

Social Services

RECOMMENDED BUDGET • FY 2022-23

MISSION

The County of El Dorado Health and Human Services Agency (HHS), Social Services combines the Protective Services and Self-Sufficiency Divisions. This area of HHS provides a range of programs to assist persons in attaining or maintaining their self-sufficiency, independence, safety and/or well-being. The mission is to respectfully serve all persons in a manner that improves the overall quality of life in El Dorado County.

DEPARTMENT BUDGET SUMMARY

Description	FY 2020-21 Actual	Current Year Adopted	CAO Recommended	Difference from Adopted
Rev Use Money/Prop	(196)	0	0	0
IG Rev - State	7,765,001	10,829,738	10,551,398	(278,340)
IG Rev - Federal	24,264,511	25,379,651	26,268,736	889,085
Other Gov Agency	14,777	15,000	15,000	0
Service Charges	3,682	0	0	0
Miscellaneous Rev	391,706	505,050	505,050	0
Other Fin Sources	22,477,627	27,015,077	27,015,077	0
Total Revenue	54,917,108	63,744,516	64,355,261	610,745
Salaries & Benefits	23,245,030	25,332,141	27,958,101	2,625,960
Services & Supplies	2,144,867	3,050,449	3,408,139	357,690
Other Charges	25,801,056	31,062,061	28,003,421	(3,058,640)
Other Fin Uses	0	100,000	100,000	0
Intrafund Transfers	7,441,155	7,155,951	8,090,374	934,423
Total Appropriations	58,632,108	66,700,602	67,560,035	859,433
FUND 1000 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	3,715,000	2,956,086	3,204,774	248,688

MAJOR BUDGET CHANGES

Revenue

State Intergovernmental

(\$278,340) Decrease in State Revenue primarily due to the continued reduction in the number of foster care cases and the discontinuation of the Project Roomkey program by the State.

Federal Intergovernmental

\$900,000 Increase in Federal Adoption funding due to an increase in the number of former foster care children who have found permanency through adoption and payment increases.

(\$196,061) Decrease in federal foster care revenue due to reduced federal reimbursements for Foster Care Cash Assistance. Federal foster income limits have not changed in many years, so as household incomes rise, such as with the minimum wage rises, fewer foster care cases are eligible for federal reimbursement, which increases the burden on Realignment funding.

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\$112,244	Increase due to a projected increase in federal CalFresh program administration funding.
\$72,902	Increase in the federal Medicaid program, operating in California counties as the Medi-Cal program, for administration funding due to the annual allocation cost-of-living adjustment.

Appropriations

Salaries and Benefits

\$283,801	Increase in Workers' Compensation charges due to a resumption of premium charges after a rate holiday in FY 2021-22.
\$315,312	Increase in the CalPERS unfunded accrued liability charge.
\$302,610	Increase in Salaries and Benefits due to Board-approved allocation changes during FY 2021-22: the addition of 2.0 FTE Social Worker I/II (\$201,740) and 1.0 FTE Social Worker I/II Limited Term (\$100,870).
\$182,613	Increase in Salaries and Benefits due to the addition of 0.4 FTE Eligibility Specialist II allocation (\$51,342), 1.0 FTE Employment and Training Worker I/II with the deletion of 0.5 FTE Employment and Training Worker III (\$45,856), 1.0 FTE Social Services Aide, and 1.0 FTE Sr. Office Assistant (\$85,415). Only approximately \$42,708 of the increased costs are Realignment funded.
(\$490,220)	Decrease in Salaries and Benefits costs due to the move of 2.0 FTE Assistant Director of Human Services allocations from Social Services to the HHSA Administration and Finance Department in alignment with the revised Executive Staff Cost Allocation Plan.
\$2,031,844	Increase in Salaries and Benefits costs primarily due to Board-approved compensation increases.

Service and Supplies

\$93,482	Increase in insurance charges primarily due to a General Liability rate reduction in FY 2021-22.
\$257,518	Increase in Professional and Specialized Services due to a contract for the Family Urgent Response System program.
(\$100,000)	Decrease in staff development to align with historical trends.
\$106,690	Increase in projected costs primarily due to Online Subscriptions (\$60,000), rental equipment and security system (\$43,918), and minor adjustments across multiple items (\$2,772).

Other Charges

(\$560,000)	Decrease to align budget with current and projected trends.
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- (\$555,504) Decrease in housing assistance primarily due to the end of State Project Roomkey program.
- (\$1,286,000) Decrease in foster care assistance costs (\$2,186,000) partially offset by an increase in adoptions assistance (\$900,000) due to a rise in adoptions cases.
- (\$754,000) Decrease in CalWORKs cash assistance to align budget with current and projected trends.
- \$96,864 Increase across multiple items to align budget with current and projected trends.

