

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 **\$6.0 billion All Funds** (\$1.3 billion General Fund; \$4.7 billion Other Funds) for OTDA. This is an increase of **\$342 million** (\$69 million General Fund decrease; \$411 million Other Funds increase) from the 2009-10 budget. This net change primarily reflects increased funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, specifically funding for the TANF program.

The Office's workforce will be **2,379 positions** in 2010-11. Approximately 193 of these positions are paid by State tax dollars from the General Fund and 1,487 are funded directly by Federal grants. The remaining 699 positions are supported by earned revenue and other special revenues.

Major budget actions include:

- **Modification of the Scheduled Public Assistance Grant Increase:** The 2009-10 Enacted Budget increased the basic allowance portion of the public assistance grant by 10 percent a year for three consecutive years, starting in July 2009. Executive Budget recommendations reduce the planned July 2010 increase to five percent and provide for five percent increases for the next three successive years. The State will continue to assume the local share of the grant increase through March 31, 2014. At full implementation, this will result in a \$100 per month increase in the basic allowance.
- **State Administration of the SSI Supplementation Program:** The Federal Social Security Administration (SSA) administers New York's SSI supplementation program and charges a fee for each check issued on the State's behalf. The fee is currently set at \$10.45 and total administrative costs are

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- projected to be \$84 million in 2010-11. The Executive Budget authorizes the State to assume responsibility for the administration of the supplementation program, achieving over \$60 million in annual savings when fully implemented.
- **Alignment of the Adult and Family Shelter Populations:** The 2010-11 Executive Budget aligns funding for the adult homeless shelter system with the family shelter system to encourage local social services districts to conduct public assistance eligibility determinations for all individuals seeking placement in temporary shelter settings, including homeless shelters for adults.
 - **Reduced Funding for Various Homeless, Refugee and Employment-Related Programs:** Funding is reduced by between 10 percent and 28 percent for various programs including the Homelessness Intervention Program (HIP) which provides services to stabilize households and prevent homelessness; the Operational Support for AIDS Housing (OSAH) Program, which funds supportive services and operating expenses of AIDS housing programs; the Response to Human Trafficking Program, the Citizenship Program, and the New York State Refugee Resettlement Assistance Program (NYSRRAP), which assist refugees and asylees by providing such services as job search and housing location help, employment training, and assistance in the attainment of citizenship status; and the HIV Welfare-to-Work Program, which addresses the employment and training needs of low-income individuals diagnosed with HIV or AIDS.

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.

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 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 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.

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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.

STATE SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME PROGRAM

The Federal SSI program provides cash assistance to low-income aged, blind, and disabled persons, and is administered by the Social Security Administration. New York State provides additional financial support to its SSI recipients. The cost of the State SSI supplementation program is projected to be \$707 million in 2010-11 to cover approximately 667,000 recipients.

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. Total child support collections are projected to be \$1.7 billion in 2010-11.

OTHER SUPPORTIVE PROGRAMS

The Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides low-income households with an electronic benefit card that can be used as cash to purchase food. In 2008-09, New York received \$3.1 billion in Federal SNAP benefits for approximately 1.1 million households at an average monthly benefit of \$227.

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. New York State will receive over \$475 million in Federal fiscal year 2010.

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ALL FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Category	Available 2009-10	Appropriations Recommended 2010-11	Change	Reappropriations Recommended 2010-11
State Operations	469,379,000	471,292,000	1,913,000	307,706,000
Aid To Localities	5,147,420,861	5,487,569,700	340,148,839	3,477,340,180
Capital Projects	30,000,000	30,000,000	0	111,100,000
Total	5,646,799,861	5,988,861,700	342,061,839	3,896,146,180

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

Full-Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)

