

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 public assistance recipients while they are working toward self-sufficiency, and supportive services to low-income households to help them avoid welfare dependency.

ORGANIZATION AND STAFFING

The Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance 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 include each county and New York City. Social services districts are responsible for directly administering most public assistance programs, including those that serve the homeless and refugees.

Agency staff also provide legal, audit and computer systems support. Through its Disability Determinations Program, the agency evaluates the medical eligibility of disability claimants for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI).

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The Executive Budget recommends **\$5.2 billion All Funds** (\$1.2 billion General Fund; \$4.0 billion Other Funds) for OTDA. This is an increase of **\$261 million** (\$142 million General Fund decrease; \$403 million Other Funds increase) from the 2008-09 budget. This net change reflects increased funding for the Federal Home Energy Assistance Program, reduced funding for the State SSI supplementation program, and other budget actions.

The Office's workforce will be **2,280 positions** in 2009-10. Approximately 647 of these positions are paid by State tax dollars from the General Fund with partial Federal reimbursement and 1,331 are funded directly by Federal grants. The remaining 302 positions are supported by various special revenues.

Major budget actions include:

- **Increase Public Assistance Grant:** The Executive Budget will increase the basic allowance portion of the public assistance grant by 10 percent a year for the next three years. At full implementation, this will result in a \$96 per month increase in the basic allowance.
- **Reduce Supplemental Security Income (SSI) State Benefit:** The Federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program provides cash assistance to the aged, blind, and disabled, and is administered by the Social Security Administration. New York State provides additional financial support to its SSI recipients. Although the 2009-10 Executive Budget reduces the 2009 calendar

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year State benefit for SSI, a recipient's total monthly SSI benefit will still be \$9 to \$34 higher than their 2008 monthly benefit as a result of a 5.8 percent cost of living increase to the Federal benefit.

- **Reduce Personal Needs Allowance of Certain Public Assistance Recipients:** The 2009-10 Executive Budget will reduce the allowance given to the 7,000 public assistance recipients who reside in chemical dependence treatment facilities to an amount that is comparable to the allowance given to recipients who reside in similar settings that provide room and board.
- **Eliminate Local Administration Fund:** The 2009-10 Executive Budget replaces General Fund support of the Local Administration Fund (which supports the State share of food stamps and public assistance administration) with Federal funding by increasing the Flexible Fund for Family Services allocation by \$310.6 million.
- **Reduce Reimbursement for New York City Adult Homeless Shelters:** The Executive Budget caps reimbursement to New York City for adult homeless shelter expenditures at \$79.7 million, a reduction of \$10.6 million from 2008-09 levels.
- **Reduce or Eliminate Funding for Various Homeless, Refugee and Employment-Related Programs:** Funding is reduced for the Homelessness Intervention Program (HIP) and the Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Supportive Services Program. These programs assist homeless individuals and families in achieving self-sufficiency by strengthening their independent living skills and helping them acquire and retain permanent housing. Funding is also reduced for the Citizenship Program and the New York State Refugee Resettlement Assistance Program (NYSRRAP), which assists refugees and asylees by providing such services as job search and housing location help, employment training, and assistance in the attainment of citizenship status. The Executive Budget will also eliminate funding for the Homeless Prevention Program (HPP), the Safety Net Assistance Local Innovations Program (SNAP), the Local Interagency VESID Employment Services Program, the Educational Resources Program, and the HIV Welfare-to-Work Program. These programs have sufficient unexpended balances to continue for a period of time absent new funding.
- **Eliminate the Strengthening Families Through Stronger Fathers Program:** Funding is eliminated for the Fatherhood program, which currently supports five pilots that provide employment training, parenting training, legal services, financial counseling and mental health services to non-custodial parents. The program will continue to run until the end of the pilot phase on September 30, 2009.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The public assistance program 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, the public assistance caseload has decreased by over 1.1 million recipients, a decline of 68 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 (such as child care and the Earned Income Tax Credit) that encourage employment.

OTDA's programs also emphasize prevention of welfare dependency by providing work supports and services to at-risk households.

FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Family Assistance program, which is financed jointly by the State, Federal government and local districts, provides employment assessments, supportive services and time-limited cash assistance to eligible families with children.

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 for cash benefits. 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, which is financed jointly by the State and local districts.

SAFETY NET ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Article XVII of the State Constitution requires the State and its social services districts to provide for the needy. New York State 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 include families who have exhausted their five-year limit on Family Assistance, single adults and childless couples. 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.

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

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 continues 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 \$1.7 billion in 2009.

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OTHER SUPPORTIVE PROGRAMS

The Federal Food Stamp Program provides low-income households with an electronic benefit card that can be used as cash to purchase food. In 2007-08, New York received \$2.43 billion in Federal Food Stamp benefits, with eligible households receiving an average monthly benefit of \$207.

