholders and update the ABAWD website once it receives final approval. The information will be available at [www.dshs.wa.gov/abawd](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/abawd).

## What services are available for ABAWDs?

While ABAWDs are not currently required to participate in retaining their Basic Food eligibility, we continue to provide employment and training opportunities through:

- [Basic Food Employment and Training](#)
- [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act](#)

For more information, please visit [Able Bodied Adults without Dependents-ABAWD](#)



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# Child-Only Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

Economic Services Administration · Community Services Division

## Program Description

In some situations, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families cash assistance is provided solely for children in a household (child-only TANF). This happens when children are living in one of two situations: with non-parental caregivers or with parents who are not eligible for TANF. No work-participation requirements or associated supports are a part of child-only TANF households.

## Non-parental child-only TANF

In these households, adults are caring for a minor child who is not their own; they do not have a financial responsibility to provide for that child. These households include:

- **Kinship families**, who are providing care for a minor relative<sup>1</sup> and either do not request or are not income-eligible to receive a TANF grant for themselves.
  - The grant is for the child(ren) only, and since the relative is not financially responsible for the child, we do not count the relatives' income.
  - The amount of time kinship families spend on child-only TANF does not count against the 60-month federal time limit.
  - These households make up about 51% of all child-only TANF cases.
- **Legal guardian(s) and in loco parentis caregivers**, who are not related to the child in their care and, as above, do not request or are not income-eligible for a TANF grant for themselves.
  - The grant is for the child(ren) only, and since the caregiver is not financially responsible for the child, we do not count the caregiver's income.
  - The department completes a background check for non-relative caregivers who do not have legal guardianship.
  - The amount of time kinship families spend on child-only TANF does not count against the 60-month federal time limit.
  - These households make up about 10% of all child-only TANF cases.

## Parental child-only TANF

In these households, the child lives in the home with their legal parent(s), but the parent(s) are not eligible for a TANF grant for themselves. These households include:

- **Parents receiving SSI**, who are not eligible for TANF and are not counted as a part of the TANF assistance unit. If the parent(s) are receiving SSI, the family receives a child-only grant.
  - Since the parent(s) are not counted as part of the assistance unit, their income is not budgeted against the TANF grant.

(Continued on next page.)

<sup>1</sup>See [WAC 388-454-0010](http://WAC 388-454-0010) for the applicable definition of relative.

### More information:

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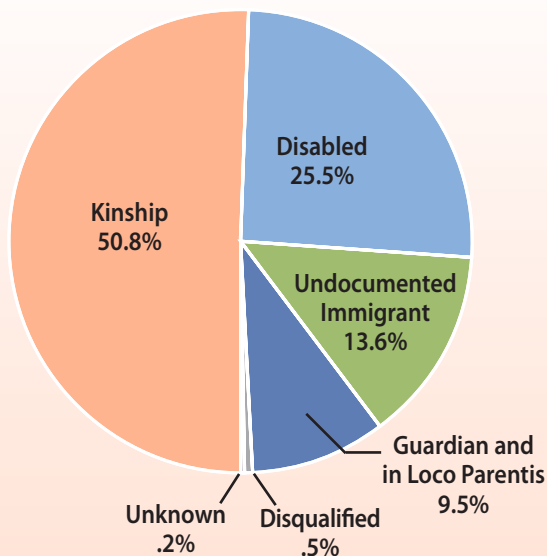
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- The department counts the months towards the 60-month federal time limit; however, parents on SSI qualify for a time limit extension as a disabled adult.
- These households make up about 26% of all child-only TANF cases.
- **Undocumented immigrant parents**, who are not eligible for a TANF grant for themselves due to their citizenship status but they can receive a child-only TANF grant for their qualified children.
  - Since the parent(s) are financially responsible to provide for their child, a portion of any parental income is counted against the TANF grant.
  - Though not federally required, under current state law the department counts months against the 60-month time limit and the parent must meet a time limit extension category in order to continue receiving cash assistance beyond 60 months. If they do not qualify, the child-only TANF grant ends.
  - These households make up about 14% of all child-only TANF cases.

## Child-Only TANF Cases – June 2021 Snapshot

### Child-Only TANF Cases by Major Caretaker Groups



**Data Source:**

EMAPS, June 2021 Snapshot

**Notes:**

1. Child-only households comprised 39.0% of the total TANF/SFA caseload in SFY 2021. (Source: *ESA 2021 Briefing Book*, TANF/WorkFirst Chapter).
2. **Disqualified:** In rare cases (less than 1% of the caseload), parents may be disqualified for TANF for a period of time if they do not meet Social Security number requirements, have been convicted of unlawful practices in obtaining public assistance, or are fleeing from the law or breaking parole for a crime considered a felony.
3. **Unknown:** Caretaker is defined using the child's relationship to the head-of-household member. "Unknown" cases are those in which the head of the household's status is unknown.

Child-Only TANF Cases	Parent in Household	Subject to 60-month time limit	Adult's income used in grant calculation	If financially eligible, can opt into TANF grant
Kinship				X
Legal guardians and in loco parentis caregivers				X
SSI parent	X	X (Qualifies for extension due to disability)		
Undocumented parent	X	X	X	
Disqualified parent	X	X	X	

# Domestic Violence Victim Services

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

Economic Services Administration • Community Services Division

## Program Description

The Department of Social and Health Services' Economic Services Administration's Domestic Violence Victim Services program distributes state and federal funding dedicated to providing emergency shelter and supportive services for victims of domestic violence and their children. Domestic violence programs consistently report that DSHS funding is critical to keeping their doors open and providing life-saving services to members of their communities.

Domestic violence is the infliction or threat of physical harm against an intimate partner and includes physical, sexual and psychological abuse against the partner. It is part of a pattern of assaultive, coercive and controlling behaviors directed at achieving compliance from or control over that intimate partner. It may include, but is not limited to, a categorization of offenses as defined in RCW 10.99.020, committed by one intimate partner against another.

Services are provided through contracts with community-based agencies and local government agencies and include:

- Safety planning, crisis intervention and crisis helplines, emergency shelter, individual advocacy, legal advocacy, support groups, child care assistance during advocacy and support group sessions, age-appropriate supportive services and resources for children and youth residing in emergency shelter, emergency transportation assistance, information and referrals, community education and prevention activities.

The majority of service recipients receive non-shelter-based services such as advocacy, assistance with protection orders and other legal issues, and access to support groups.

Contracted domestic violence agencies provide services to individuals and their dependent children hurt or harmed by domestic violence. Education and outreach activities are conducted with community groups and individuals interested in learning about domestic violence, available services and prevention.

## Highlights in SFY 2021

- Local domestic violence programs served a total of 17,783 victims and their children, of whom 3,996 received emergency shelter-based services and 13,787 received non-shelter-based services.
- 39 domestic violence shelter programs provided 157,200 shelter bed-nights to victims and their families. Victims stayed in shelter an average of 39 days.

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# Employment and Training

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

## Program Description

The Department of Social and Health Services' Economic Services Administration's employment and training programs, in partnership with other state agencies and partners, focus on supporting individuals and families in building their skills and fully making use of their talents through employment and/or education and training. Each program is tailored to serve a particular population based on eligibility for other assistance programs. Participants are eligible for support services with a focus on engagement by reducing barriers, such as assisting with transportation and accessing quality child care.

ESA strives to align its employment and training programs with other programs and services implemented under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. WIOA allows partner agencies who administer education, employment and training programs to leverage resources and coordinate approaches to help workers and job seekers, including youth (age 16-24 years old) and adults with low incomes, acquire skills and credentials that meet employers' needs.

