

HB 5026

Department of Human Services

HB 5026 is the budget bill for the Department of Human Services. DHS delivers a range of supports and services for children, families, seniors, and people with physical and developmental disabilities through a system of field offices and community partners.

The Human Services Subcommittee approved an agency budget of \$2.7 billion General Fund, \$10.2 billion total funds, and 8,033 positions. The budget is 8.4% total funds more than the current budget. However, the General Fund budget is a 15.7 % increase, with about 29% of the net growth attributable to targeted spending and the remainder tied primarily to mandated caseloads and maintaining existing services, while managing under federal changes or funding constraints.

The recommended budget continues core programs, adjusts for caseload changes, and adds new or expanded funding for some programs. Budget actions taken to reduce General Fund need and support higher priorities, include the elimination of standard inflation, managing to a higher vacancy rate, and making select program reductions.

Key program elements and significant budget actions include:

- Continues prior investments in Differential Response and Strengthening, Preserving and Reunifying Families; keeps Child Welfare staffing at 85.9% of workload model.
- Uses \$30 million General Fund from caseload savings to maintain TANF program staffing and address changes under HB 3535 that help participants transition off the program, strengthen families, and prevent program entry.

- Adds \$45 million General Fund in the ERDC program, to supports program changes required under federal law and reflected in HB 2015. Funding also allows for increases in provide rates and for more families to access the program.
- The budget includes \$6 million General Fund to continue the Oregon Project Independence pilot project expanding services to people with disabilities who are under age 60. The base OPI program is funded at \$20.1 million General Fund.
- Due to safety and staffing concerns within the Stabilization and Crisis Unit, \$5.7 million General Fund (\$13.4 million total funds) and 127 positions are added to support a float pool and crisis teams to cover staffing gaps and reduce overtime.
- Includes rate increase for long term care providers and providers serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities; also contains funding to address fair labor standards act changes affecting home care and personal support workers.
- Adds \$4.4 million General Fund to build on Employment First efforts to improve employment outcomes for IDD clients in the workplace and continue helping providers transform services.
- Includes new funding for youth shelter, runaway and homeless youth, food programs, 2-1-1info, property tax hardship relieve for seniors, caregiver training, and a community-based needs assessment of deaf and hard of hearing services.

The budget report for this bill contains one budget note related to budget sustainability in the aging and people with disabilities and the intellectual and developmental disabilities programs. The budget report also includes the agency's key performance measures and targets.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends HB 5026 be amended by the -1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.