

OFFICE OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE

MISSION

The Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), working in close collaboration with the Office of Children and Family Services and other agencies, helps needy adults and families achieve economic self-sufficiency through work, job training and child support enforcement. OTDA provides economic assistance to aged and disabled persons who are unable to work, transitional support to welfare recipients while they are working toward self-sufficiency and supportive services to low-income households to help them avoid welfare dependency.

ORGANIZATION AND STAFFING

OTDA has its central office in Albany and three major field offices throughout the State. These offices provide direct operational support, supervision and guidance to the State's 58 local social services districts, which comprise each county and New York City. Social services districts are responsible for directly administering most welfare programs, including those that serve the homeless and refugees.

Agency staff also provide legal, audit and computer systems support. Through its Division of Disability Determinations, the Agency evaluates the medical eligibility of disability claimants for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). The Agency is authorized at 2,448 positions for 2007-08. Approximately 648 of these positions are paid by State tax dollars from the General Fund with partial Federal reimbursement and 1,451 are funded directly by Federal grants. The remaining 349 positions are supported by various revenues.

FISCAL BACKGROUND AND BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

A total of \$5.2 billion is recommended from all funding sources in 2007-08 to support State Operations and Aid to Localities programs. Of this amount, \$1.3 billion is for the payment of public assistance benefits; \$677 million is for the payment of SSI benefits; \$460 million is for State Operations; \$370 million is for Food Stamp Administration; and \$142 million is for Child Support Enforcement.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The welfare system in New York State is designed to provide temporary income and transitional support services while recipients secure employment and child support payments. The system promotes individual responsibility and provides social services districts with the flexibility they need to effectively administer a work-oriented welfare system. The system has evolved from one that focused primarily on determining client eligibility and distributing benefit payments to one that now focuses on assisting individuals in achieving independence from publicly-supported welfare programs.

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Since 1994, over 1.1 million recipients have left the welfare rolls, which represents a decline of 67 percent. In addition to generating significant State and local government savings, this caseload decrease has allowed the State to use the Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant to fund supportive services that encourage employment. The programs funded include the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), child care and transportation services.

OTDA programs also emphasize prevention of welfare dependency by providing work supports and services to at-risk households. Legislation was enacted in 2006-07 creating a Strengthening Families through Stronger Fathers initiative to encourage employment and related activities for low-income, non-custodial parents.

FAMILY ASSISTANCE

The Family Assistance program provides employment assessments, support services and time-limited cash assistance to eligible families with children while the parent acquires the necessary skills to secure and retain employment.

All Family Assistance participants must undergo an assessment of their employability, skills and training needs and, unless determined to be exempt, must participate in assigned work activities to remain eligible. Federal financial participation in cash benefits for Family Assistance participants is limited to a cumulative period of five years. If the Family Assistance household is unable to transition off cash assistance during this period, the family typically moves to the Safety Net Assistance program.

In addition, Federal law mandates a 50 percent work participation rate for all Family Assistance cases. Although the Federal government applies a caseload reduction credit to this work requirement, the Federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 amended the credit in a manner which makes the rate more difficult to achieve.

New York's welfare program fosters individual responsibility to help break the cycle of long-term dependency. All applicants and recipients are required to participate in screening and assessment to determine if the need for welfare results from drug or alcohol abuse. If a participant is unable to work because of such circumstances, he or she is referred to an appropriate treatment program. Teen parents must attend high school or other approved education programs to receive welfare benefits.

Welfare reform also requires each social services district to screen its Family Assistance caseload for domestic violence. Acting through its designated domestic violence liaison, each district informs the individual of services they may access on a voluntary basis. Districts waive application of welfare program rules, including but not limited to child support cooperation and work requirements, if the district determines that these provisions would cause further risk or make it more difficult for the person to escape domestic violence.

SAFETY NET ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Article XVII of the State Constitution requires the State and its social services districts to provide for the needy. State welfare reform meets this obligation through the Safety Net Assistance program for persons who are not eligible for Family Assistance or Supplemental Security Income.

Safety Net Assistance participants are single adults and childless couples, families that have exhausted their five-year limit on Family Assistance, households where the adult is unable to work because of substance abuse, and households where the adult has refused to

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participate in drug/alcohol screening or treatment. In addition to providing for essential needs, the Safety Net Assistance program provides employment services such as job search and work training. Unless prevented from doing so by a physical or mental disability, Safety Net Assistance participants must engage in assigned work activities to receive assistance.

SUPPORTIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS

Activities undertaken since welfare reform have strengthened child support enforcement to ensure that parents provide for the economic well-being of their children. Improvements include automated updating of child support awards to reflect inflation; improved customer services through website access of account information; interstate reciprocity in child support proceedings; and administrative authority for social services districts to order genetic tests, subpoena information and collect relevant data from Federal, State and local agencies. The Executive Budget continues to re-invest Federal incentive bonuses in child support initiatives to strengthen performance in “hard-to-collect” cases, and continue State-local partnerships to increase criminal prosecution of parents who refuse to pay child support. These measures will help to increase total child support collections to a projected level of \$1.6 billion in 2007.

The Federal SSI program provides cash assistance to the aged, visually handicapped and disabled, and is administered by the Social Security Administration. New York State has chosen to provide additional financial support to its SSI recipients. The State’s SSI supplement is one of the most generous in the nation. The annual cost of the SSI program is projected to be \$677 million in 2007-08 to cover approximately 656,000 recipients. SSA charges a fee to administer the State’s SSI program. In 2007-08, the State will negotiate with SSA to reduce the cost of administering the program. The 2007-08 Executive Budget continues funding for the State’s transitional and emergency shelter system and supportive housing efforts, which assists homeless individuals and families in achieving self-sufficiency by strengthening their independent living skills and helping them acquire permanent housing. The Federal Food Stamp Program provides low-income households with an electronic benefit card that can be used as cash at grocery stores to purchase food. New York receives \$2.1 billion per year in Federal Food Stamp benefits, with the eligible household receiving an average monthly benefit of \$200.

The 2007-08 Executive Budget provides a \$9.2 million increase in TANF-supported allocations to the local districts, including \$3 million for non-residential services to victims of domestic violence, up to \$35 million for the Summer Youth Employment Program and \$1.008 billion for the Flexible Fund for Family Services. The Flexible Fund for Family Services gives counties more discretion and responsibility in determining where their TANF funding should be directed.

ALL FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Category	Available 2006-07	Appropriations Recommended 2007-08	Change	Reappropriations Recommended 2007-08
State Operations	457,604,000	459,847,000	2,243,000	281,500,000
Aid To Localities	4,607,437,000	4,737,147,000	129,710,000	3,674,212,000
Capital Projects	30,000,000	30,000,000	0	124,137,000
Total	<u>5,095,041,000</u>	<u>5,226,994,000</u>	<u>131,953,000</u>	<u>4,079,849,000</u>

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ALL FUND TYPES PROJECTED LEVELS OF EMPLOYMENT BY PROGRAM FILLED ANNUAL SALARIED POSITIONS

Full-Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)			
Program	2006-07 Estimated FTEs 03/31/07	2007-08 Estimated FTEs 03/31/08	FTE Change
Administration			
General Fund	201	201	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	69	69	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	65	65	0
Internal Service Funds	4	4	0
Child Support Enforcement			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	73	73	0
Disability Determinations			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	1,126	1,126	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	109	109	0
Executive Direction			
General Fund	16	16	0
Legal Affairs			
General Fund	258	258	0
System Support and Information Services			
General Fund	102	102	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	20	20	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	45	45	0
Temporary and Disability Assistance Programs			
General Fund	40	40	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	213	213	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	41	41	0
Transitional Supports and Policy, Division of			
General Fund	31	31	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	23	23	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	12	12	0
Total	2,448	2,448	0

STATE OPERATIONS ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Fund Type	Available 2006-07	Recommended 2007-08	Change
General Fund	61,437,000	68,107,000	6,670,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	227,300,000	221,300,000	(6,000,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	167,667,000	169,240,000	1,573,000
Internal Service Funds	1,200,000	1,200,000	0
Total	457,604,000	459,847,000	2,243,000

Adjustments:	
Transfer(s) From	
Temporary and Disability Assistance, Office of	
General Fund (Aid To Localities)	(6,750,000)
Transfer(s) To	
Executive Chamber	
General Fund	314,000
Appropriated 2006-07	451,168,000