Providing participants access to these supports increases the ability of Washington state residents, employers and communities to realize their full economic and social potential and overall well-being:

- **Helping parents prepare and go to work.** WorkFirst is for families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or State Family Assistance. WorkFirst provides families with opportunities to engage in work activities that support financial stability and resilience through partnerships with Employment Security Department, State Board of Community and Technical Colleges, Department of Commerce and community-based organizations.
- **Connecting job seekers to education, employment and training.** Basic Food Employment and Training is Washington's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-related Employment and Training Program. To be eligible, participants must receive Basic Food assistance and not be participating in TANF or Refugee Cash Assistance programs. BFET's program success is accredited to partnerships with tribal entities, State Board of Community and Technical Colleges, Workforce Development Councils and CBOs. BFET partners offer participants the opportunity to increase their skills through training and education to improve their employment prospects and financial well-being.
- **Providing immediate opportunities.** Employment Pipeline is a DSHS-administered program that quickly connects individuals receiving DSHS services to livable wage employment opportunities. Employment Pipeline navigators work with local workforce development partners, such as WorkSource, to identify opportunities that fit the job seeker's skill level and interest. Navigators provide up to one year of post-employment support to help maximize job retention outcomes for the newly hired individual.

## Highlights

- **23 % of WorkFirst families participate** in work or training activities that strengthen their skill sets.  
*Note: WorkFirst participation requirements were suspended in March 2020-September 2021 due to pandemic public health conditions. This affected participation during SFY 21.*
- **62 % of clients remained employed** a year after exiting the BFET program.
- Despite COVID-19 restrictions, **the Employment Pipeline program placed 176 participants in employment** with an average wage of \$16.96/hr. during SFY21.

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# Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance

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

Washington state has a long legacy of welcoming people who are refugees and immigrants. The Department of Social and Health Services' Economic Services Administration's Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance offers programs and services that help people who are refugees and immigrants reach their full potential and contribute to thriving and diverse communities in Washington state.

## DSHS serves individuals and families by providing client services

**Culturally responsive:** ORIA contracts with more than 70 providers across Washington state to offer culturally specific and linguistically appropriate services. These providers include refugee resettlement agencies, nonprofit organizations, ethnic community-based organizations, state agencies, health clinics and colleges.

**Ensuring success in resettlement:** ORIA helps improve the resettlement process for individuals and families coming to Washington and offers client services through a variety of different programs and services in four core areas:

- **Refugee Health and Wellness** supports new arrivals with medical screenings, culturally responsive mental health services, and access to immediate medical care and intensive case management through the Refugee Health Promotion Program.
- **Employment and Training** services are available to help people learn English, get jobs and gain skills through ORIA's programs, including: the Limited English Proficiency Pathway Program, ORIA Basic Food Employment and Training Program and Career Ladder for Educated and Vocationally Experienced Refugees.
- **Immigration Assistance and Naturalization Services** offered by specialized immigration legal services organizations, accredited by the Department of Justice, assist refugees and immigrants with federal applications to become lawful permanent residents (green card holders) or United States citizens.

## Who are refugees?

The term refugee is a legal status given to people who resettle in the United States as part of a federal humanitarian program. These individuals have been forced to flee their home countries due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on their race, religion, ethnicity, membership in a particular group or political opinion. They are resettled through the federal U.S. Refugee Admissions Program.

For ORIA services, the term "refugee" also refers to people who are defined eligible by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement, including individuals granted asylum, victims of human trafficking, Amerasians, Cuban-Haitian entrants, people paroled into the U.S. and made eligible for benefits through federal legislation, and people with Special Immigrant Visas from Iraq and Afghanistan. An expanded eligibility list can be found [here](#).

- **Whole Family Services** include the PRIME program, which stands for Promoting Refugee Integration, Mobility and Empowerment, providing case management, education and immigration-related legal services; the Refugee School Impact program, which supports school-age children and helps their families improve academic performance and integration; Refugee Elder Services, which support integration and wellness by offering elders over 60 opportunities to connect with their communities and peers; and specialized child welfare and youth services through the Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM) program and the Refugee Youth Mentoring program (ages 18-24).

### More information:

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## State Fiscal Year 2021 Highlights

- Over 9,500 refugees and immigrants participated in services through ORIA's three largest programs (LEP Pathway, Naturalization Services and PRIME).
- 3,118 refugees and immigrants participated in employment and English as a Second Language services through the LEP Pathway Program.
- 3,796 people received services through the Naturalization Services Program, and 1,218 people became U.S. citizens through the program.
- 2,659 people participated in case-management services, self-sufficiency workshops or immigration assistance through the PRIME Program.
- 528 refugee students and families received specialized services through the Refugee School Impact Program.
- 576 people participated in the ORIA BFET Program.
- 224 refugee children were in care with specially trained families via the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program.

### Who is eligible for ORIA services?

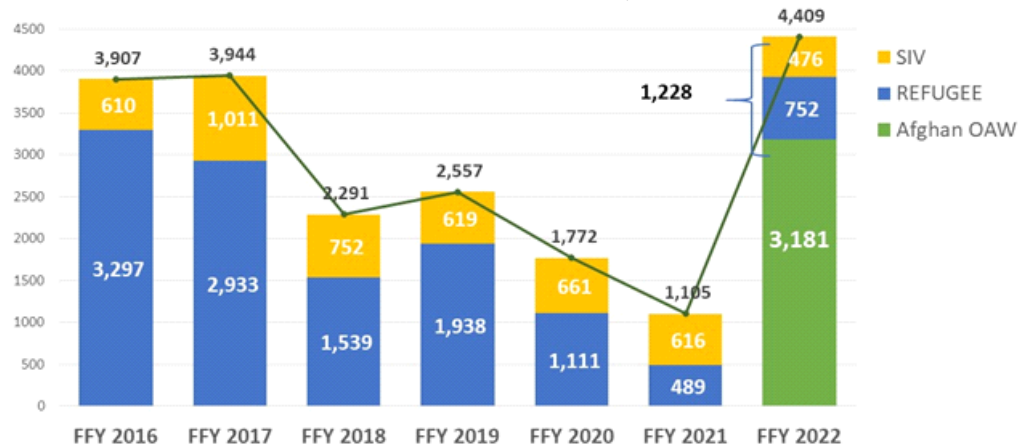
- People resettled in the United States for five years or less and who have an eligible immigration status.
- People with certain immigration status receiving cash, food or medical assistance.
- People who are English language learners receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or State Family Assistance.

### Where do refugees resettle in Washington?

County	Percentage
King	61.5%
Snohomish	8.6%
Clark	7.3%
Spokane	7.3%
Pierce	5.5%
Benton-Franklin	4.7%
Other Counties	5.1%

### Washington State Refugee and Special Immigrant Visa Arrivals

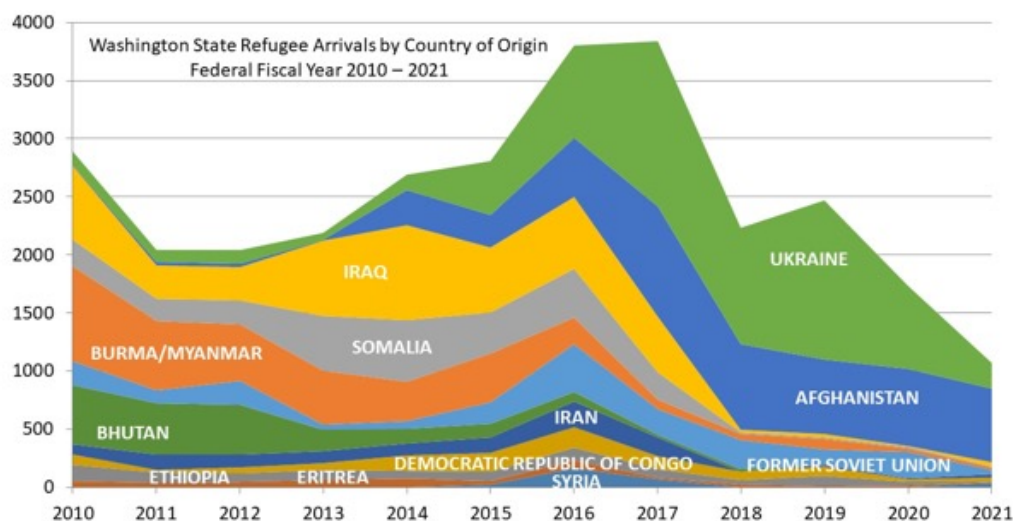
(Partial FFY 2021: Oct. 1, 2021 - July 31, 2022)



