



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

Department of Human Services

500 Summer Street NE
Salem, OR 97301-1067

Department of Human Services 2013-15 Legislatively Approved Budget

The 2013-15 Legislatively Approved Budget (LAB) for the Department of Human Services represents a significant investment in services and supports for the more than one million Oregonians who depend on DHS service every year to help meet their most basic needs.

I am happy to report that -- for the first time in many years -- the Legislature was able to go beyond just prioritizing and maintaining basic services and begin to make strategic investments in services designed to improve outcomes and reduce the need for higher cost interventions in the long term.

The total two-year budget for the agency is approximately \$9 billion total funds. About \$6.3 billion of that amount is federal funding, with approximately \$2.7 general (or state) funds.

Approximately 80% of the DHS budget will be spent directly on provider service partners and in direct payments to clients. About 16% of the budget pays for DHS staff who directly serve clients in communities across Oregon, and only 4% of the budget pays for the Department's administrative costs.

When creating its budget for DHS, the Legislature was guided by the following principles:

- Focus on outcomes rather than on individual programs;
- Focus on the needs of customers and communities, considering changing demographics and anticipating future needs;
- Aggressively invest upfront to prevent the need for higher-cost services. Where possible, target investments to supports that will promote independence and avoid, delay or reduce the need for services;
- Support the transformation of service delivery models to address some of the current gaps, anticipate future needs and to repurpose the time of people delivering services to allow for more time serving people and less time on paperwork and process; and
- Hold DHS and its partners accountable for results.

The Department is publishing several documents to provide more detail on the budget decisions that will guide our work in 2013-15, including lists by program area of significant budget actions, a side-by-side comparison document highlighting service and program changes between 2011-13 and 2013-15, a reduction list and an investment list.

Notably, some of the most significant investments in the DHS budget include:

- Support for more in-home and community-based supports for seniors and people with disabilities; an expansion of supports for seniors and people with disabilities to make informed decisions about how to maintain their independence, health and safety; and investment in innovation and enhanced coordination between our long term care and health care systems.
- Investments that support more children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) to live at home and avoid the need for crisis interventions; and investments in infrastructure that will allow for enhanced coordination of care and services for individuals with I/DD.
- Support to expand community-based services statewide that will strengthen, preserve and reunify families involved in the child welfare system and investments in child welfare staff to improve outcomes and to implement an alternative track of intervention once child abuse or neglect has occurred.
- Investments to help low-income unemployed individuals go to work and employed parents stay employed, as well investments to improve integrated employment opportunities for youth and working age adults with I/DD.
- Investments in care providers to improve quality and ensure access to services.
- Investments in DHS staff and business support that will allow for more engagement with customers, improved family and individual safety and independence and, ultimately, a reduced need for services.

In addition, there were a number of bills passed by the Legislature that are important to DHS, including the Foster Care Bill of Rights, the REAL (Race, Ethnicity and Language) data collection and reporting standards, and many others. I will be talking about those bills in upcoming Director's Messages, as will other DHS executives, so watch for additional information in the coming weeks.

Here at DHS we take seriously our commitment to our customers and our responsibility to be transparent and good stewards of the taxpayer resources that have been entrusted to us. That responsibility is great, but so is the opportunity this 2013-15 budget provides to begin to shift our focus away from reacting to crises and toward strategies that better anticipate and address the needs of our customers.

We look forward to the work to come with individuals, with partners, and with communities as we work to achieve our mission of safety, health and independence for all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Erinn Kelley-Siel
Director, Oregon Department of Human Services