

Legislative-Executive WorkFirst Poverty Reduction Oversight Task Force

May 28, 2019

Agenda

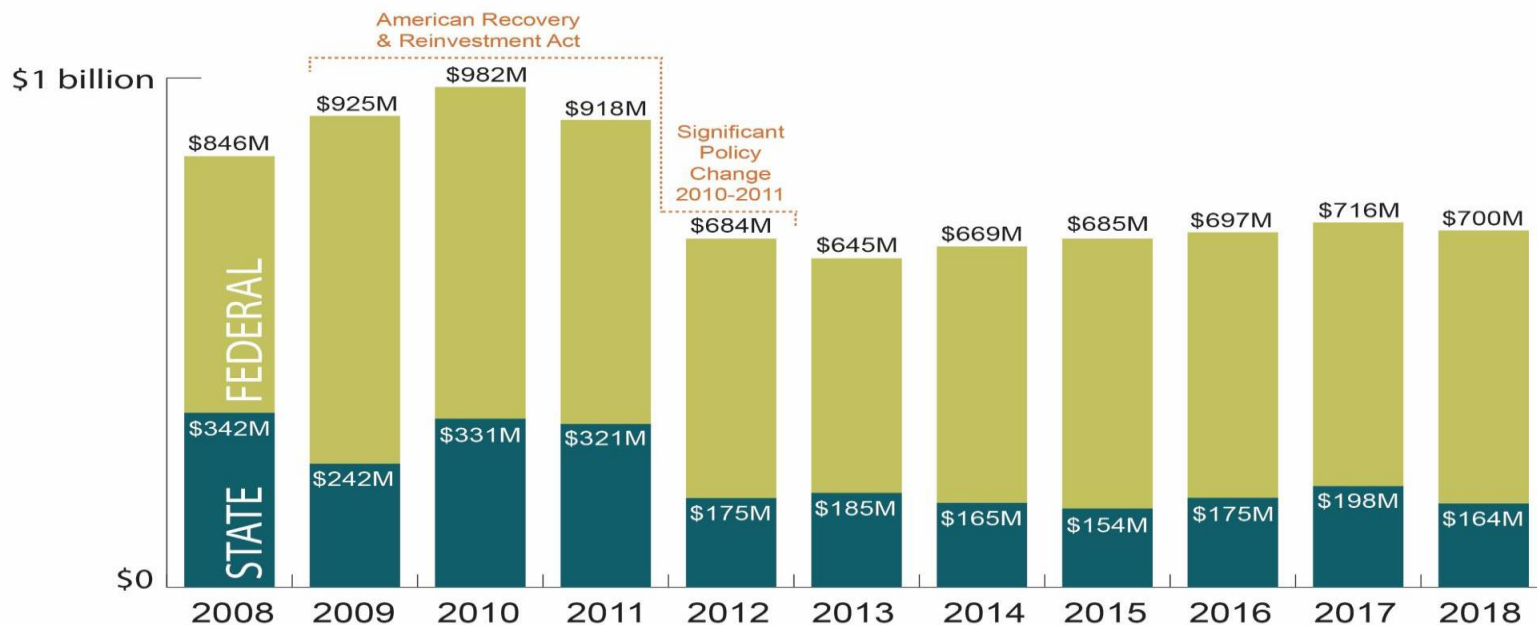
- Introductions and Welcome
- Taskforce Business
 - Confirm prior meeting minutes
- TANF/WorkFirst
 - Post-session review of TANF/WF Funding
 - Working Family Support program cap
 - Update on TANF time limit disproportionality and action plan
- Strategic Plan
 - Development and alignment with the Governor's Poverty Reduction Workgroup
- Results Washington presentation (TVW)
- Public Comment

History of Funding for TANF

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TANF Block Grant & Related State Spending

Washington State SFY 2008 - SFY 2018



Source: DSHS|ESA Division of Finance & Financial Recovery analysis of state spending data



2019-21 Workfirst Spending Plan (Dollars in thousands)

