

Social Services

RECOMMENDED BUDGET • FY 2023-24

MISSION

The County of El Dorado Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), Social Services combines the Protective Services and Self-Sufficiency Divisions. This area of HHSA 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 2021-22 Actual	Current Year Adopted	CAO Recommended	Difference from Adopted
Rev Use Money/Prop	(203)	0	0	0
IG Rev - State	8,134,525	13,116,398	12,310,670	(805,728)
IG Rev - Federal	24,729,176	26,268,736	28,618,348	2,349,612
Other Gov Agency	9,698	15,000	15,000	0
Service Charges	3,856	0	0	0
Miscellaneous Rev	429,448	505,050	505,050	0
Other Fin Sources	22,997,087	27,639,857	28,107,679	467,822
Total Revenue	56,303,587	67,545,041	69,556,747	2,011,706
Salaries & Benefits	24,590,963	27,958,101	29,948,097	1,989,996
Services & Supplies	1,724,697	4,008,139	4,188,528	180,389
Other Charges	25,997,672	30,593,201	29,686,713	(906,488)
Fixed Assets	11,875	0	113,000	113,000
Other Fin Uses	0	100,000	100,000	0
Intrafund Transfers	6,888,891	8,090,374	9,379,540	1,289,166
Total Appropriations	59,214,099	70,749,815	73,415,878	2,666,063
FUND 1000 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	2,910,512	3,204,774	3,859,131	654,357

MAJOR BUDGET CHANGES

Revenue

State Intergovernmental

- (\$825,000) Decrease in state revenue for Foster Care due to the continued reduction in the number of foster care cases.
- (\$484,192) Decrease in state revenue for CalWORKs programs based on a reduction in projected expenses eligible for reimbursement.
- \$378,464 Increase in allocations for the CalFresh program.
- \$125,000 Increase in Housing and Community Development Grants for the Housing Navigator Program.

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Federal Intergovernmental

- \$2,344,060 Increase in the Federal share of CalWORKs, CalFresh, Child Welfare Services, and the Housing Support Program.
- (\$479,730) Decrease in Federal funding for Foster Care and Adoptions due to declining out-of-home placements and reduced federal reimbursements for Foster Care Cash Assistance. Federal foster income limits have not changed in many years and as household incomes increase, such as with the minimum wage increases, fewer foster care cases are eligible for federal reimbursement, which increases the burden on Realignment funding.
- \$485,282 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.

Other Financing Sources

- (\$275,285) Decrease in Operating Transfer In of 1991 Social Services Realignment primarily due to the use of the 10% transfer from Social Services to Behavioral Health in prior years reducing the amount of available funding for Social Services programs.
- \$743,107 Increase in Operating Transfers In of 2011 Social Services Realignment to support Child Welfare Services, prevention services, and adoptions.

Appropriations

Salaries and Benefits

- \$287,928 Increase in Salaries and Benefits due to the addition of 1.4 FTE Social Worker III and 1.0 FTE Eligibility Specialist Trainee/I/II allocations in the In-Home Supportive Services program due to a 37-45% annual increase in referrals to the program since 2018 resulting in at least a 29% increase in ongoing caseload growth since FY 2017-18.
- \$75,484 Increase in Salaries and Benefits due to the addition of 1.0 FTE Office Assistant I/II in the Self-Sufficiency programs due to increasing caseloads and shifting reception and administrative tasks away from staff who can provide case management services.
- \$1,780,740 Increase in Salaries and Benefits primarily due to Board-approved compensation increases.
- (\$154,156) Decrease in Workers' Compensation premium charges as the Department's share of overall County claims incurred has decreased from prior years decreasing their insurance premium expense.

Service and Supplies

- \$347,911 Increase in General Liability insurance premium expense as the Department's share of overall County claims incurred has increased from prior years increasing their Liability insurance premium expense.
- \$75,000 Increase in Postage expenses to align budget with actual costs.

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(\$210,783) Decrease in Staff Development expenses to align budget with actual costs.

(\$31,739) Decrease across multiple objects to align budget with actual costs.

Other Charges

\$269,506 Increase in Support and Care of Persons cost due to the In-Home Supportive Services Maintenance of Effort required 4% annual increase.

(\$160,000) Decrease in Housing expenses due to the end of Project Roomkey in the prior year.

(\$590,000) Decrease in Foster Care expenses due to declining out-of-home placements.

(\$425,994) Decrease in Health Services, Kinship Guardian Services, and other Ancillary Services due to aligning the budget with projected actual costs.

Fixed Assets

\$113,000 Increase in Fixed Assets for two Lobby Kiosks and a vehicle that were approved by the Board during FY 2022-23 and are being carried over in the event they are not delivered before the beginning of the fiscal year.