Program	2009-10 Estimated FTEs 03/31/10	2010-11 Estimated FTEs 03/31/11	FTE Change
Administration			
General Fund	183	37	(146)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	65	65	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	76	260	184
Internal Service Funds	4	4	0
Child Well Being Program			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	57	57	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	25	25	0
Disability Determinations Program			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	1,099	1,156	57
Special Revenue Funds - Other	101	12	(89)
Employment and Economic Support Program			
General Fund	40	12	(28)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	178	146	(32)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	24	91	67
Executive Direction			
General Fund	15	0	(15)
Information Technology Program			
General Fund	84	5	(79)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	40	40	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	42	122	80
Legal Affairs			
General Fund	265	115	(150)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	0	165	165
Specialized Services Program			
General Fund	26	24	(2)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	23	23	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	12	20	8
Total	2,359	2,379	20

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

Fund Type	Available 2009-10	Recommended 2010-11	Change
General Fund	61,671,000	63,116,000	1,445,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	246,997,000	250,359,000	3,362,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	159,511,000	156,618,000	(2,893,000)
Internal Service Funds	1,200,000	1,199,000	(1,000)
Total	469,379,000	471,292,000	1,913,000

Adjustments:

Transfer(s) From

Temporary and Disability Assistance,
Office of

General Fund (Aid To Localities) (921,000)

Appropriated 2009-10 468,458,000

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

Program	Available 2009-10	Recommended 2010-11	Change
Administration			
General Fund	12,989,000	11,934,000	(1,055,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	9,000,000	8,919,000	(81,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	34,715,000	37,519,000	2,804,000
Internal Service Funds	1,200,000	1,199,000	(1,000)
Child Well Being Program			
General Fund	2,400,000	2,400,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	17,447,000	17,375,000	(72,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	24,212,000	24,170,000	(42,000)
Disability Determinations Program			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	160,000,000	170,544,000	10,544,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	10,600,000	3,280,000	(7,320,000)
Employment and Economic Support Program			
General Fund	3,015,000	3,674,000	659,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	21,400,000	17,900,000	(3,500,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	8,684,000	10,479,000	1,795,000
Executive Direction			
General Fund	648,000	0	(648,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	1,200,000	0	(1,200,000)
Information Technology Program			
General Fund	28,280,000	29,913,000	1,633,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	35,000,000	31,500,000	(3,500,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	66,600,000	66,618,000	18,000
Legal Affairs			
General Fund	13,270,000	13,063,000	(207,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	11,000,000	12,520,000	1,520,000
Specialized Services Program			
General Fund	1,069,000	2,132,000	1,063,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	4,150,000	4,121,000	(29,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	2,500,000	2,032,000	(468,000)
Total	469,379,000	471,292,000	1,913,000

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STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND SUMMARY OF PERSONAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2010-11 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total		Personal Service Regular (Annual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	2,038,000	(854,000)	1,675,000	(1,063,000)
Child Well Being Program	300,000	0	300,000	0
Employment and Economic Support Program	801,000	518,000	716,000	514,000
Executive Direction	0	(328,000)	0	(267,000)
Information Technology Program	618,000	(230,000)	618,000	(230,000)
Legal Affairs	8,604,000	(207,000)	8,144,000	(243,000)
Specialized Services Program	1,769,000	943,000	1,730,000	953,000
Total	14,130,000	(158,000)	13,183,000	(336,000)

Program	Temporary Service (Nonannual Salaried)		Holiday/Overtime Pay	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	251,000	131,000	112,000	78,000
Child Well Being Program	0	0	0	0
Employment and Economic Support Program	0	0	85,000	4,000
Executive Direction	0	(56,000)	0	(5,000)
Information Technology Program	0	0	0	0
Legal Affairs	0	(39,000)	460,000	75,000
Specialized Services Program	0	0	39,000	(10,000)
Total	251,000	36,000	696,000	142,000

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STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND SUMMARY OF NONPERSONAL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE UNDISTRIBUTED APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2010-11 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total		Supplies and Materials	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	9,896,000	(201,000)	110,000	0
Child Well Being Program	2,100,000	0	0	0
Employment and Economic Support Program	2,873,000	141,000	18,000	(9,000)
Executive Direction	0	(320,000)	0	(20,000)
Information Technology Program	29,295,000	1,863,000	38,000	100
Legal Affairs	4,459,000	0	125,000	(3,000)
Specialized Services Program	363,000	120,000	12,000	0
Total	48,986,000	1,603,000	303,000	(31,900)