Intrafund Transfers

- \$420,798 Increase to Countywide Cost Allocation Plan charges.
- \$513,773 Increase in Indirect Cost Rate charges by the HHSA Administration and Finance Department.
- (\$148) Decrease in Intrafund Transfers primarily due to decreases to Facilities and Stores charges.

DEPARTMENT BUDGET SUMMARY

Description	FY 2020-21 Actual	Current Year Adopted	CAO Recommended	Difference from Adopted
Rev Use Money/Prop	131	306	306	0
IG Rev - Federal	175,780	250,000	250,000	0
Fund Balance	0	17,327	10,373	(6,954)
Total Revenue	175,911	267,633	260,679	(6,954)
Salaries & Benefits	9,217	12,928	8,655	(4,273)
Other Charges	178,016	254,705	252,024	(2,681)
Total Appropriations	187,232	267,633	260,679	(6,954)
FUND 1113 WRAPAROUND SB163 TOTAL	11,322	0	0	0

MAJOR BUDGET CHANGES

Revenue

Fund Balance

- (\$6,954) Decrease in Fund Balance for SB 163 Wraparound Services, budgeted to use all remaining balance in FY 2022-23.

Appropriations

Salaries and Benefits

- (\$4,273) Decrease in Temporary Employees to align budget with current spending levels.

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Interfund Transfers

(\$2,681) Decrease in Interfund Transfers Out for the Indirect Cost Rate associated with staffing costs.

PROGRAM SUMMARIES

Social Services Administration and Public/Client Assistance

Social Services Administration and Public Assistance Programs are designed to protect and meet the basic needs of El Dorado County's most vulnerable population groups. These are Federal and/or State-mandated programs which require that the County provide assistance to eligible applicants regardless of the availability of local resources. If the County does not comply with applicable regulations, it can result in Federal and/or State fiscal sanctions and/or a loss of funding. Public Assistance Programs include the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs), Cal-Fresh, Medi-Cal, Adoption Assistance, Foster Care Assistance, Housing Disability and Advocacy Program (HDAP) and General Assistance.

Protective services programs provided through Social Services Administration include Child Welfare Services (CWS), Adult Protective Services (APS) and In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS). The Protective Services were fully realigned by the state in 2011, eliminating a state share of cost. These programs provide a voice for children and adults in abusive situations. The CWS program provides supportive services to families for reunification, locating and providing foster care or adoption placement and the legal responsibilities dictated by the courts.

Social Services programs, both administrative and assistance, operate mostly on a cost sharing basis where the County is required to expend a percentage of the non-federal share of costs for the provision of services. This percentage varies by program, and the County share is generally paid for with Realignment funding sources. The CalWORKs administrative program operates under a Maintenance of Effort (MOE) basis, where the County is required to contribute a minimum amount of funding toward the administration of the program after which the County is reimbursed with Federal and/or State funding up to a capped allocated amount.

CalWORKS

CalWORKs provides cash aid and supportive services to eligible families that have a child(ren) in the home. The program focuses on family stabilization, well-being, employment, job training and education.

The CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP) is intended to promote housing stability for families experiencing homelessness in the CalWORKs program. HSP assists families obtain permanent housing and offers financial assistance and housing-related wraparound services, including, but not limited to: rental assistance, housing navigation, case management, employment and training, security deposits, utility payments, moving costs, hotel and motel expenses, legal services and credit repair.

Housing and Disability Advocacy Program

The Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP) assists disabled individuals who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, apply for state and federal disability benefit programs, while also providing intensive advocacy and housing supports. The Housing and Disability Advocacy Program offers outreach, case management, benefits advocacy, and housing supports to program participants.

CalFresh

CalFresh is for low-income households to add to their budget to put healthy and nutritious food on the table. CalFresh is the largest food program in California and provides an essential hunger safety net.

Medi-Cal

Medi-Cal is California's Medicaid program. This is a health coverage program that provides needed health care services for low-income individuals, including families with children, seniors, persons with disabilities, foster care, pregnant women, and low income people with specific diseases such as tuberculosis, breast cancer or HIV/AIDS.

Foster Care Assistance and Adoption Assistance

The Foster Care and Adoption Assistance Programs (AAP) are entitlement programs to provide financial and medical coverage to care for youth in the Child Welfare system in effort to protect them from abuse or neglect and when appropriate, support children being adopted into permanency.

General Assistance

The General Assistance (GA) Program is designed to provide relief and support to indigent adults who are not supported by their own means, other public funds, or assistance programs. Each county's program is established and funded (100 percent) by its own Board of Supervisors.