Intrafund Transfers

\$707,886 Increase in Intrafund transfers primarily due to the HHSA Administration and Finance Division Indirect Cost Rate and Executive Staff Cost Allocation charges that recover the appropriate share of those costs from Social Services programs.

\$581,280 Increase in the Countywide Cost Allocation Plan charges to Social Services due to central government cost increases.

DEPARTMENT BUDGET SUMMARY

Description	FY 2021-22 Actual	Current Year Adopted	CAO Recommended	Difference from Adopted
Rev Use Money/Prop	(208)	306	306	0
IG Rev - Federal	139,269	250,000	250,000	0
Fund Balance	0	6,780	450,000	443,220
Total Revenue	139,061	257,086	700,306	443,220
Salaries & Benefits	8,503	5,062	294,149	289,087
Services & Supplies	0	0	124,154	124,154
Other Charges	141,365	252,024	282,003	29,979
Total Appropriations	149,869	257,086	700,306	443,220
FUND 1113 WRAPAROUND SB163 TOTAL	10,808	0	0	0

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MAJOR BUDGET CHANGES

Revenue

Fund Balance

\$443,220 Increase in Fund Balance due to a multi-year CalAIM grant award expected to be received in late FY 2022-23.

Appropriations

Salaries and Benefits

\$289,087 Increase in Salaries and Benefits due to the addition of 1.0 FTE Eligibility Specialist Trainee/I/II, 1.0 FTE Office Assistant I/II, and 1.0 FTE Sr. Office Assistant allocations due to CalAIM service mandates that are funded through CalAIM Providing Access and Transforming Health (PATH) Justice Involved Capacity Building Program.

Services and Supplies

\$124,154 Increase in Services and Supplies primarily due to CalAIM grant-funded activities.

Interfund Transfers

\$29,979 Increase in Interfund Transfers due to the Indirect Cost Rate and HHSA Executive Staff Cost Allocation charges that recoups the cost of the HHSA Administration and Finance Department from CalAIM grant-funded activities.

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 that require the County to 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). 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 to 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, to apply for state and federal disability benefit programs, while also providing intensive advocacy and housing support. The Housing and Disability Advocacy Program offers outreach, case management, benefits advocacy, and housing support to program participants.

CalFresh

CalFresh is a program designed to assist low-income households in supplementing their budget with funds to purchase healthy and nutritious food for their 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 an 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 fully funded by their Board of Supervisors.

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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. Before June 30, 2009, County participation was funded by filling six positions for high-risk youth, with the savings used for reinvestment to offer extra services to at-risk youth in the community. As of FY 2010-11, services provided in the community were funded entirely from the use of the fund balance and interest earnings related to this program from prior years. Due to the depletion of funds for SB 163 Wraparound Programming, services are now provided through Child Welfare Services.

CalAIM PATH Grant

Starting in 2023, California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) created initiatives for justice-involved individuals, including the implementation of a pre-release Medi-Cal enrollment and suspension process, as well as the delivery of Medi-Cal and continuous access to care for justice-involved youths and adults. The PATH Grant will provide multi-year funding to support the implementation of these initiatives including staff training for Social Services eligibility functions and collaboration with local law enforcement department facilities.

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.

CalOES Elder Abuse Grant

Adult Protective Services administers a grant from CalOES to support victims of 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.

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BUDGET SUMMARY BY PROGRAM

Social Services Total	Appropriations	Revenues	Net County Cost	Staffing
CalAIM PATH Grant	\$ 450,306	\$ 450,306	\$ -	3.00
CalOES Elder Abuse Grant	\$ 217,444	\$ 217,444	\$ -	1.05
CalOES Victim Services Grant	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ -	0.00
SS Admin & Public Assistance	\$ 73,198,434	\$ 69,339,303	\$ 3,859,131	280.60
Social Services	\$ 74,116,184	\$ 70,257,053	\$ 3,859,131	284.65

PENDING ISSUES

The Social Services programs are subject to change by federal and state legislation. The following items concern the potential impact on 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, FY 2021-22, and FY 2022-23 from Social Services to Behavioral Health. Due to decreasing fund balance available in 1991 Social Services Realignment, only the 10% transfer of 2011 Social Services Realignment is included in the Recommended Budget.

In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS): There is an annual statutory 4% increase to the IHSS Maintenance of Effort (MOE), regardless of Realignment Growth collections. In addition to the MOE costs, annual state program administration funding is capped. As costs continue to increase beyond HHSA's control, 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. Over the last several years, the direction of Child Welfare has shifted to prevention and managing cases with families intact whenever possible, which has drastically reduced the number of children in out-of-home placements. This has created savings in realigned assistance costs that have been able to offset the effects of reduced federal participation. As the economy declines with rising inflation and stressors on families increase, the number of serious neglect and abuse cases that require the detention of children has also begun to increase.