Sources: State Post-Arrival Demographics Report, Dept. of State, Bureau of Populations, Refugees and Migration  
Afghan Placement and Assistance Program - Weekly Departure Status Report

### Washington State Refugee Arrivals by Country of Origin

FFY 2010 - 2021



Source: Data from the Department of State, Refugee Processing Center. [www.wrapsnet.org](http://www.wrapsnet.org)



# Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

Economic Services Administration • Community Services Division

## Program Description

Pandemic EBT, or P-EBT, is a program that provides food benefits to children who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program but had limited access to onsite meals at their school or child care center due to the COVID-19 pandemic. P-EBT benefits help Washington families affected by these closures to buy food and support their basic nutritional needs. The method in which P-EBT was implemented changed significantly during the 2019-20 through 2021-22 school years.

As part of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act in March 2020, USDA approved P-EBT benefits to families affected by school closures from March 2020 through June 2020. Beginning June 28, 2020, DSHS worked with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to verify student eligibility for free or reduced-price school meals and internally processed applications and issued benefits for households who qualified. For this iteration, known as P-EBT 1.0, DSHS accepted applications until Sept. 30, 2020, although some cases were processed after this date. Additional information can be found in the [SFY 2020 ESA Briefing Book](#).

P-EBT continued in the 2020-21 school year (September 2020 through June 2021) with new provisions passed through the Continuing Appropriations Act 2021 and Other Extensions Act, the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021, and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. These acts provided new guidance for P-EBT, including the expansion to SNAP-recipient children under the age of 6 and Summer P-EBT benefits. USDA approved Washington's P-EBT 2.0 plans for schools in March 2021, for children under age 6 in June 2021, and for Summer P-EBT in July 2021. DSHS shifted from internal eligibility determination to contracting with Accenture, a third-party vendor. Accenture coordinated free and reduced-price lunch eligibility with OSPI and individual school districts. This coordination enabled eligible children to receive P-EBT benefits directly, without an application requirement, using a unique P-EBT card outside of DSHS eligibility systems.

For the 2021-22 school year, Proclamation 21-05 required Washington public K-12 schools to offer in-person, full-time instruction. USDA released guidance for P-EBT 3.0 based on COVID-related absences throughout the school year; Washington and several other states lack the level of data and resources necessary to determine

P-EBT eligibility for school-age children under the new guidance. USDA approved plans for SNAP-recipient children under age 6 and for Summer P-EBT for children under age 6 and school-age children in July 2022. Washington did not receive approval to operate P-EBT for school-age children during the 2021-22 school year due to inability to meet USDA requirements to verify which absences and remote learning days were COVID-related.

## Highlights

- In the 2021-22 school year, Washington issued a total of \$565,413,653 to eligible children under the school P-EBT plan and \$191,806,875 to eligible children under the age of 6.

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# Refugee Cash Assistance and Refugee Medical Assistance

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

Economic Services Administration · Community Services Division

The Department of Social and Health Services' Economic Services Administration's **Refugee Cash Assistance** program is a federally funded cash assistance program that provides up to 12 months of cash assistance to single and married adults with an eligible immigration status, and who do not have dependents.

**Refugee Medical Assistance** is a federally funded medical assistance program available to refugees and eligible immigrants for up to 12 months for those who are ineligible for Washington Apple Health. Since the expansion of Medicaid, less than 1% of all refugee families are ineligible for Washington Apple Health. In an average year, fewer than 50 arrivals a year receive RMA.

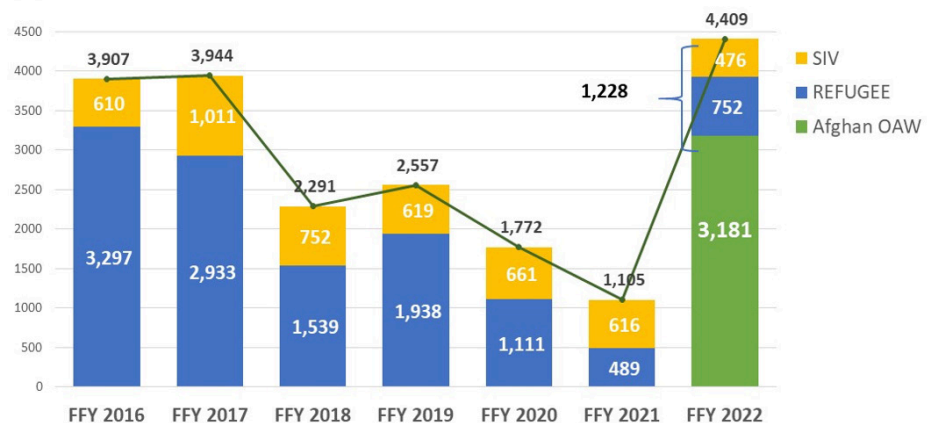
## DSHS seeks to improve the lives of clients receiving RCA by:

- Ensuring all participants receive consistent referrals to employment, education and social service providers.
- Coordinating across systems, agencies and programs by increasing accountability to advance economic security.

## Who is eligible for RCA?

- Refugees.
- People granted asylum ("asylees").
- Certified Victims of Human Trafficking.
- Citizens and nationals of Afghanistan paroled into the U.S. between July 31, 2021 and Sept. 30, 2022.
- Citizens and nationals of Ukraine paroled into the U.S. between Feb. 24, 2022 and Sept. 30, 2023.
- Amerasians.
- Cuban-Haitian Entrants.
- Special Immigrant Visa holders from Iraq and Afghanistan.

### Washington State Arrivals: Refugee, Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) and Afghan Humanitarian Parolees - Operation Allies Welcome Arrivals (Partial FFY 2022: Oct. 1, 2021 to July 31, 2022)



Source: State Post-Arrival Demographics Report, Dept. of State, Bureau of Populations, Refugees, and Migration Afghan Placement and Assistance program - Weekly Departure Status Report.

## Who are refugees?

Refugees are people who are unable to return to their home country due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on their race, religion, ethnicity, membership in a particular group or political opinion.

