

# **REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE**

## **WorkFirst Spending Plan**

\*Please note this spending plan is in draft form as of May 19, 2021, subject to review and approval\*

RCW 74.08A.341 (2)(b)

2021-23 Biennial Spending Plan

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## WorkFirst 2021-23 Spending Plan

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Per RCW 74.08A.341(2)(b), the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) establishes a biennial spending plan for WorkFirst services and submits it to the fiscal committees of the legislature and the Legislative-Executive WorkFirst Oversight Task Force on a biennial basis. DSHS takes actions necessary to ensure that services provided under this chapter are available only to the extent of and consistent with appropriations in the operating budget and policy established by the legislature. DSHS updates the legislative fiscal committees and the task force on the spending plan if modifications are made to the plan previously submitted to the legislature and the task force for that biennium.

Several new WorkFirst policies have a fiscal impact to the 2021-23 Biennium spending plan. These include the following:

- The legislature included in the budget bill a **15% TANF grant increase**.
- The legislature also included in the budget bill the **TANF time limit extension (TLE)** beyond the standard WorkFirst time limit of 60 months (for households described in RCW 74.08A.010(5) in SFY22).
- The legislature also passed 2SSB 5214, which updates **TANF time limit extension policy** to grant TANF clients a month-per-month TLE for each month when they are on TANF and there is also unemployment over 7% in Washington.

Below is additional detail on the provisos included in ESSB5092 Section 205(1) from the 2021 Legislative session. WorkFirst funding that is not included in the ESA budget provisos is shown under “Other” on the revised Spending Plan.

### **Economic Services Administration**

#### **Assistance to Clients (ESSB 5092, Section 205(1)(b))**

***Biennial Total: \$386,329,000***

This budget proviso includes funding for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and State Family Assistance (SFA) grants and funding for the Diversion Cash Assistance Program.

#### **WorkFirst Services (ESSB 5092, Section 205(1)(c))**

***Biennial Total: \$172,917,000***

This budget proviso includes funding for WorkFirst services (e.g., employment and training services and barrier removal services) and Tribal TANF programs (to meet the state Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funding requirement for Tribal TANF programs in RCW 74.08A.040).

WorkFirst employment and training services are provided by the Employment Security Department, Department of Commerce, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, DSHS, and other contractors that provide direct services to WorkFirst clients (including LEP Pathway services for persons with limited English proficiency). There are eleven Tribal TANF programs in Washington State, involving fifteen Tribes. Ten of the TANF programs are administered by Tribes, and one TANF program (South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency or SPIPA) administers TANF for a consortium of five Tribes.

**Working Connection Child Care within Department of Children, Youth, and Families (ESSB 5092, Section 205(1)(d))**

***Biennial Total: \$353,402,000***

This budget proviso designates funding for subsidized child care for low-income working families through the Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) program within Department of Children, Youth, and Families.

**Child Welfare Services within Department of Children, Youth, and Families (ESSB 5092, Section 205(1)(e))**

***Biennial Total: \$68,496,000***

This relates to the TANF funding that partially funds direct social service staff including Child Protective Services, Child Welfare Services, and Family Reconciliation Services at the Department of Children, Youth and Families (formally the Children's Administration with DSHS).

**Administration and Overhead (ESSB 5092, Section 205(1)(f))**

***Biennial Total: \$116,545,000***

This budget proviso designates funding for WorkFirst administration and overhead. These funds will be applied to the salaries and benefits, travel and other costs (e.g., supplies, equipment, postage, utilities, building lease costs and maintenance) associated with personnel involved in the administration of the WorkFirst program, including ESA employees who provide direct services to WorkFirst families. Responsibilities of other personnel include fiscal and programmatic oversight, technical assistance, ongoing review, monitoring, data collection and program reporting, and collection of client overpayments.

**Other**

**Tribal TANF - Federal**

***Biennial Total: \$48,006,000***

The amount of the federal TANF block grant that is awarded to Tribes operating Tribal TANF programs in Washington State.

