

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 low-income households achieve economic self-sufficiency through work, job training and the provision of supportive services that help avert welfare dependency. OTDA also provides economic assistance to aged and disabled persons who are unable to work.

ORGANIZATION AND STAFFING

The Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance is headed by a Commissioner, who is appointed by the Governor subject to confirmation by the Senate. 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 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 **\$5.6 billion** All Funds (\$1.4 billion General Fund; \$4.2 billion Other Funds) for OTDA. This is a decrease of **\$367.8 million** (-6.2 percent) from the 2010-11 budget (\$48.5 million General Fund increase (3.7 percent); \$416.3 million Other Funds decrease (-9 percent)).

The Executive Budget reduces each agency's General Fund State Operations budget by 10 percent. These savings are intended to be achieved through administrative efficiencies in non-personal service and negotiated workforce savings that minimize layoffs to the extent possible.

Major budget actions include:

- **Fully Finance Family Assistance with Federal Funding:** Under current practice, households on public assistance for fewer than five years are financed utilizing Federal, State and local dollars. The Executive Budget maximizes the usage of Federal funds by using Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) dollars to pay for the full benefit costs of such households, thereby reducing the State and local shares of public assistance benefit costs.
- **Delay the 2011 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. The 2011-12 Budget delays, until July 2012, the final grant increase which is scheduled for July 2011. The State will continue to assume the local share of the previously implemented grant increases through March 31, 2012.

TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE

- **Reduce Reimbursement for New York City Adult Homeless Shelters:** The Executive Budget caps reimbursement for the New York City adult homeless shelter system at \$69 million, a reduction of \$15.68 million from the 2010-11 level.
- **Eliminate State Funding for the New York City Work Advantage Program:** In addition to the public assistance grant, the State contributes to a shelter supplement program that allows local social services districts to provide an enhanced shelter allowance for those households either at-risk for eviction or already residing in homeless shelters. The 2011-12 Budget ceases funding for the New York City Work Advantage shelter supplement program.
- **Strengthen Compliance with Public Assistance Work Requirements:** Benefit payments to public assistance cases in which the head of the household is out of compliance with work requirements are reduced by the portion of the grant attributable to the head of the household. The 2011-12 Executive Budget withholds a family's entire benefit in the second and subsequent instances in which the head of the household does not comply with employment requirements.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 replaced the old welfare program, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, with the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program – a capped block grant program with both a mandatory recipient work requirement and a five-year time limit provision for cash assistance. The New York State public assistance program is comprised of two populations: *Family Assistance Households* – who are on assistance for under five years and are thus eligible for federal reimbursement; and *Safety Net Households* – who are ineligible for federal reimbursement either because they are families who have exhausted their five-year federal limit for cash assistance or because they are single adults or childless couples. By evolving from an entitlement program focused on determining eligibility to a work-focused program that seeks to develop individual responsibility while reducing dependence on public assistance, welfare reform efforts have decreased the public assistance caseload by over 1 million individuals since 1995.

STATE SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME PROGRAM

The Federal SSI program, which is administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA), provides monthly cash benefits to people with limited income and resources who are elderly (age 65 or older), blind, or disabled. In New York State, most SSI recipients receive both a Federal benefit and an additional State supplement. The amount of State supplementation, like the Federal benefit, is established by law and varies by living arrangement, with most recipients residing in the “living alone” category.

TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE

FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

The Food Stamp program is a federally mandated program that seeks to improve the nutritional level of low-income households by supplementing their ability to purchase food items. Food stamp benefits are fully funded by the Federal government, which also shares in the administrative cost of implementing the program, including benefit issuance, fraud prevention, outreach, and employment and training activities. The Food Stamp program was initially authorized by the Food Stamp Act of 1977 but was reauthorized through the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 which also changed the name of the Federal program to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Legislation has not yet been enacted at the State level to change the name of the program to SNAP; as such its formal State title remains the Food Stamp program. In addition to outreach efforts, programmatic and administrative initiatives such as the *Working Families Food Stamp Initiative* (which mitigated some of the eligibility requirements for working families) and *myBenefits* (an online tool which helps in the enrollment process) have increased the number of food stamp recipients to approximately 3 million individuals.

HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps eligible households meet the cost of home energy. Unlike the public assistance and food stamp programs, HEAP is not an entitlement program. Benefits are contingent upon the availability of Federal funding and are only authorized during the program period, which, in New York, typically runs from the beginning of November until mid-May. Households receiving public assistance, food stamp benefits, or SSI are categorically eligible for HEAP, whereas other households must apply and be deemed income eligible. In addition to benefit payments, the Federal HEAP grant also funds administrative activities associated with implementing the HEAP program, as well as weatherization activities which reduce energy usage in residential units occupied by low-income households.