### More information:

Sarah Peterson, MSW - Chief, Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance - State Refugee Coordinator  
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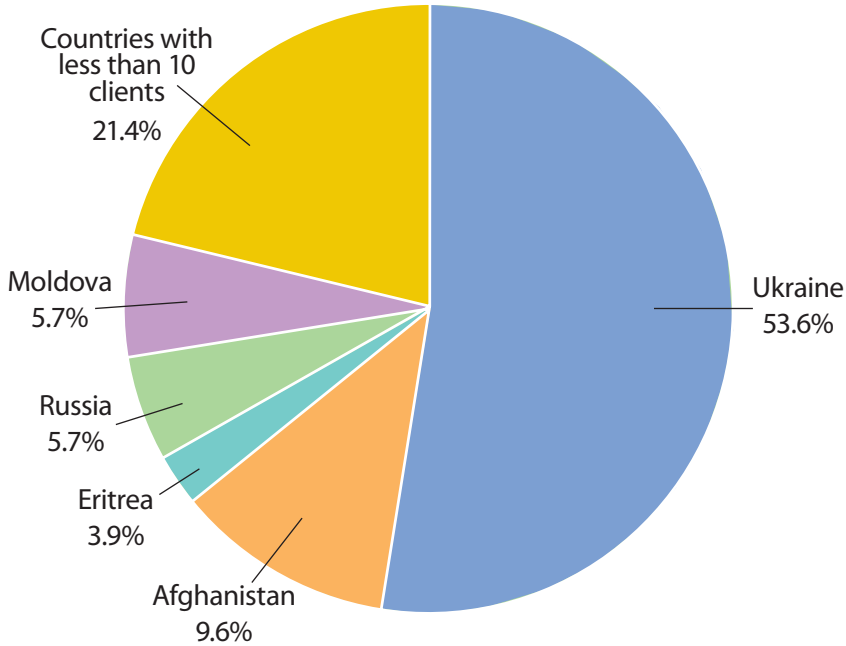
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# Refugee Cash Assistance Facts 2021

## RCA Caseload by Country of Origin

June 2021 Snapshot



## RCA Caseload 2009-2021

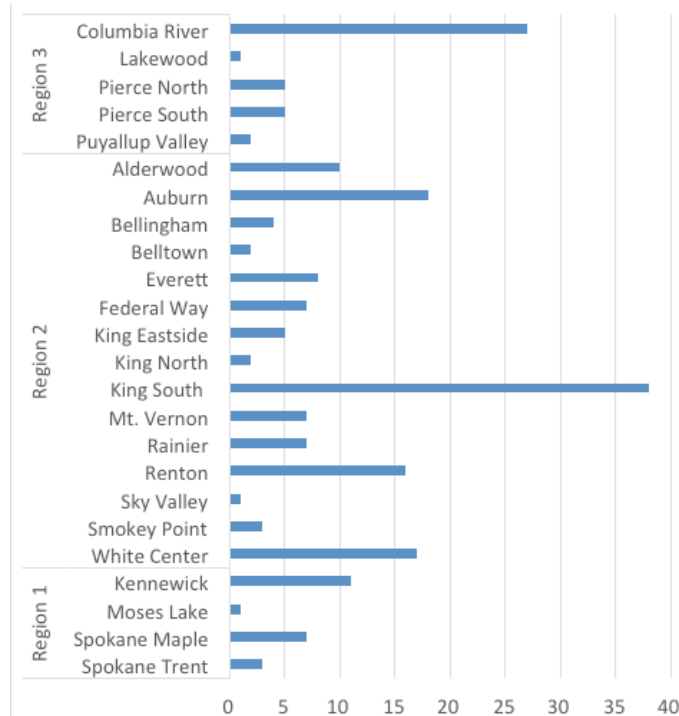
State Fiscal Year	Monthly Average Cases
2009	447
2010	605
2011	464
2012	348
2013	414
2014	425
2015	428
2016	454
2017	569
2018	324
2019	211
2020	268
2021	175

## Expenditures for State Fiscal Year 2021

Month	Total Caseload	Grant Expenditures	Average Payment Per Case
July	272	\$87,185	\$371.00
August	252	\$76,271	\$354.75
September	263	\$77,619	\$346.51
October	189	\$56,502	\$342.44
November	199	\$62,243	\$359.79
December	212	\$66,306	\$356.48
January	230	\$70,468	\$355.90
February	223	\$67,810	\$364.57
March	226	\$68,632	\$363.13
April	214	\$67,661	\$371.76
May	87	\$25,789	\$373.75
June	86	\$24,936	\$346.33
Average	204	\$62,619	\$357.82

## RCA Caseload by DSHS Region and Community Service Office of Issuance

June 2021 Snapshot



# Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and State Family Assistance

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

Economic Services Administration · Community Services Division

## Program Description

The Department of Social and Health Services' Economic Services Administration's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and State Family Assistance programs provide cash assistance to parents/caregivers with children and pregnant individuals to bolster their ability to meet their families' foundational needs. These programs also offer families the opportunity to access employment and training-related activities that assist them on their way to reaching their potential and fully contributing to their communities. In some situations, TANF assistance is provided solely for children in a household (child-only TANF). There are no work participation requirements or associated supports for child-only TANF households.

We provide the tools and resources to support well-being through:

- **Cash assistance to help children and families meet basic needs.** TANF/SFA provides a small amount of cash each month to increase a family's ability to purchase the things we all need to thrive, including a safe home, healthy food, reliable transportation and school supplies. The average benefit for a family is \$15.69 per day, a small contribution toward the costs of meeting a family's basic needs.
- **Building a stable foundation so parents have access to good jobs.** One-quarter (26 percent) of people receiving TANF/ SFA need support to build a stable foundation prior to seeking employment. TANF/SFA case managers connect children and families to support services such as mental health services, family violence counseling and/or substance-use treatment.
- **Employment and training opportunities through WorkFirst.** TANF/SFA case managers connect parents and caregivers to education, job training and employment opportunities through WorkFirst, a partnership between DSHS, Employment Security Department, State Board of Community and Technical Colleges and Department of Commerce as well as many community-based organizations.
- **Gateways to financial opportunity.** TANF/SFA is an important gateway to many opportunities that provide a stable foundation for children and families, including health care, safe homes and early-learning opportunities that help children develop strong brains and bodies.

## Highlights

- **23 % of adults on TANF took part in WorkFirst work or training activities that strengthen their skill sets, even during the height of the pandemic, when schools were closed, activity options were limited and participation was not required.**
- **72 % of people who exit TANF remain off the program for at least a year.**
- **In FY 2021, 65% of families exiting TANF in Washington reported leaving due to reaching financial stability.**
- **71 % of all TANF/SFA recipients are children.**

### More information:

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# TANF and SFA Facts

## Trends

The number of people served by TANF and SFA has dropped since 2010.

FY 2010 **156,317**

FY 2020 **69,672**

Decrease

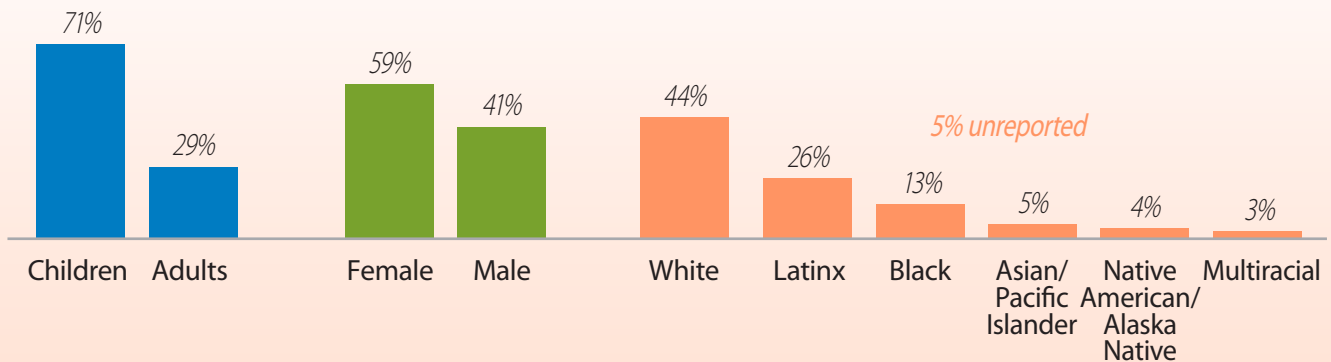
## Average Length of Stay

Two-parent households exit TANF at twice the rate of single-parent households.



## Characteristics of People Served

Children, women and people who racially identify as white make up the majority of the caseload.