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STATE OPERATIONS ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Program	Available 2006-07	Recommended 2007-08	Change
Administration			
General Fund	25,465,000	25,602,000	137,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	7,000,000	9,000,000	2,000,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	21,160,000	24,540,000	3,380,000
Internal Service Funds	1,200,000	1,200,000	0
Child Support Enforcement			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	3,800,000	3,800,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	30,000,000	30,000,000	0
Departmental Administrative			
Reimbursement			
General Fund	(84,963,000)	(81,500,000)	3,463,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	88,532,000	85,000,000	(3,532,000)
Disability Determinations			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	176,000,000	168,000,000	(8,000,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	9,600,000	9,600,000	0
Executive Direction			
General Fund	1,779,000	1,815,000	36,000
Legal Affairs			
General Fund	19,951,000	22,123,000	2,172,000
System Support and Information Services			
General Fund	91,353,000	89,784,000	(1,569,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	35,000,000	35,000,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	13,100,000	14,600,000	1,500,000
Temporary and Disability Assistance			
Programs			
General Fund	5,300,000	7,625,000	2,325,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	5,000,000	5,000,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	4,000,000	4,000,000	0
Transitional Supports and Policy, Division of			
General Fund	2,552,000	2,658,000	106,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	500,000	500,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	1,275,000	1,500,000	225,000
Total	<u>457,604,000</u>	<u>459,847,000</u>	<u>2,243,000</u>

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**STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL AND OFFSET FUNDS
SUMMARY OF PERSONAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES
2007-08 RECOMMENDED
(dollars)**

Program	Total		Personal Service Regular (Annual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	14,794,000	137,000	14,759,500	234,800
Departmental Administrative				
Reimbursement	(35,500,000)	(100,000)	(35,500,000)	(100,000)
Executive Direction	1,510,000	36,000	1,429,400	34,400
Legal Affairs	18,585,000	1,272,000	18,224,400	1,241,446
System Support and Information Services	8,433,000	974,000	8,433,000	996,000
Temporary and Disability Assistance				
Programs	5,594,000	1,425,000	5,514,000	1,824,981
Transitional Supports and Policy, Division of	2,415,000	106,000	2,377,000	106,452
Total	<u>15,831,000</u>	<u>3,850,000</u>	<u>15,237,300</u>	<u>4,338,079</u>
Program	Temporary Service (Nonannual Salaried)		Holiday/Overtime Pay (Annual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	0	(97,800)	34,500	0
Departmental Administrative				
Reimbursement	0	0	0	0
Executive Direction	80,600	1,600	0	0
Legal Affairs	35,300	1,014	325,300	29,540
System Support and Information Services	0	0	0	(22,000)
Temporary and Disability Assistance				
Programs	0	(445,144)	80,000	45,163
Transitional Supports and Policy, Division of	0	0	38,000	(452)
Total	<u>115,900</u>	<u>(540,330)</u>	<u>477,800</u>	<u>52,251</u>

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**STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL AND OFFSET FUNDS
SUMMARY OF NONPERSONAL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE UNDISTRIBUTED
APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES
2007-08 RECOMMENDED
(dollars)**

Program	Total		Supplies and Materials	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	11,308,000	0	154,300	0
Departmental Administrative				
Reimbursement	(46,000,000)	3,563,000	0	0
Executive Direction	305,000	0	32,900	0
Legal Affairs	3,538,000	900,000	138,500	0
System Support and Information Services	81,351,000	(2,543,000)	38,900	0
Temporary and Disability Assistance				
Programs	2,031,000	900,000	30,000	(8,000)
Transitional Supports and Policy, Division of	243,000	0	35,100	(12,900)
Total	<u>52,776,000</u>	<u>2,820,000</u>	<u>429,700</u>	<u>(20,900)</u>

Program	Travel		Contractual Services	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	258,100	400	10,523,900	(400)
Departmental Administrative				
Reimbursement	0	0	(46,000,000)	3,563,000
Executive Direction	49,500	0	210,600	0
Legal Affairs	155,700	25,000	2,652,800	350,000
System Support and Information Services	34,700	0	12,331,400	1,457,000
Temporary and Disability Assistance				
Programs	79,000	16,500	1,902,000	900,000
Transitional Supports and Policy, Division of	92,900	7,900	106,300	2,300
Total	<u>669,900</u>	<u>49,800</u>	<u>(18,273,000)</u>	<u>6,271,900</u>

