

# Washington State Department of Social and Health Services Budget Fact Sheet

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What Department of Social and Health Services does:

- Serves 2.1 million Washingtonians through an array of services.
- Provides medical assistance and economic support to low-income families.
- Provides economic, rehabilitative, medical, long-term care and employment support to low-income persons with disabilities.
- Provides assessments and treatment to persons with severe mental health needs or alcohol and/or alcohol/drug problems.
- Provides child welfare and protection services to abused or neglected children.
- Provides help with life supports and living arrangements to developmentally disabled persons.
- Provides juvenile rehabilitation services to youth who have been convicted of serious crimes.
- Provides assistance in collecting payments for parents needing help with child support collections.

2007-09 Operating Budget	\$19.5 billion
2009-11 Maintenance Level	\$21.3 billion
2009-11 Operating Budget	\$19.9 billion

Reductions and actions we are taking:

### Aging and Disability Services Administration:

- Cutting nursing home rates by an average of 0.4 percent (long-term care only), affecting 230 providers (\$94 million).
- Cutting in-home assistance hours by an average of 0.4 percent (long-term care and developmental disabilities), affecting 45,000 clients (\$81 million).
- Limiting adult day health services to in-home care (long-term care and developmentally disabilities), eliminating 900 residential clients (\$37 million).

June 2009

- Restricting in-home assistance by agency providers who are relatives, affecting 2,000 clients (\$30 million).
- Cutting Division of Developmental Disabilities county service, affecting 1,400 high school graduates and 300 providers (\$5 million).

#### Juvenile Rehabilitation Services Administration:

- Eliminating enhanced parole on July 1 means about 500 Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration youth, or one-third of the total, will be directly released from these institutions each year without support and services. JRA will attempt to provide transition services for those youth.

#### Economic Services Administration

- Cutting \$68.7 million in funding for WorkFirst, which includes reductions in funding for WorkFirst partners Employment Security Department, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and Department of Commerce.
- Cutting \$18.6 million for General Assistance for the Unemployable (GA-U) cash assistance , or a 9 percent reduction.
- Cutting \$51.4 million and 237.5 full-time equivalent employees in administrative services.
- Working with the Office of Financial Management and partner agencies to identify strategies for achieving WorkFirst savings.
- Focusing on strategies outlined in the state operating budget to reduce caseloads, including assessments and expedited referrals for persons on GA-U for more than 12 months.
- Rethinking, through community partnerships and service redesign initiatives, how to provide services in an environment of tighter budget restrictions and rising customer needs. For example, we are working with partners to expand community access points with computers and self-service kiosks (libraries, food banks, grocery stores)

#### Children's Administration

- Working to reduce foster care length of stay by expediting adoptions, identifying other permanent plans for children and examining efforts to reunify children with their birth families in a timelier manner.
- Implementing a 2.3 percent vendor rate reduction for all contracted client service providers beginning Oct. 1, 2009.

- Working with behavioral rehabilitative service providers to decrease the length of stay for children receiving those services, and instituting performance-based contracts.

#### Health and Recovery Services Administration:

- Developing new purchasing strategies that will save the state more than \$200 million a year. These range from pharmacy to durable medical equipment and other supplies, as well as hospital services.
- Reducing nearly all of its provider rates, from pediatric physicians, obstetricians, radiologists, medical suppliers, pharmacies and hospitals. Most of those rate changes will be effective July 1, 2009.
- Restyling optional Medicaid benefits for efficiency, safety and cost savings. The most notable include General Assistance/Unemployable, dental, vision, oral enteral nutrition and pharmacy. In the pharmacy area, DSHS and other state health agencies are coordinating efforts to boost use of generics drugs over more expensive brand-name medications.

Programs and services we will continue to deliver:

#### Aging and Disabled Services Administration

- Adult Day Health services will remain in place for people receiving long-term care services in their own homes.

#### Juvenile Rehabilitation Services Administration

- Intensive parole, sex offender parole and auto theft parole services will continue for youth who qualify.

#### Economic Services Administration

- Cash grants will continue at the same level. This includes the 3 percent grant increase for TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) begun in July 2008.
- Food assistance to low-income individuals and families.
- Expedited medical determinations for adults and youth who are being released from jails, prisons and institutions.
- SSI facilitation services for people with long-term disabilities who are receiving aid through the General Assistance-Expedited Medicaid program, known as GA-X. These

services help people apply for and obtain higher-paying federal disability benefits from Social Security.

- Child support enforcement, which is an important income source for many low-income families.

Children's Administration:

- Continue to protect abused and neglected children, to support the efforts of families to care for and parent their own children safely, and to provide quality care and permanent families for children in partnership with parents and kin, tribes, foster parents and communities.

Health and Recovery Services Administration:

- Medical assistance, mental health services and chemical dependency services continue to offer full-scope benefits to the most vulnerable populations.
- Budget cuts ordered by the Legislature were carefully calibrated to avoid client access problems that might follow withdrawal of providers from the Medicaid marketplace.

For more information, visit <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/budget/index.shtml> or contact:

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