STAFFING TREND

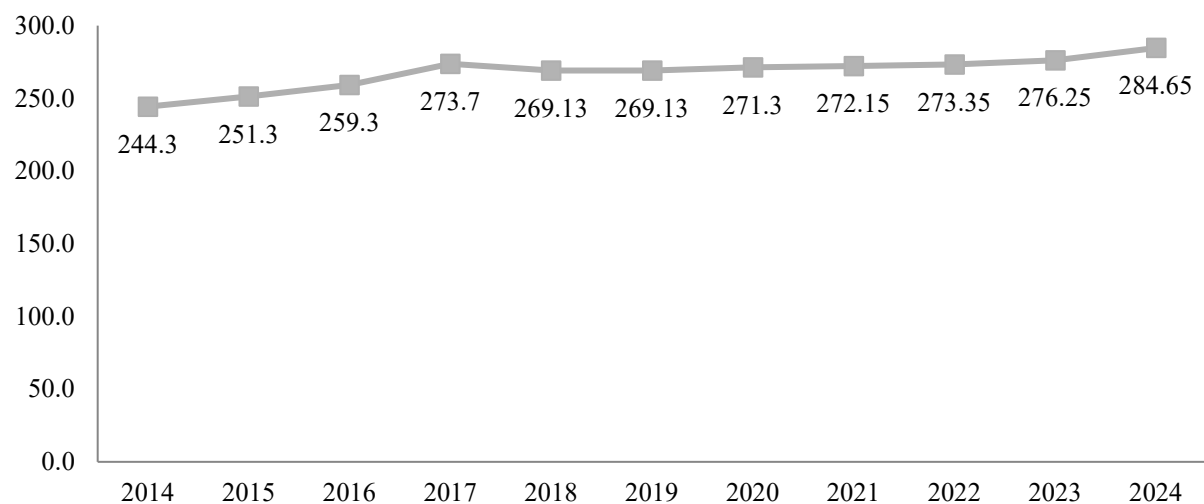
The recommended staff allocation for FY 2023-24 is 284.65 FTE allocations, an increase of 6.4 FTE from the adjusted Personnel Allocation for FY 2022-23. After the adoption of the FY 2022-23 Budget, the Board approved the addition of 1.0 FTE Office Assistant I/II and 1.0 FTE Social Worker III on October 22, 2022.

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The Recommended Budget includes the addition of 1.4 FTE Social Worker III and 1.0 FTE Eligibility Specialist Trainee/I/II within the In-Home Supportive Services Program due to increasing caseloads. The addition of 1.0 FTE Office Assistant I/II allocation is being added to support the Self Sufficiency programs due to increasing caseloads. This will shift reception and administrative tasks away from case management staff. Due to anticipated impacts from CalAIM, 1.0 FTE Eligibility Specialist Trainee/I/II, 1.0 FTE Office Assistant I/II, and 1.0 FTE Sr. Office Assistant allocations are being added, funded through the CalAIM Providing Access and Transforming Health (PATH) Justice Involved Capacity Building Program.

During FY 2022-23, one vacant Social Worker IV allocation was alternately filled with a Social Worker III and a vacant Social Worker Supervisor II was alternately filled with a Social Workers Supervisor I due to changing programmatic needs. The Recommended Budget revises the allocation to match the current classification of the allocation.



RECOMMENDED BUDGET

The Social Services budget is recommended at \$74,116,184, which is an increase of \$3,109,283 (4.4%) when compared to the FY 2022-23 Adopted Budget. The General Fund provides 5.2% of the funding for the Department at \$3,859,131, an increase of \$654,357 when compared to the FY 2022-23 Adopted Budget. The increased General Fund contribution reflects \$211,000 increase in General Assistance costs, which are funded by the General Fund, and the mandated County share of costs that is increasing due to costs that are outside the control of HHS.

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 Countywide Cost Plan Allocation charges are \$3,619,630, an increase of \$581,280 from FY 2022-23. 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 \$359,082 from Social Services 2011 Realignment to Behavioral Health, will result in an estimated Social Services realignment fund balance of \$4,412,801 for 2011 Realignment and no 1991 Realignment by the end of FY 2023-24. Social Services expenditures can vary greatly year to year due to needs of the community members served. Maintaining a prudent fund balance in Social Services mitigates

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the impact to the County from unexpected costs. This minimizes the need to implement service level reductions or provide additional General Fund support for these mandated services.

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.