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DSHS - Economic Services Administration (ESA)	2020	2021	2019-21
ESA - Assistance to Clients (ESHB 1109, Section 205(1)(b))			
TANF Grants (WorkFirst)	132,234	129,460	261,694
Diversion Assistance	2,487	2,487	4,974
Subtotal - ESA Assistance to Clients	134,721	131,947	266,668
ESA - WorkFirst Services (ESHB 1109, Section 205(1)(c))			
Tribal TANF - State MOE	12,411	12,411	24,822
DSHS - Interpreters	1,385	1,385	2,770
DSHS- Local Contracts	7,067	6,878	13,945
DSHS - Limited English Proficiency (LEP)	5,600	5,600	11,200
ESD - Job Search & Placement	13,741	13,703	27,444
SBCTC - Education & Training	14,996	14,957	29,953
Commerce Dept. - Subsidized & Community Employment, LEP	20,828	20,774	41,602
Working Family Support	1,200	1,200	2,400
Home Visits	2,090	2,090	4,180
Subtotal - ESA WorkFirst Services	79,318	78,998	158,316
ESA - Child Care (ESHB 1109, Section 205(1)(d))	176,701	176,701	353,402
Subtotal - ESA Child Care	176,701	176,701	353,402
ESA - Department of Children, Youth and Families (ESHB 1109, Section 205(1)(e))	34,248	34,248	68,496
Subtotal - ESA Department of Children, Youth and Families	34,248	34,248	68,496
ESA - Overhead & Administration (ESHB 1109, Section 205(1)(f))			
DSHS Staffing Operations	61,065	60,870	121,935
DSHS Office of Financial Recovery	505	505	1,010
Subtotal - ESA Overhead and Administration	61,570	61,375	122,945
Other			
Tribal TANF - Federal	23,787	23,787	47,574
DSHS - Overhead	11,864	11,864	23,728
Total - Other	35,651	35,651	71,302
Total WorkFirst Spending Plan	522,209	518,920	1,041,129

2019 Legislative Session

Major Changes Impacting TANF/WorkFirst

- **2SHB 1603** - Removes permanent disqualification and adds homelessness as a criteria for time limit extension.
- **2SHB 1893** - Provides assistance to help to help students remain enrolled in post-secondary education.
- **ESA Budget**
 - Funding for 1603 implementation
 - Pregnant Women Assistance Grant Increase
 - Decreased funding for Workfirst services, but transportation pilots and Working Family Support continue



2019 Legislative Session

Major Changes Impacting TANF

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Budget:

- Commerce – Homeless services funding increase
- Health Care Authority – Legislation and funding increases to address mental health and substance use disorders
- Department of Children Youth and Families– Child care subsidy transition, funding increases for home visiting and early childhood services

Working Family Support (WFS) Spending

Increase WFS Grant to:	Average Monthly Caseload size	Average Monthly Expenditures	Yearly Spending
SFY 2016	1,182	\$11,820	\$35,460
SFY 2017	7,559	\$75,590	\$907,090
SFY 2018	6,523	\$65,230	\$782,990
SFY 2019	7,828	\$78,280	\$782,770

Working Family Support (WFS) Possible Increase

Currently \$10 per working family per month, net \$7 after Basic Food decrease

Increase WFS Grant to:	Additional Annual Cost	Reduces Basic Food by:
\$15.00	\$174,840	\$4.50

TANF time limit extension disproportionality action plan

- 1) Quick case reviews – completed April 2019
- 2) Implement supervisory review of denials – June 2019
- 3) Review policy using an EDI tool – June-July 2019
- 4) In depth study by DSHS Research and Data Analysis (RDA)
- 5) Transforming Case Management initiative
- 6) Considering additional changes to practices regarding time limit extension and proposals for change to the policy