In-Home Supportive Services Program

The In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program provides personal care and domestic services to Medi-Cal eligible individuals to help them remain safely in their own homes and communities. Recipients are eligible to receive assistance with tasks such as bathing, dressing, housework, and meal preparation. The recipients are typically responsible for hiring and supervising a paid IHSS provider. Social Workers employed by the County conduct in-home IHSS assessments of an individual's needs in order to determine the amount and type of service hours to be provided, based on state guidelines. Funding for this mandated service continues to be a budgetary concern for counties because the County's share of provider service costs is paid to the State through a Maintenance of Effort (MOE) and is subject to change, including an annual 4% inflation factor. The MOE is funded by 1991 Realignment, which can be a volatile revenue source that is dependent on a healthy economy. The administration of the IHSS program is funded with a capped State General Fund allocation, and costs that exceed the allocation are funded with Realignment.

SB 163 Wraparound Program

The SB 163 Wraparound Program is designed to improve youth outcomes. Until June 30, 2009, County participation was funded by filling six slots for high-risk youth, with savings available for reinvestment to provide additional services to at-risk youth in the community. As of FY 2010-11, services provided in the community were funded entirely from use of the fund balance and interest earnings related to this program from prior years. Use of the remaining fund balance in FY 2022-23 is budgeted to pay for specialized staff to continue working with high-risk youth and their families. Once the fund balance has been exhausted this position will likely be eliminated, but services will continue through Child Welfare Services.

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CalOES Victim Services Grant

El Dorado County administers a Victim Services Grant from the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES). This grant provides enhanced funding to Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of El Dorado County for increased services and support to victimized youth in foster care. The grant was originally awarded in FY 2017-18 for a period of two years, but has been extended on a yearly basis.

Adult Protective Services administers a grant from CalOES for Elder Abuse. The grant, originally awarded in FY 2017-18 for a period of two years, continues to be extended on a yearly basis. Collaboration between the District Attorney’s Office and the Social Services Department provides enhanced services and support to elderly victims of crime.

BUDGET SUMMARY BY PROGRAM

Social Services Total	Appropriations	Revenues	Net County Cost	Staffing
SB 163 Wraparound	\$ 10,679	\$ 10,679	\$ -	0.00
CalOES Elder Abuse Grant	\$ 206,069	\$ 206,069	\$ -	1.00
CalOES Victim Services Grant	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ -	0.00
SS Admin & Public Assistance	\$ 67,353,966	\$ 64,149,192	\$ 3,204,774	275.25
Social Services	\$ 67,820,714	\$ 64,615,940	\$ 3,204,774	276.25

PENDING ISSUES

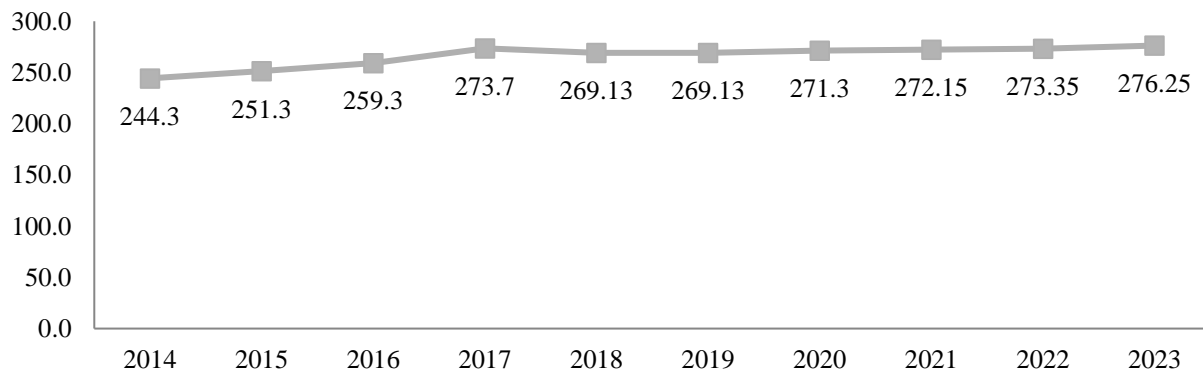
The Social Services programs are subject to change by federal and state legislation. The following items concern the potential impact to the County due to increasing costs and volatile funding resources:

- Use of the 10% Realignment Transfer Authority from Social Services to Behavioral Health:** The 10% Realignment Transfer Authority was approved for use in FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22 from Social Services to Behavioral Health, and a transfer of \$1.3 million is budgeted again in FY 2022-23. If during the year the transfer is not ultimately needed, the funds will remain in the Social Services Realignment fund balance.
- In-Home Support Services (IHSS):** There is an annual statutory 4% increase to the IHSS Maintenance of Effort (MOE) of approximately \$140,000, regardless of Realignment Growth collections. In addition to the MOE costs, annual state program administration funding is capped. As costs out of the HHS’s control rise, 1991 Realignment funding will be required to fill the gap. Realignment funding is dependent on a healthy economy; therefore, an economic downturn could affect the ability of Social Services funding to cover the increases.
- Federal Discount Rate:** The majority of Child Welfare Services programs receive federal Title IV-E open ended reimbursement. Federal reimbursement is generally (with a few exceptions) 50% of costs after applying the most current non-federal discount rate. The discount rate is calculated quarterly based on the ratio of federally eligible to non-federally eligible foster care cases in El Dorado County. As federal eligibility is dependent on the primary household income in comparison to the federal income limits, the California minimum wage increases continue to cause a significant increase in the number of non-federal cases. This has a twofold effect on Social Services funding. Realignment must replace the declining federal funding for both foster care assistance and Child Welfare program administration. To illustrate the reduction in federal funding for Child Welfare, the average non-federal discount rate in FY 2016-17 was 33%, compared to 63% in FY 2020-21.

- Extended Foster Care (AB 12):** Extended Foster Care and Adoptions assistance costs continue to affect Realignment funding and are estimated to be \$1.4 million over the County’s AB 12 statutory annual obligation of about \$300,000. As a result, the use of 2011 and 1991 Realignment is required to meet the needs of the program. The State Department of Finance Legal Advisory Council agrees with the statute as written stating that Counties are not required to participate over the statutory obligation, but the California County Counsel’s Association is not in agreement with the assessment. Los Angeles County and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) are lobbying to the State for more AB 12 funding, as this is a statewide issue. At this time, any changes will be subject to state legislative review.

STAFFING TREND

The recommended staff allocation for FY 2022-23 is 276.25 FTE allocations. This reflects the move of 2.0 FTE Assistant Director of Human Services allocations from Social Services to the HHSA Administration and Finance Department in alignment with the revised Executive Staff Cost Allocation Plan to bring the agency better into compliance with the Code of Federal Regulations, as described in the HHSA Administration and Finance Department section. The budget includes the addition of a 0.4 FTE Eligibility Specialist Trainee/I/II allocation within the Self Sufficiency program to bring a part-time allocation to a full-time allocation that is funded by the CalWorks single allocation. The Recommended Budget includes the deletion of a vacant 0.5 FTE Employment and Training Worker III allocation and the addition of 1.0 FTE Employment and Training Worker I/II allocation in the Self Sufficiency Program that is funded by the CalWorks single allocation. The In-Home Supportive Services Program (IHSS) has grown by 40% over the past five years. As a result of this growth, the budget includes the addition of 1.0 FTE Sr. Office Assistant and 1.0 FTE Social Service Aide allocations, after an analysis of IHSS programs in other counties revealed the two allocations could reduce the administrative work of the Social Workers in the program, increasing the time they can provide service to the clients and families served by the program.



RECOMMENDED BUDGET

The Social Services budget is recommended at \$67,820,714, which is an increase of \$852,479 (1.3%) when compared to the FY 2021-22 Adopted Budget. The General Fund provides 4.7% of the funding for the Department at \$3,204,774 an increase of \$248,688 when compared to the FY 2021-22 Adopted Budget. The increased General Fund contribution reflects \$172,468 for the Limited Term Social Worker I/II allocation that is assigned to provide assistance to those impacted by the Caldor Fire and is funded by the Caldor Fire Relief Designation.

In concept, the Department applies all state, federal, and realignment funding to cover its operational costs, and considers the County’s Cost Plan Allocation charges to be largely unfunded. Total Cost Plan

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Allocation charges are recommended at \$3,038,350, an increase of \$420,798 from FY 2021-22. The Department has also budgeted a position vacancy rate of 6% for most staffing categories, which is lower than historical actual rates. Historical rates range from 10% to 14%. The 6% rate is below the natural rate of attrition and allows for budgetary and program flexibility.

In the Social Services Department, budgeted realignment expenditures, including the 10% realignment transfer of \$1.3 million from Social Services to Behavioral Health, will result in an estimated Social Services' realignment fund balance of \$2,478,418 by the end of FY 2022-23. Social Services expenditures can vary greatly year to year due to needs of the community members served. Maintaining fund balance in Social Services mitigates the impact to the County of unexpected costs. This minimizes the need to implement service level reductions or provide additional General Fund support for these mandated services.

CAO Adjustments

The Department requested \$8,640 for an electronic signature platform for the IHSS program. This project was deferred so the department can work with Information Technologies to explore existing countywide solutions that may meet programmatic needs.

Sources and Uses of Funds

The Social Services Department is funded by state, federal and realignment funding streams. Any non-reimbursable costs are charged to the County General Fund. In concept, the General Fund pays primarily for the County Cost Allocation Plan charge.