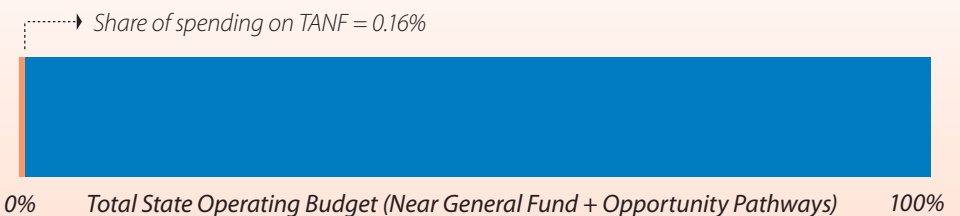
## Average Benefit

The average benefit for a family receiving TANF.

**\$470.63**  
per month

## Budget

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



# Community Services Division Tribal Relations

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

Economic Services Administration · Community Services Division

## Program Description

The Department of Social and Health Services Economic Services Administration's Community Services Division supports government-to-government relationships with Washington tribes. CSD focuses on recognizing tribal sovereignty in developing and delivering programs and services consistent with the Centennial Accord and DSHS Administrative Policy 7.01, American Indian Policy.

CSD shares information and collaborates with tribes and Recognized American Indian Organizations at the Indian Policy Advisory Committee, the ESA IPAC subcommittee and DSHS Administrative Policy 7.01 and other meetings. Additionally, CSD partners with all federally recognized tribes and RAIOS in Washington state to share information, discuss and resolve issues, provide training and coordinate services. To do this effectively, CSD designated a specialized and dedicated position, the Tribal Relations Program Administrator, to serve as the lead resource regarding Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families programs and provide technical assistance and guidance to state and tribal leadership and staff.

CSD has oversight and program development responsibilities for the state's TANF program and other public assistance and related employment and training programs. As such, CSD works government-to-government with 11 Tribal TANF programs involving 15 federally recognized tribes, who provide direct oversight for their Tribal TANF programs. Tribal TANF programs are designed to address the specific and unique needs of American Indian and Alaskan Native families within their service areas. Washington provides a fair and equitable share of State Maintenance of Effort, or MOE, funds to Tribal TANF programs per RCW 74.08A.040. CSD negotiates Intergovernmental TANF Agreements, Operating Agreements and Data Share Agreements with Tribal TANF programs.

## Highlights

- CSD is currently preparing revisions to the initial proposal to the United States Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Services for approval to expand a demonstration project that would allow interested tribes to determine SNAP eligibility.
- In 2021, CSD established a project team to develop a process and agreement for CSD staff to issue Electronic Benefits Transfer cards at selected tribal outstations. This project resumed as CSD staff returned to in-person services.

## Tribal TANF Programs

- Colville Confederated Tribes (2001)
- Quinault Indian Nation (2001)
- Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe (1998)
- Lummi Nation (2007)
- Nooksack Indian Tribe (2005)
- Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe (1998)
- Spokane Tribe of Indians (2003)
- South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency: Nisqually, Squaxin Island, Skokomish (2004), Shoalwater Bay (2019) and tribal members on the Puyallup Reservation
- Quileute Nation (2001)
- Tulalip Tribes (2005)
- Upper Skagit Indian Tribe (2007)

### More information:

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# Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance

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

Millions of Washingtonians have been adversely impacted and endured economic hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including an estimated 250,000 people who have been unable to access unemployment insurance compensation and federal stimulus packages due to their immigration status.

Since October 21, 2020, the Washington COVID-19 Immigrant Relief Fund has received 160,618 applications and has funded 120,853 eligible and approved applicants. To continue to support all Washingtonians, the Washington State Legislature invested an additional \$340 million to continue the implementation of the Immigrant Relief Fund in State Fiscal Year 2022 and 2023. This fund will make available a final cash grant amount to individuals who are ineligible for other forms of assistance.

## What is the role of DSHS?

As a community-driven initiative, DSHS has contracted with multiple local organizations to implement and administer the infrastructure of the program, conduct community engagement strategies and implement a communications campaign. In addition, DSHS has partnered with 52 community-based organizations across the state to implement outreach activities and provide application assistance.

## When will the Washington COVID-19 Immigrant Relief Fund be available?

Applications will be open from Sept. 19 to Nov. 14, 2022. Funds will be distributed to eligible and approved applicants between December 2022 and January 2023.

## Who is eligible?

Eligible applicants must:

- Live in Washington state.
- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Have experienced hardship due to the pandemic, and
- Be ineligible to receive unemployment insurance or federal stimulus dollars due to immigration status.

## How much will be available?

Eligible and approved applicants will receive one payment of at least \$1,000.

## If someone receives this assistance, will it prevent them from getting a visa or green card in the future because of public charge?

No. This fund is considered one-time disaster relief assistance and should not be considered under the public-charge rule. Receiving assistance from this fund should not impact people's ability to obtain a green card.

## How can people apply?

Eligible community members can apply for funding for 2022-2023 beginning Sept. 19, 2022:

- Visiting the website at: [immigrantr reliefwa.org](http://immigrantr reliefwa.org)
- Calling the customer support line at: **844-620-1999**
- Connecting with a DSHS community partner for assistance by visiting: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/office-refugee-and-immigrant-assistance>

### More information:

Sarah Peterson, MSW - Chief, Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance - State Refugee Coordinator  
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(9/2022)

# Division of Child Support

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services  
Economic Services Administration

## The Washington State Child Support Program

- Helps families weather the challenges of child rearing through the collection and distribution of more than \$756,412,192 for SFY 21 in child support annually.
- Partners with parents to address the changing needs of families by providing resources to modify child support orders.
- Provides support for families who are rebuilding after experiencing one of life's storms with referrals to resources for services inside and outside DSHS.

## DCS contributes to the well-being of our children, parents and communities by:

- **Providing as much as 63% of the income of very poor families.** Stable family incomes create strong foundations for children as they grow, allowing them to realize their full potential.
- **Connecting parents** who need living-wage jobs to training programs and other resources.
- **Improving our comprehensive family-centered approach** by investing in innovative practices such as using analytics to most effectively handle cases, using better interviewing techniques and focusing on the needs of each family member.

## Other innovations include:

- Working to ensure consistent month-to-month payments from parents.
- Leveraging grants and public-private partnerships to test new methods of communicating with parents such as text messaging and social media.

### DCS helps parents and children

reach their full potential and contribute to our communities by making sure they have the resources to thrive. When parents contribute, they are more likely to have closer relationships with their children, which benefits the entire family. Child support makes sure children have what we all need to build a solid foundation in our lives: healthy meals, safe housing and educational opportunities.

#### More information:

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# Child Support Facts

## Current Support

New ways of working with parents got better results. 68.5% represents over \$486 million in child support collected this last fiscal year, in the month it was due.



67.3%  
FFY 2021

68.5%  
FFY 2021

## Helping Kids Reach Their Full Potential

We collaborate with government and community partners to help children and families achieve their full potential and contribute to our state's vibrant, healthy communities. In SFY 21 the Division of Child Support served nearly 770,000 customers (monthly average for SFY 21), roughly the population of Seattle.

We served these customers by providing a variety of child support services such as establishing parentage; enforcing, establishing and modifying child support orders; providing medical support enforcement; and collecting and disbursing payments.