**DSHS - Overhead**

***Biennial Total: \$24,738,000***

Funding to support DSHS-wide indirect costs as well as some direct costs charges such as those from the Office of the Attorney General, Department of Enterprise Services, and the State Auditor's Office.

## 2021-23 WorkFirst Spending Plan

**2021-23 Enacted Budget**

Feb 2021 Forecast

	SFY 2021		2021 - 2023 Biennium	
	2021	2022	2023	2022-23
<b>DSHS - Economic Services Administration (ESA)</b>				
<b>ESA - Assistance to Clients (ESSB 5092, Section 205 (1)(b))</b>				
TANF Grants (WorkFirst)	171,824	194,517	186,838	381,355
Diversion Assistance	2,487	2,487	2,487	4,974
<b>Subtotal - ESA Assistance to Clients</b>	<b>174,311</b>	<b>197,004</b>	<b>189,325</b>	<b>386,329</b>
<b>ESA - WorkFirst Services (ESSB 5092, Section 205(1)(c))</b>				
Tribal TANF - State MOE	12,545	12,545	12,545	25,090
DSHS - Interpreters	878	1,385	1,385	2,770
DSHS- Local Contracts	2,853	5,932	5,783	11,715
Expanding Transportation	626	1,237	1,237	2,474
DSHS - Limited English Proficiency (LEP)	5,600	5,600	5,600	11,200
ESD - Job Search & Placement	10,686	13,873	13,873	27,746
SBCTC - Education & Training	11,707	15,070	15,070	30,140
Commerce Dept. - Subsidized & Community Employment, LEP	12,970	20,616	20,616	41,232
Working Family Support	825	1,200	1,200	2,400
Home Visits	2,190	2,090	2,090	4,180
FT - Funding to implement 2SSB 6478	-	378	568	946
FU - Funding to implement SHB 2441	-	1,519	1,695	3,214
TLE - FY 22 only	-	6,109	-	6,109
Funding to implement SB 5214 UI TLE	-	-	3,701	3,701
<b>Subtotal - ESA WorkFirst Services</b>	<b>60,880</b>	<b>87,554</b>	<b>85,363</b>	<b>172,917</b>
<b>ESA - Child Care (ESSB 5092, Section 205(1)(d))</b>				
Child Care Subsidy	176,701	176,701	176,701	353,402
<b>Subtotal - ESA Child Care</b>	<b>176,701</b>	<b>176,701</b>	<b>176,701</b>	<b>353,402</b>
<b>ESA - Department of Children, Youth and Families (ESSB 5092, Section 205(1)(e))</b>				
Child Welfare Services	34,248	34,248	34,248	68,496
<b>Subtotal - ESA Department of Children, Youth and Families</b>	<b>34,248</b>	<b>34,248</b>	<b>34,248</b>	<b>68,496</b>
<b>ESA - Overhead &amp; Administration (ESSB 5092, Section 205(1)(f))</b>				
DSHS Staffing Operations	59,853	58,546	57,999	116,545
<b>Subtotal - ESA Overhead and Administration</b>	<b>59,853</b>	<b>58,546</b>	<b>57,999</b>	<b>116,545</b>
<b>Total State and Federal - ESA (ESSB 5092, Section 205(1)(a))</b>	<b>505,993</b>	<b>554,053</b>	<b>543,636</b>	<b>1,097,689</b>
<b>Other</b>				
Tribal TANF - Federal	24,003	24,003	24,003	48,006
DSHS - Overhead	12,369	12,369	12,369	24,738
<b>Total - Other</b>	<b>36,372</b>	<b>36,372</b>	<b>36,372</b>	<b>72,744</b>
<b>Total WorkFirst Spending Plan</b>	<b>542,365</b>	<b>590,425</b>	<b>580,008</b>	<b>1,170,433</b>