Strategic Plan

Five-year plan due to legislature December 1, 2019

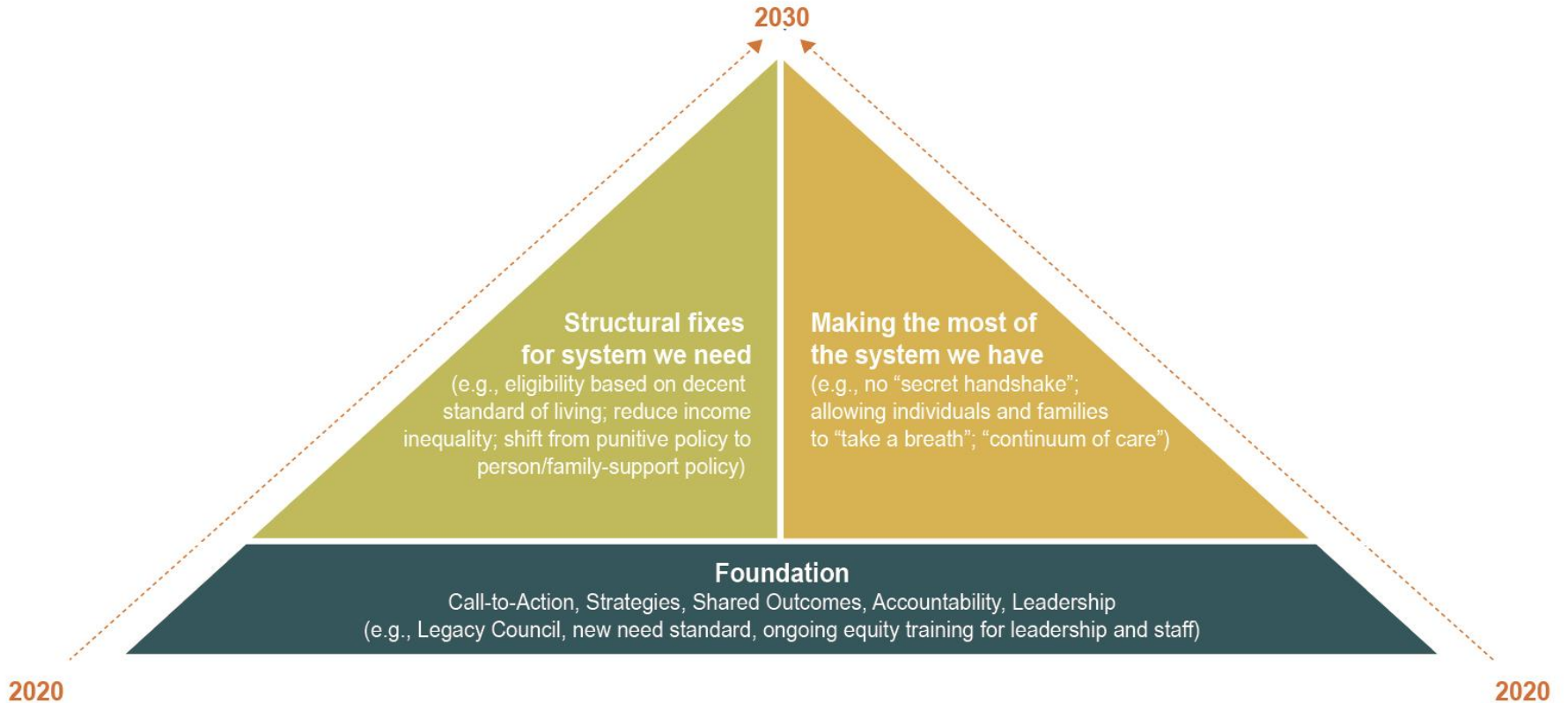
Recommendation Process:

- Governor's Poverty Reduction Workgroup (PRWG)/ Task Force Advisory Committee work
- PRWG Steering Committee work
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion focus
- Discussion



Elements of a 10-year Strategic Plan to Reduce Poverty & Inequality

DRAFT



Strategic Plan -- How we get to Recommendations

- We name the outcome we are seeking: **Washington residents, especially indigenous Washingtonians, people of color, are free from poverty and have the resources needed to reach their full potential.**
- We gather data – qualitative and quantitative
- We analyze data to identify what is working and what is not.
- Based on what we have learned, we develop recommendations

Strategic Plan Development THEN WHAT?

- Recommendations are refined.
- Recommendations go to the Steering Committee for their review and affirmation.
- Recommendations from Steering Committee come to the Working Group for discussion and consideration

Poverty Reduction Workgroup Themes

- **Mental Health**
 - Children's mental health
 - Care need for children when parents are struggling
- **Benefits "cliff"**
 - Off ramp and transportation supports
- **Agency Coordination**
 - Case worker consistency, interactions and communications
 - Support family stability with continuum of care.

Strategic Plan – Recommendations are big and small

- As the PRWG makes its plan – items with an Intergenerational lens will be identified for consideration by this Task Force
- Some recommendations may be early wins that can build to larger and longer term strategies
- Some recommendations may be bigger ideas that will take time to bring to fruition

Results Washington Review

[Economic Security - TVW - 3/27/2019](#)



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Public Comments