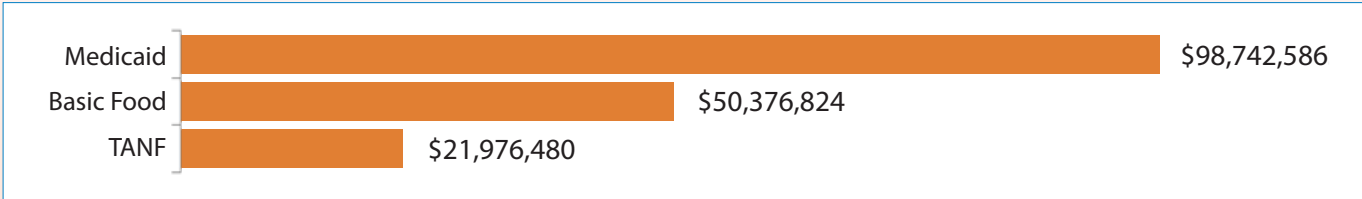
## All Washingtonians

**We are here for all Washington residents at all stages in their life.** Last year, one in 13 residents benefited from Division of Child Support programs. We help people find the support they need to achieve well-being. People we help range in age from infants who need parentage established to grandparents who need child support to raise their grandchildren.

Children who are supported financially and emotionally contribute to their communities as healthier, better-educated and more employable adults.

## Cost Avoidance

Child support cost avoidance is the reduction of public expenses such as Basic Food and medical assistance expenses attributable to the effort of child support enforcement. In SFY 21 the Division of Child Support was responsible for nearly \$171 million in avoided assistance expenditures in the following programs:



# DCS Tribal Relations

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

Economic Services Administration • Division of Child Support

## Program Description

The Division of Child Support promotes and supports government-to-government relationships with the 29 federally recognized Indian tribes in Washington state. DCS works with tribes, Recognized American Indian Organizations, stakeholders and partners to develop and deliver culturally appropriate policy and program services that meet the needs of American Indian and Alaska Native families.

## The Tribal Relations Team

- Is a primary resource in the facilitation of DCS' government-to-government commitments that help to build and strengthen relationships with tribes and tribal programs, partners and stakeholders.
- Educates and trains agency and partner staff to recognize tribal sovereignty and the principles of the Centennial Accord and DSHS American Indian Policy (Administrative Policy 7.01).
- Coordinates division participation at Indian Policy Advisory Committee and ESA subcommittee meetings, and regional DSHS Administrative Policy 7.01 meetings that seek tribal collaboration on proposed DCS legislation, policy and forms, while advocating for policies, procedures and laws that respect tribal sovereignty.
- Drafts, negotiates and monitors Treasury Offset Agreements with seven tribes including the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, as well as Data-Sharing Agreements with 13 Tribal TANF and Child Support programs.
- Offers technical assistance and support to the efforts of over 30 DCS statewide Tribal Liaisons who serve as local and regional contacts, organize and attend outreach, and represent the division at tribal meetings, conferences and cultural gatherings.

Of the 60 tribal child support programs currently operating across the United States, eight are located within Washington state:

- Tulalip Tribes
- Colville Confederated Tribes
- Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
- Suquamish Tribe
- Quinault Indian Nation
- Nooksack Tribe
- Lummi Nation
- Puyallup Tribe of Indians

Tribal child support programs provide full child support services, including: paternity establishment; location and identification of individuals; withholding of income from tribal businesses or other sources; and establishment and modification of child support orders.

## Highlights

- **State and tribal relationships founded on trust and mutual respect have led to increased understanding, shared vision and improved services to children and families.**
- **Tribes and states around the nation continue to recognize DCS for its efforts to partner with tribes in Washington state, and with those from neighboring states (i.e. Nez Perce and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska).**

### More information:

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(9/2022)

# Division of Disability Determination Services

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services  
Economic Services Administration

## Program Description

Within the Department of Social and Health Services' Economic Services Administration, the Division of Disability Determination Services makes determinations for individuals applying for Title II Social Security Disability, Title XVI Supplemental Security Income benefits and Title XIX State Medical Assistance claims.

## Overview

DDDS provides medical eligibility determination for claims filed to the Social Security Administration for disability benefits by the residents of Washington state. The division serves Washington residents of all ages who meet the requirements under Section 221 (b) of the Social Security Act. DDDS has an annual budget of \$45,725,167 million federal dollars (FY2020). In 2020, DDDS served 57,486 individuals.

### Program impact:

- Annual budget for FY 2021 total costs (47,829,546) total costs.
- In 2021, DDS served 51,827 individuals.
- Federal Fiscal Year information:
  - In federal fiscal year, DDS processed:
    - 20,664 Title II-SSDI disability decisions.
    - 20,261 Title XVI-Non Grant Medical Assistance (NGMA) disability decisions.
    - 9,874 Concurrent (Title II and Title XVI) disability workload decisions.
    - 1,028 Title XIX State Medical Assistance disability decisions.
    - 601 Continuing Disability Review Pre-hearing decisions.
    - 371 Disability hearing decisions.

### As of August 2022:

- 172,174 Washingtonians receive an average of \$1,647 a month in Social Security Disability Insurance benefits, bringing \$283.6 million per month into communities throughout the state.
- 138,160 Washingtonians receive an average of \$603 a month in SSI benefits, bringing \$83.33 million per month into communities throughout the state.

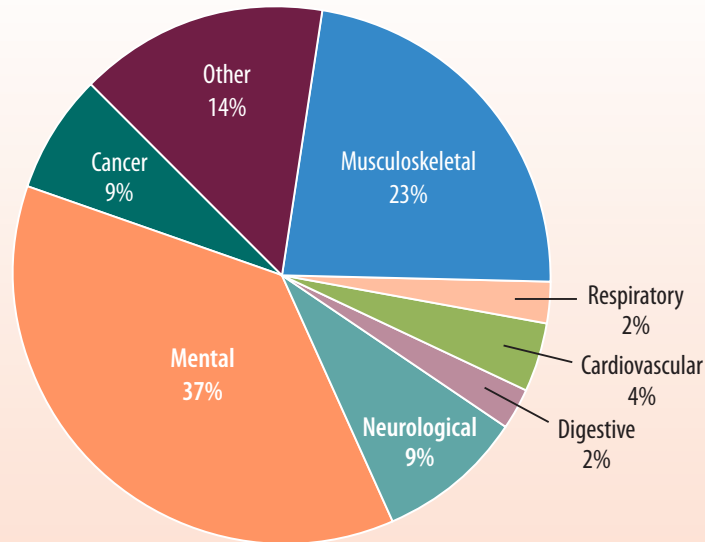
#### More information:

James Shuck, Division Resource  
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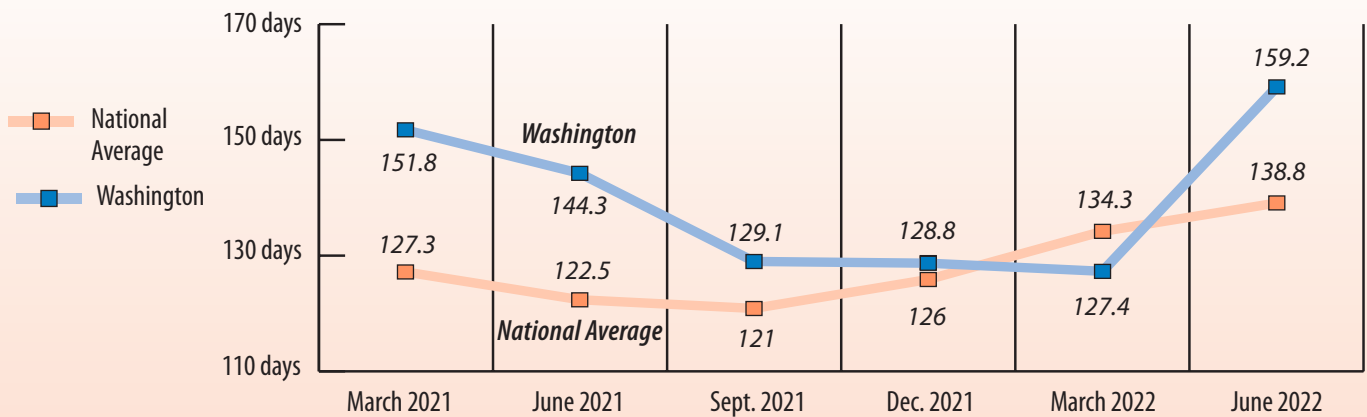