Program	Equipment		Maintenance Undistributed	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	371,700	0	0	0
Departmental Administrative				
Reimbursement	0	0	0	0
Executive Direction	12,000	0	0	0
Legal Affairs	591,000	525,000	0	0
System Support and Information Services	72,000	0	68,874,000	(4,000,000)
Temporary and Disability Assistance				
Programs	20,000	(8,500)	0	0
Transitional Supports and Policy, Division of	8,700	2,700	0	0
Total	<u>1,075,400</u>	<u>519,200</u>	<u>68,874,000</u>	<u>(4,000,000)</u>

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STATE OPERATIONS - OTHER THAN GENERAL FUND AND OFFSET FUNDS SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2007-08 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total		Personal Service	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	34,740,000	5,380,000	12,920,000	1,120,000
Child Support Enforcement	33,800,000	0	7,406,000	0
Departmental Administrative Reimbursement	85,000,000	(3,532,000)	36,330,000	(100,000)
Disability Determinations	177,600,000	(8,000,000)	78,450,000	(6,000,000)
System Support and Information Services	49,600,000	1,500,000	1,208,000	0
Temporary and Disability Assistance Programs	9,000,000	0	2,500,000	0
Transitional Supports and Policy, Division of	2,000,000	225,000	1,335,000	282,000
Total	<u>391,740,000</u>	<u>(4,427,000)</u>	<u>140,149,000</u>	<u>(4,698,000)</u>

Program	Nonpersonal Service		Maintenance Undistributed	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	21,820,000	4,260,000	0	0
Child Support Enforcement	26,394,000	0	0	0
Departmental Administrative Reimbursement	48,670,000	(3,432,000)	0	0
Disability Determinations	99,150,000	(2,000,000)	0	0
System Support and Information Services	13,392,000	1,500,000	35,000,000	0
Temporary and Disability Assistance Programs	6,500,000	0	0	0
Transitional Supports and Policy, Division of	665,000	(57,000)	0	0
Total	<u>216,591,000</u>	<u>271,000</u>	<u>35,000,000</u>	<u>0</u>

AID TO LOCALITIES ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Fund Type	Available 2006-07	Recommended 2007-08	Change
General Fund	1,336,218,000	1,426,878,000	90,660,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	3,234,834,000	3,273,930,000	39,096,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	16,385,000	16,339,000	(46,000)
Fiduciary Funds	20,000,000	20,000,000	0
Total	<u>4,607,437,000</u>	<u>4,737,147,000</u>	<u>129,710,000</u>

Adjustments:		
Prior Year Deficiency		
Temporary and Disability Assistance,		
Office of		
General Fund	100,000,000	
Transfer(s) From		
Alcoholism and Substance Abuse		
Services, Office of		
General Fund	(2,000,000)	
Transfer(s) To		
Temporary and Disability Assistance,		
Office of		
General Fund (State Operations)	6,750,000	
Appropriated 2006-07	<u>4,712,187,000</u>	

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AID TO LOCALITIES ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Program	Available 2006-07	Recommended 2007-08	Change
Child Support Enforcement			
General Fund	34,000,000	34,000,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	125,000,000	108,000,000	(17,000,000)
Food Stamp Administration Program			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	335,000,000	364,000,000	29,000,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	6,385,000	6,339,000	(46,000)
Temporary and Disability Assistance Administration			
General Fund	353,466,000	349,755,000	(3,711,000)
Temporary and Disability Assistance Programs			
General Fund	824,292,000	917,273,000	92,981,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	2,721,409,000	2,758,505,000	37,096,000
Fiduciary Funds	20,000,000	20,000,000	0
Transitional Supports and Policy, Division of			
General Fund	124,460,000	125,850,000	1,390,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	53,425,000	43,425,000	(10,000,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	10,000,000	10,000,000	0
Total	<u>4,607,437,000</u>	<u>4,737,147,000</u>	<u>129,710,000</u>

CAPITAL PROJECTS ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Comprehensive Construction Program	Available 2006-07	Recommended 2007-08	Change	Reappropriations 2007-08
Supported Housing Program				
Housing Program Fund	30,000,000	30,000,000	0	124,137,000
Total	<u>30,000,000</u>	<u>30,000,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>124,137,000</u>