Program	Travel		Contractual Services	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	290,000	0	9,146,000	(201,000)
Child Well Being Program	0	0	2,100,000	0
Employment and Economic Support Program	86,000	(26,000)	2,749,000	180,000
Executive Direction	0	(47,000)	0	(235,000)
Information Technology Program	37,000	300	6,598,000	(400)
Legal Affairs	185,000	(15,000)	3,809,000	135,000
Specialized Services Program	105,000	(5,000)	237,000	125,000
Total	703,000	(92,700)	24,639,000	3,600

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	20,000	(4,000)	0	0
Executive Direction	0	(18,000)	0	0
Information Technology Program	70,000	0	22,552,000	1,863,000
Legal Affairs	340,000	(117,000)	0	0
Specialized Services Program	9,000	0	0	0
Total	789,000	(139,000)	22,552,000	1,863,000

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STATE OPERATIONS - OTHER THAN GENERAL FUND SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2010-11 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total		Personal Service	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	47,637,000	2,722,000	25,067,000	2,341,000
Child Well Being Program	41,545,000	(114,000)	8,588,000	224,000
Disability Determinations Program	173,824,000	3,224,000	82,718,000	2,668,000
Employment and Economic Support Program	28,379,000	(1,705,000)	18,077,000	(250,000)
Executive Direction	0	(1,200,000)	0	(1,200,000)
Information Technology Program	98,118,000	(3,482,000)	7,368,000	18,000
Legal Affairs	12,520,000	1,520,000	12,520,000	1,520,000
Specialized Services Program	6,153,000	(497,000)	3,265,000	(405,000)
Total	408,176,000	468,000	157,603,000	4,916,000

Program	Nonpersonal Service		Maintenance Undistributed	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	22,570,000	381,000	0	0
Child Well Being Program	32,957,000	(338,000)	0	0
Disability Determinations Program	91,106,000	556,000	0	0
Employment and Economic Support Program	10,302,000	(1,455,000)	0	0
Executive Direction	0	0	0	0
Information Technology Program	59,250,000	0	31,500,000	(3,500,000)
Legal Affairs	0	0	0	0
Specialized Services Program	2,238,000	(92,000)	650,000	0
Total	218,423,000	(948,000)	32,150,000	(3,500,000)

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

Fund Type	Available 2009-10	Recommended 2010-11	Change
General Fund	1,260,228,986	1,189,812,700	(70,416,286)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	3,848,909,000	4,257,857,000	408,948,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	28,282,875	29,900,000	1,617,125
Fiduciary Funds	10,000,000	10,000,000	0
Total	5,147,420,861	5,487,569,700	340,148,839

Adjustments:	
Transfer(s) From	
Temporary and Disability Assistance,	
Office of	
General Fund	(10,755,875)
Transfer(s) To	
Temporary and Disability Assistance,	
Office of	
General Fund (State Operations)	921,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	10,755,875
Appropriated 2009-10	5,148,341,861

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

Program	Available 2009-10	Recommended 2010-11	Change
Child Well Being Program			
General Fund	30,810,000	34,760,000	3,950,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	145,000,000	146,200,000	1,200,000
Employment and Economic Support Program			
General Fund	1,113,830,361	1,129,377,000	15,546,639
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	3,208,219,000	4,076,157,000	867,938,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	10,755,875	20,000,000	9,244,125
Fiduciary Funds	10,000,000	10,000,000	0
Food Stamp Administration Program			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	438,690,000	0	(438,690,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	7,627,000	0	(7,627,000)
Specialized Services Program			
General Fund	115,140,625	25,675,700	(89,464,925)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	57,000,000	35,500,000	(21,500,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	9,900,000	9,900,000	0
Community Projects			
General Fund	448,000	0	(448,000)
Total	<u>5,147,420,861</u>	<u>5,487,569,700</u>	<u>340,148,839</u>

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

Comprehensive Construction Program	Available 2009-10	Recommended 2010-11	Change	Reappropriations 2010-11
Supported Housing Program				
Housing Program Fund	30,000,000	30,000,000	0	111,100,000
Total	<u>30,000,000</u>	<u>30,000,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>111,100,000</u>