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

The Child Support Enforcement Program, established in 1975 as Title IV-D of the Social Security Act, requires all states to enact laws and implement procedures for the establishment of paternity and the establishment, enforcement and collection of support. In an effort to reduce child poverty and maximize child well-being, activities undertaken since welfare reform have strengthened child support enforcement procedures to ensure that non-custodial parents provide for the economic well-being of their children. Recent improvements in the child support program 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.

TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE

ALL FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Category	Available 2010-11	Appropriations Recommended 2011-12	Change	Reappropriations Recommended 2011-12
State Operations	471,292,000	472,292,000	1,000,000	278,625,000
Aid To Localities	5,433,457,700	5,064,674,000	(368,783,700)	3,597,097,900
Capital Projects	30,000,000	30,000,000	0	104,851,000
Total	<u>5,934,749,700</u>	<u>5,566,966,000</u>	<u>(367,783,700)</u>	<u>3,980,573,900</u>

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

Full-Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)

Program	2010-11 Estimated FTEs 03/31/11	2011-12 Estimated FTEs 03/31/12	FTE Change
Administration			
General Fund	7	7	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	65	65	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	268	268	0
Internal Service Funds	4	4	0
Child Well Being Program			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	59	59	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	25	25	0
Disability Determinations Program			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	1,071	1,071	0
Employment and Economic Support Program			
General Fund	3	3	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	146	146	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	79	79	0
Information Technology Program			
General Fund	11	11	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	40	40	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	118	118	0
Legal Affairs			
General Fund	112	112	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	175	175	0
Specialized Services Program			
General Fund	21	21	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	23	23	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	21	21	0
Total	<u>2,248</u>	<u>2,248</u>	<u>0</u>

The above table does not reflect layoffs that may be necessary in the absence of negotiated workforce savings.

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

Fund Type	Available 2010-11	Recommended 2011-12	Change
General Fund	63,116,000	56,804,000	(6,312,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	250,359,000	275,086,000	24,727,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	156,618,000	139,203,000	(17,415,000)
Internal Service Funds	1,199,000	1,199,000	0
Total	<u>471,292,000</u>	<u>472,292,000</u>	<u>1,000,000</u>

TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE

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

Program	Available 2010-11	Recommended 2011-12	Change
Administration			
General Fund	11,934,000	10,741,000	(1,193,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	8,919,000	9,410,000	491,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	37,519,000	35,908,000	(1,611,000)
Internal Service Funds	1,199,000	1,199,000	0
Child Well Being Program			
General Fund	2,400,000	2,160,000	(240,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	17,375,000	39,900,000	22,525,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	24,170,000	12,524,000	(11,646,000)
Disability Determinations Program			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	170,544,000	169,631,000	(913,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	3,280,000	0	(3,280,000)
Employment and Economic Support Program			
General Fund	3,674,000	3,306,000	(368,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	17,900,000	20,600,000	2,700,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	10,479,000	5,785,000	(4,694,000)
Information Technology Program			
General Fund	29,913,000	26,920,000	(2,993,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	31,500,000	31,500,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	66,618,000	68,919,000	2,301,000
Legal Affairs			
General Fund	13,063,000	11,758,000	(1,305,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	12,520,000	14,034,000	1,514,000
Specialized Services Program			
General Fund	2,132,000	1,919,000	(213,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	4,121,000	4,045,000	(76,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	2,032,000	2,033,000	1,000
Total	471,292,000	472,292,000	1,000,000

STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND SUMMARY OF PERSONAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2011-12 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total		Personal Service Regular (Annual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	1,835,000	(203,000)	1,508,000	(167,000)
Child Well Being Program	270,000	(30,000)	270,000	(30,000)
Employment and Economic Support Program	721,000	(80,000)	644,000	(72,000)
Information Technology Program	556,000	(62,000)	556,000	(62,000)
Legal Affairs	7,744,000	(860,000)	7,330,000	(814,000)
Specialized Services Program	1,592,000	(177,000)	1,557,000	(173,000)
Total	12,718,000	(1,412,000)	11,865,000	(1,318,000)