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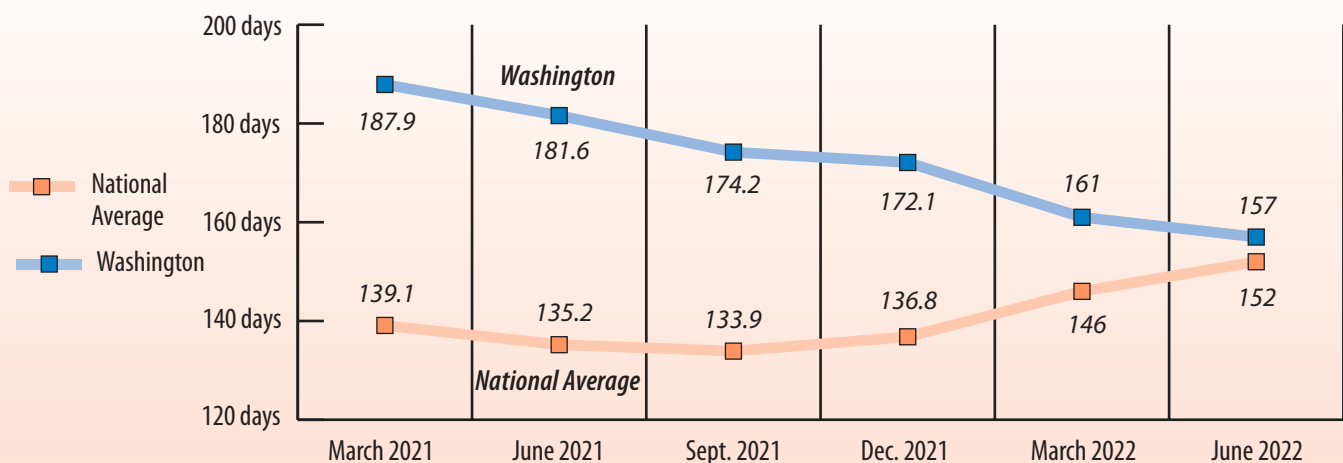
## 2021 Decisions by Body System



## DDS Title II Processing Time (days)<sup>1</sup>



## DDS Title XVI Processing Time (days)<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> More restrictive, life-saving measures in Washington state through the COVID-19 pandemic limited the DDDS's ability to obtain medical evidence and examinations in a timely manner. These limitations, in turn, created additional processing delays. Furthermore, Washington DDDS's resource focus on older claims resulted in a larger than average percentage of aged claims being closed, which impacted processing averages.

# Program Integrity and Prevention of Improper Benefit Issuance

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

## Economic Services Administration

Approximately one in four Washington residents rely on assistance such as cash grants, food, child support, disability determination and supports for transition to employment among other services administered by the Department of Social and Health Services' Economic Services Administration (ESA). As we pursue our shared mission of reducing poverty 50% by 2025, a strong program integrity effort is vital for the public to have trust and confidence that ESA programs, policies and processes work together to achieve accurate results for the people we serve. By collaborating with internal and external stakeholders, we improve our processes, identify gaps and balance program integrity risks with timely and equitable recipient access to benefits. ESA's Division of Program Integrity (DPI) provides statistically valid data-based feedback to the administration for decision-making to improve policy and process, and action as appropriate.

## What are the key ways we provide integrity assurance?

**FNS Fraud Framework Grant** – In 2020, DPI received a grant award from the Food & Nutrition Services (FNS) to test fraud-prevention efforts by leveraging data in a more in-depth and targeted manner. This grant allowed us to stand up an infrastructure of dashboards for reporting on suspicious benefit usage activity. The cost savings achieved from the project are being leveraged to create an ongoing Integrity Assurance business unit to continue this valuable work with contemporary data reporting for our partners.

**Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card usage monitoring** – DPI staff monitor numerous reports related to EBT card usage patterns that raise red flags or fit a fact pattern of suspicious usage that may be improper. Trend data is analyzed by the Integrity Assurance business unit to provide information to our partner divisions; for example to the Community Services Division for policy or process improvements and/or to the DSHS Office of Fraud and Accountability (OFA) for a fraud investigation or process review.

**Quality Assurance (QA)** – Quality Assurance teams in DPI utilize numerous online and real-time data matching interfaces to conduct statistically valid sampling-based case reviews on food and cash cases (specifically, work verification requirements review for cash). QA has rigorous processes and standards in place for conducting these reviews to ensure programs are issuing benefits correctly and providing data-based feedback on relevant areas for improvement and case correction when applicable. The Management Evaluation team conducts larger sample-sized case reviews as well as site visits on a three-year cycle to ensure program access, quality/accuracy, and procedural compliance in benefit issuance. These results are also published on a real-time dashboard for the business to utilize.

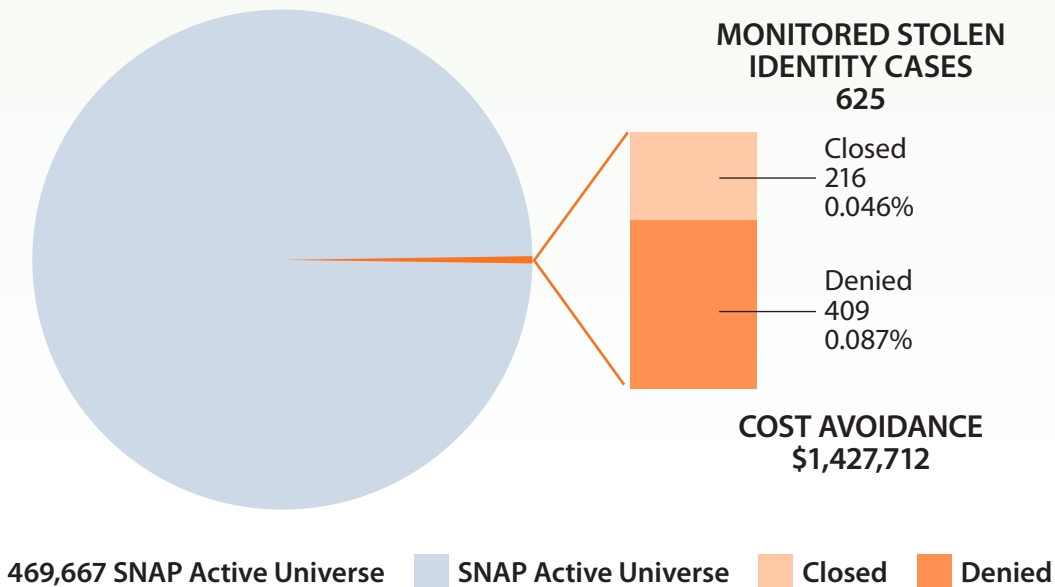
**Fraud Early Detection** – DPI staff working program reviews, out of state match cases, or trend reports may identify potential or suspected fraud and make a case referral to the Office of Fraud and Accountability for investigation. We partner with OFA to ensure smooth referrals and exchange of information.

**Interstate data sharing** – When an electronic interstate match indicates a recipient has received benefits in more than one state, we collaborate with staff in the other state to verify residency and other pertinent case details. This may result in establishment of benefit overpayments or further investigation referrals to OFA.