The Federal Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) provides cash benefits to assist low-income households in meeting their home heating costs. The HEAP program also provides funding for weatherization activities to reduce energy usage in residential units occupied by low-income households. Federal funding for HEAP has increased substantially for Federal fiscal year 2009, with New York State receiving \$539 million, a \$180 million increase from 2008 levels. The Executive Budget includes additional Federal appropriation authority to accommodate this increase.

The 2009-10 Executive Budget also continues funding for the State's transitional and emergency shelter system and supportive housing efforts, which assist homeless individuals and families in achieving self-sufficiency by strengthening their independent living skills and helping them acquire permanent housing.

ALL FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Category	Available 2008-09	Appropriations Recommended 2009-10	Change	Reappropriations Recommended 2009-10
State Operations	492,584,000	467,808,000	(24,776,000)	344,647,000
Aid To Localities	4,467,727,596	4,760,242,000	292,514,404	3,476,214,537
Capital Projects	36,500,000	30,000,000	(6,500,000)	111,490,000
Total	4,996,811,596	5,258,050,000	261,238,404	3,932,351,537

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

Full-Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)			
Program	2008-09 Estimated FTEs 03/31/09	2009-10 Estimated FTEs 03/31/10	FTE Change
Administration			
General Fund	203	203	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	65	65	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	79	79	0
Internal Service Funds	4	4	0
Child Well Being Program			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	57	57	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	30	30	0
Disability Determinations Program			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	956	956	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	105	105	0
Employment and Economic Support Program			
General Fund	43	43	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	190	190	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	27	27	0
Executive Direction			
General Fund	16	16	0
Information Technology Program			
General Fund	88	88	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	40	40	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	45	45	0
Legal Affairs			
General Fund	270	270	0
Specialized Services Program			
General Fund	27	27	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	23	23	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	12	12	0
Total	<u>2,280</u>	<u>2,280</u>	<u>0</u>

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

Fund Type	Available 2008-09	Recommended 2009-10	Change
General Fund	67,548,000	60,750,000	(6,798,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	255,358,000	246,347,000	(9,011,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	168,478,000	159,511,000	(8,967,000)
Internal Service Funds	1,200,000	1,200,000	0
Total	<u>492,584,000</u>	<u>467,808,000</u>	<u>(24,776,000)</u>
Adjustments:			
Transfer(s) From			
Special Pay Bill			
General Fund	(5,531,000)		
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	(10,412,000)		
Special Revenue Funds - Other	(1,044,000)		
Appropriated 2008-09	<u>475,597,000</u>		

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

Program	Available 2008-09	Recommended 2009-10	Change
Administration			
General Fund	15,272,000	12,989,000	(2,283,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	9,000,000	9,000,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	36,025,000	34,715,000	(1,310,000)
Internal Service Funds	1,200,000	1,200,000	0
Child Well Being Program			
General Fund	2,500,000	2,400,000	(100,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	12,046,000	17,447,000	5,401,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	31,044,000	24,212,000	(6,832,000)
Disability Determinations Program			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	174,412,000	160,000,000	(14,412,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	10,600,000	10,600,000	0
Employment and Economic Support Program			
General Fund	5,196,000	3,015,000	(2,181,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	21,400,000	21,400,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	7,109,000	8,684,000	1,575,000
Executive Direction			
General Fund	791,000	648,000	(143,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	1,200,000	1,200,000	0
Information Technology Program			
General Fund	30,278,000	28,280,000	(1,998,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	35,000,000	35,000,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	69,000,000	66,600,000	(2,400,000)
Legal Affairs			
General Fund	12,245,000	12,349,000	104,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	11,000,000	11,000,000	0
Specialized Services Program			
General Fund	1,266,000	1,069,000	(197,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	3,500,000	3,500,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	2,500,000	2,500,000	0
Total	492,584,000	467,808,000	(24,776,000)

STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND SUMMARY OF PERSONAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2009-10 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total		Personal Service Regular (Annual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	2,892,000	(404,000)	2,738,000	(403,000)
Child Well Being Program	300,000	0	300,000	0
Employment and Economic Support Program	283,000	(1,882,000)	202,000	(1,881,000)
Executive Direction	328,000	(158,000)	267,000	(151,000)
Information Technology Program	848,000	(1,313,000)	848,000	(1,313,000)
Legal Affairs	8,811,000	104,000	8,387,000	94,000
Specialized Services Program	826,000	(197,000)	777,000	(200,000)
Total	14,288,000	(3,850,000)	13,519,000	(3,854,000)

Program	Temporary Service (Nonannual Salaried)		Holiday/Overtime Pay	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	120,000	0	34,000	(1,000)
Child Well Being Program	0	0	0	0
Employment and Economic Support Program	0	0	81,000	(1,000)
Executive Direction	56,000	(9,000)	5,000	2,000
Information Technology Program	0	0	0	0
Legal Affairs	39,000	10,000	385,000	0
Specialized Services Program	0	0	49,000	3,000
Total	215,000	1,000	554,000	3,000