Program	Temporary Service (Nonannual Salaried)		Holiday/Overtime Pay	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	226,000	(25,000)	101,000	(11,000)
Child Well Being Program	0	0	0	0
Employment and Economic Support Program	0	0	77,000	(8,000)
Information Technology Program	0	0	0	0
Legal Affairs	0	0	414,000	(46,000)
Specialized Services Program	0	0	35,000	(4,000)
Total	226,000	(25,000)	627,000	(69,000)

TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE

STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND SUMMARY OF NONPERSONAL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE UNDISTRIBUTED APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2011-12 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total		Supplies and Materials	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	8,906,000	(990,000)	99,000	(11,000)
Child Well Being Program	1,890,000	(210,000)	0	0
Employment and Economic Support Program	2,585,000	(288,000)	16,000	(2,000)
Information Technology Program	26,364,000	(2,931,000)	52,000	14,000
Legal Affairs	4,014,000	(445,000)	113,000	(12,000)
Specialized Services Program	327,000	(36,000)	11,000	(1,000)
Total	44,086,000	(4,900,000)	291,000	(12,000)

Program	Travel		Contractual Services	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	261,000	(29,000)	8,231,000	(915,000)
Child Well Being Program	0	0	1,890,000	(210,000)
Employment and Economic Support Program	77,000	(9,000)	2,474,000	(275,000)
Information Technology Program	42,000	5,000	25,244,000	18,646,000
Legal Affairs	167,000	(18,000)	3,428,000	(381,000)
Specialized Services Program	95,000	(10,000)	213,000	(24,000)
Total	642,000	(61,000)	41,480,000	16,841,000

Program	Equipment		Maintenance Undistributed	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	315,000	(35,000)	0	0
Child Well Being Program	0	0	0	0
Employment and Economic Support Program	18,000	(2,000)	0	0
Information Technology Program	1,026,000	956,000	0	(22,552,000)
Legal Affairs	306,000	(34,000)	0	0
Specialized Services Program	8,000	(1,000)	0	0
Total	1,673,000	884,000	0	(22,552,000)

STATE OPERATIONS - OTHER THAN GENERAL FUND SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2011-12 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total		Personal Service	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	46,517,000	(1,120,000)	24,456,000	(611,000)
Child Well Being Program	52,424,000	10,879,000	9,599,000	1,011,000
Disability Determinations Program	169,631,000	(4,193,000)	83,000,000	282,000
Employment and Economic Support Program	26,385,000	(1,994,000)	15,517,000	(2,560,000)
Information Technology Program	100,419,000	2,301,000	16,445,000	2,301,000
Legal Affairs	14,034,000	1,514,000	13,534,000	1,014,000
Specialized Services Program	6,078,000	(75,000)	3,562,000	297,000
Total	415,488,000	7,312,000	166,113,000	1,734,000

Program	Nonpersonal Service		Maintenance Undistributed	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Administration	22,061,000	(509,000)	0	0
Child Well Being Program	42,825,000	9,868,000	0	0
Disability Determinations Program	86,631,000	(4,475,000)	0	0
Employment and Economic Support Program	10,868,000	566,000	0	0
Information Technology Program	83,974,000	0	0	0
Legal Affairs	500,000	500,000	0	0
Specialized Services Program	2,516,000	278,000	0	(650,000)
Total	249,375,000	6,228,000	0	(650,000)

TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE

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

Fund Type	Available 2010-11	Recommended 2011-12	Change
General Fund	1,249,887,700	1,304,707,000	54,819,300
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	4,143,670,000	3,720,067,000	(423,603,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	29,900,000	29,900,000	0
Fiduciary Funds	10,000,000	10,000,000	0
Total	5,433,457,700	5,064,674,000	(368,783,700)

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

Program	Available 2010-11	Recommended 2011-12	Change
Child Well Being Program			
General Fund	34,760,000	34,760,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	146,200,000	110,000,000	(36,200,000)
Employment and Economic Support Program			
General Fund	1,096,952,000	1,161,652,000	64,700,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	3,961,970,000	3,574,567,000	(387,403,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	20,000,000	20,000,000	0
Fiduciary Funds	10,000,000	10,000,000	0
Specialized Services Program			
General Fund	118,175,700	108,295,000	(9,880,700)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	35,500,000	35,500,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	9,900,000	9,900,000	0
Total	5,433,457,700	5,064,674,000	(368,783,700)

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

Comprehensive Construction Program	Available 2010-11	Recommended 2011-12	Change	Reappropriations 2011-12
Supported Housing Program				
Housing Program Fund	30,000,000	30,000,000	0	104,851,000
Total	30,000,000	30,000,000	0	104,851,000