**Basic Food Program Disqualification** – We address Intentional Program Violations (IPV) that may result in the client being barred from receiving program benefits during a penalty period. DPI staff pursue administrative hearings based disqualifications from an Administrative Law Judge when appropriate. Our division’s efforts account for about 45% of the IPV disqualifications applied in DSHS.

**Integrity Assurance - anomaly detection and analysis** – The main driver in applying for FNS’ Fraud Framework Grant was the events that occurred at Employment Security Division during COVID-19. DPI assessed the internal controls for similar situations transpiring in public assistance programs and determined the need to bolster the existing infrastructure. The Integrity Assurance team was hired through the awarded grant along with acquiring technical resources. Below is one early outcome achieved from April 2021 – August 2022 while systems were still being built. This success is only the beginning as the dashboards evolves and efforts are applied to other public assistance programs.

### Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Fraud Framework Grant Outcomes Monitored Stolen Identities



**More information:**

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Transforming lives

(9/2022)

# Washington Fatherhood Council: Maximizing Children's Potential

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services  
Economic Services Administration

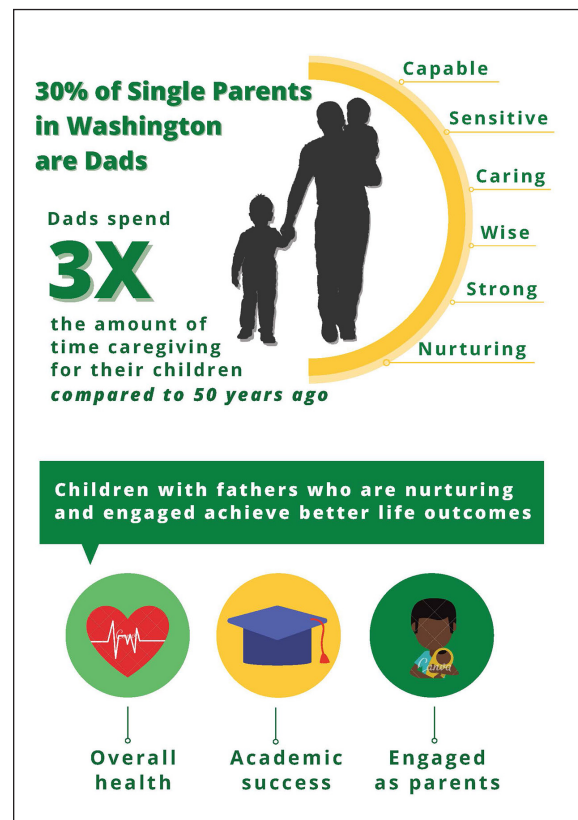
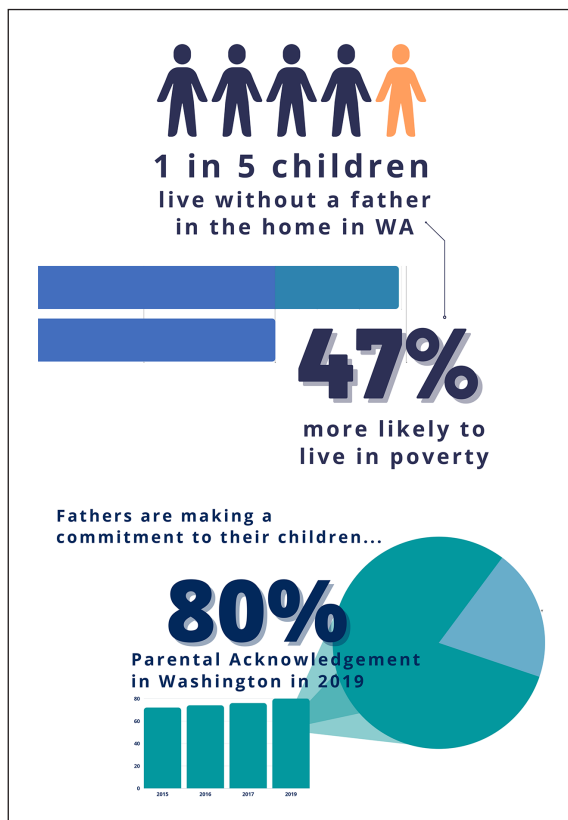
## Washington Fatherhood Council: Maximizing Children's Potential

ESA transforms lives by connecting children, adults and families to the resources and opportunities that help them reach their full potential in life. Washington state recognizes that investing in children, especially young children, lays the pathway for lifelong success. The people of Washington cannot expect a healthier, more resilient, more prosperous future if we don't invest in our children now — and that includes investing in fathers and families.

We know from research\* and the work of the Washington Fatherhood Council that:

- Child and family well-being improve when fathers are engaged positively in their children's lives.
- Fathers play a unique and important role in children's development.
- Dads should have the support and resources to become the fathers they aspire to be.

The positive and protective impacts of fatherhood and the father-child bond on early childhood development are undeniable. Supporting nurturing, consistent fathering, starting at birth, has proven to contribute to language development, reduced early behavioral issues, reading and math skills, and social-emotional development that have long-term impacts on children's emotional and economic well-being.



\* Father Facts 8, eighth edition, 2019, National Fatherhood Initiative®  
Father Facts, 8th Edition, | [Fatherhood.gov](http://Fatherhood.gov)



Fathers can reduce stress for mothers, enhancing the mother-child relationship and facilitating positive adjustment in children. Conversely, fatherhood absence is strongly tied to poor adolescent and young adult outcomes, such as high rates of juvenile and adult justice involvement, suicide and depression, homelessness and lower graduation rates. Quality of time is important. While resident fathers are more likely to interact consistently with their children, resident and non-resident fathers alike have a positive influence through loving, consistent parenting.

## The Role of Fathers in Achieving ESA's Goal to Reduce Poverty by 2025

The well-established benefits of reducing poverty and inequality inspired ESA to establish a 2025 goal to reduce poverty by half in a way that eliminates disparities. Since 2018, ESA is a proud founding and sustaining partner of the **Washington Fatherhood Council**, a collaborative, transformational group of more than 25 state and local service providers, academics and — most importantly — fathers, who help further the goals of reducing poverty and promoting inclusion, access and belonging.

- **Mission:** Amplify the voices of fathers and father figures in Washington state to promote fatherhood inclusion, equity, diversity and research activity that strengthens families and maximizes children's potential.
- **Vision:** Fathers and father figures in Washington become the parents their children and families need them to be.
- **Role:** Bringing together a broad spectrum of fathers, public and private agencies, academics and advocates to: raise awareness around the unique role of fathers; cultivate a father-inclusive culture in our communities, agencies and policies; develop leaders at all levels to carry messages; and welcome diverse cultures and experiences of fathers to create transformational change.

## How the Washington Fatherhood Council Supports Fathers

**Father-Friendly Principles:** We promote these [North Star Principles](#) to guide Washington state to strengthen our father-friendly services and systems.

**Annual Fatherhood Summit:** Every year, we make space for dads and the people who serve them to come together to accelerate fatherhood inclusion and more holistic co-parenting supports.

**Community Cafés:** Brings together professionals and dads in conversation to help lay the community groundwork for positive change by raising awareness of the unique needs of fathers and sparking hope for innovation.

**Dads Connect:** A conversation series with fathers and father figures to come together to talk about important issues that affect them and their families.

**Provider Learning Series:** Knowledge and skill-building learning sessions with state and national presenters that strengthen our provider network to effectively engage and support fathers and father figures.

As our keynote speaker said at the fourth annual Fatherhood Summit in May, *"We are going to be intentional and unapologetic about our focus on fathers even though we all agree this work is about families and children."* Join us in our work by connecting at [www.wafatherhoodcouncil.org](http://www.wafatherhoodcouncil.org).



Anne Stone, Director  
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(8/2022)