

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

WorkFirst Spending Plan

RCW 74.08A.341 (2)(b)

2021-23 Biennial Spending Plan

WA State Department of Social & Health Services
Economic Services Administration
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WorkFirst 2021-23 Spending Plan

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: \$116,195,000*

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.

*** Notes**

The biennial total for Section 205(1)(f) is \$350,000 lower in the enacted budget than in the reference WorkFirst Spending Plan due to a technical error in the enacted budget. The department will recommend a correction during the 2022 Supplemental session.

The biennial total for Section 205(1) is \$3,000 higher in the enacted budget than in the reference WorkFirst Spending Plan due to a technical error in the enacted budget. The department will recommend a correction during the 2022 Supplemental session.

2021-23 WorkFirst Spending Plan

2021-23 Enacted Budget

Feb 2021 Forecast

2021 - 2023 Biennium			
	2022	2023	2022-23
DSHS - Economic Services Administration (ESA)			
ESA - Assistance to Clients (ESSB 5092, Section 205 (1)(b))			
TANF Grants (WorkFirst)	194,517	186,838	381,355
Diversion Assistance	2,487	2,487	4,974
Subtotal - ESA Assistance to Clients	197,004	189,325	386,329
ESA - WorkFirst Services (ESSB 5092, Section 205(1)(c))			
Tribal TANF - State MOE	12,545	12,545	25,090
DSHS - Interpreters	1,385	1,385	2,770
DSHS- Local Contracts	8,461	7,947	16,408
Expanding Transportation	1,237	1,237	2,474
DSHS - Limited English Proficiency (LEP)	6,457	6,255	12,712
ESD - Job Search & Placement	15,376	14,876	30,252
SBCTC - Education & Training	15,953	15,710	31,663
Commerce Dept. - Subsidized & Community Employment, LEP	22,850	22,118	44,968
Working Family Support	1,200	1,200	2,400
Home Visits	2,090	2,090	4,180
Subtotal - ESA WorkFirst Services	87,554	85,363	172,917
ESA - Child Care (ESSB 5092, Section 205(1)(d))			
Child Care Subsidy	176,701	176,701	353,402
Subtotal - ESA Child Care	176,701	176,701	353,402
ESA - Department of Children, Youth and Families (ESSB 5092, Section 205(1)(e))			
Child Welfare Services	34,248	34,248	68,496
Subtotal - ESA Department of Children, Youth and Families	34,248	34,248	68,496
ESA - Overhead & Administration (ESSB 5092, Section 205(1)(f))			
DSHS Staffing Operations	58,546	57,649	116,195
Subtotal - ESA Overhead and Administration	58,546	57,649	116,195
ESA - Technical adjustments			
Total WF \$3,000 residual		3	
Admin \$350,000 residual		350	
Total State and Federal - ESA (ESSB 5092, Section 205(1)(a))	554,053	543,639	1,097,692
Other			
Tribal TANF - Federal	24,003	24,003	48,006
DSHS - Overhead	12,369	12,369	24,738
Total - Other	36,372	36,372	72,744
Total WorkFirst Spending Plan	590,425	580,011	1,170,436