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STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND SUMMARY OF NONPERSONAL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE UNDISTRIBUTED APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2009-10 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total		Supplies and Materials	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	10,097,000	(1,879,000)	110,000	0
Child Well Being Program	2,100,000	(100,000)	0	0
Employment and Economic Support Program	2,732,000	(299,000)	27,000	0
Executive Direction	320,000	15,000	20,000	(4,000)
Information Technology Program	27,432,000	(685,000)	37,900	0
Legal Affairs	3,538,000	0	128,000	(32,000)
Specialized Services Program	243,000	0	12,000	(9,000)
Total	46,462,000	(2,948,000)	334,900	(45,000)

Program	Travel		Contractual Services	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	290,000	0	9,347,000	(1,879,000)
Child Well Being Program	0	0	2,100,000	(100,000)
Employment and Economic Support Program	112,000	(35,000)	2,569,000	(264,000)
Executive Direction	47,000	12,000	235,000	10,000
Information Technology Program	36,700	0	6,598,400	0
Legal Affairs	200,000	2,000	2,753,000	150,000
Specialized Services Program	110,000	3,000	112,000	6,000
Total	795,700	(18,000)	23,714,400	(2,077,000)

Program	Equipment		Maintenance Undistributed	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	350,000	0	0	0
Child Well Being Program	0	0	0	0
Employment and Economic Support Program	24,000	0	0	0
Executive Direction	18,000	(3,000)	0	0
Information Technology Program	70,000	0	20,689,000	(685,000)
Legal Affairs	457,000	(120,000)	0	0
Specialized Services Program	9,000	0	0	0
Total	928,000	(123,000)	20,689,000	(685,000)

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STATE OPERATIONS - OTHER THAN GENERAL FUND SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2009-10 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total		Personal Service	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	44,915,000	(1,310,000)	22,726,000	(614,000)
Child Well Being Program	41,659,000	(1,431,000)	8,364,000	(279,000)
Disability Determinations Program	170,600,000	(14,412,000)	80,050,000	(4,969,000)
Employment and Economic Support Program	30,084,000	1,575,000	18,327,000	2,080,000
Executive Direction	1,200,000	0	1,200,000	0
Information Technology Program	101,600,000	(2,400,000)	7,350,000	(688,000)
Legal Affairs	11,000,000	0	11,000,000	0
Specialized Services Program	6,000,000	0	3,670,000	(73,000)
Total	407,058,000	(17,978,000)	152,687,000	(4,543,000)

Program	Nonpersonal Service		Maintenance Undistributed	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	22,189,000	(696,000)	0	0
Child Well Being Program	33,295,000	(1,152,000)	0	0
Disability Determinations Program	90,550,000	(9,443,000)	0	0
Employment and Economic Support Program	11,757,000	(505,000)	0	0
Executive Direction	0	0	0	0
Information Technology Program	59,250,000	(1,712,000)	35,000,000	0
Legal Affairs	0	0	0	0
Specialized Services Program	2,330,000	73,000	0	0
Total	219,371,000	(13,435,000)	35,000,000	0

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

Fund Type	Available 2008-09	Recommended 2009-10	Change
General Fund	1,294,753,756	1,159,068,000	(135,685,756)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	3,145,446,000	3,573,647,000	428,201,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	17,527,840	17,527,000	(840)
Fiduciary Funds	10,000,000	10,000,000	0
Total	4,467,727,596	4,760,242,000	292,514,404

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

Program	Available 2008-09	Recommended 2009-10	Change
Child Well Being Program			
General Fund	33,573,600	30,810,000	(2,763,600)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	102,000,000	128,000,000	26,000,000
Employment and Economic Support Administration Program			
General Fund	344,558,462	24,826,000	(319,732,462)
Employment and Economic Support Program			
General Fund	794,184,000	996,808,000	202,624,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	2,604,746,000	2,994,257,000	389,511,000
Fiduciary Funds	10,000,000	10,000,000	0
Food Stamp Administration Program			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	406,275,000	420,390,000	14,115,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	7,627,840	7,627,000	(840)
Specialized Services Program			
General Fund	122,062,694	106,624,000	(15,438,694)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	32,425,000	31,000,000	(1,425,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	9,900,000	9,900,000	0
Community Projects			
General Fund	375,000	0	(375,000)
Total	<u>4,467,727,596</u>	<u>4,760,242,000</u>	<u>292,514,404</u>

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

Comprehensive Construction Program	Available 2008-09	Recommended 2009-10	Change	Reappropriations 2009-10
Supported Housing Program				
Housing Program Fund	36,500,000	30,000,000	(6,500,000)	111,490,000
Total	<u>36,500,000</u>	<u>30,000,000</u>	<u>(6,500,000)</u>	<u>111,490,000</u>

