

Social Services

RECOMMENDED BUDGET • FY 2024-25

RECOMMENDED BUDGET

The Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Social Services budget is recommended at \$77,776,780, which is an increase of \$2,980,987 (4%) when compared to the FY 2023-24 Adopted Budget. The General Fund provides 4.2% of the funding for the Division at \$3,240,821, a decrease of \$618,310 when compared to the FY 2023-24 Adopted Budget. The decreased General Fund contribution reflects \$241,823 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to support pandemic-related impacts to the General Assistance Program and the end of the Caldor Fire Designation-funded Social Worker allocation in the FY 2024-25 Recommended Budget.

Changes to the Social Services budget reflect changes to Social Services programs due to state initiatives that have resulted in new programs, expanded eligibility for existing services, or mandates that require changes to the program approach. HHSA has been assessing, planning, and updating programming to meet these changes. The Recommended Budget reflects an update to budgeting and staff to meet these new programs and mandates.

Social Services applies all state, federal and realignment funding to cover its operational costs, and considers the County’s Countywide Cost Plan Allocation charges to be largely unfunded. Total Countywide Cost Plan Allocation charges are \$3,725,706, an increase of \$106,076 from FY 2023-24. The Division has also budgeted a position vacancy rate of 6% for most staffing categories, which is lower than historical actual rates from 10% to 14%. The 6% rate is below the natural rate of attrition and allows for budgetary and program flexibility.

In Social Services, budgeted realignment expenditures will result in an estimated Social Services realignment fund balance of \$7,480,639 for 2011 Realignment and no 1991 Realignment by the end of FY 2024-25. Social Services expenditures can vary greatly from year to year due to the needs of the community members served. Maintaining a prudent fund balance in Social Services mitigates the impact on the County from unexpected costs. This minimizes the need to implement service level reductions or provide additional General Fund support for these mandated services.

DEPARTMENT BUDGET SUMMARY – GENERAL FUND PROGRAMS

Description	FY 2022-23 Actual	Current Year Adopted	CAO Recommended	Difference from Adopted
Rev Use Money/Prop	(731)	0	0	0
IG Rev - State	10,516,363	12,310,670	14,101,852	1,791,182
IG Rev - Federal	27,998,166	28,618,348	28,807,829	189,481
Other Gov Agency	4,449	15,000	15,000	0
Service Charges	2,106	0	0	0
Miscellaneous Rev	456,673	505,050	505,050	0
Other Fin Sources	25,323,660	28,787,288	30,495,922	1,708,634
Total Revenue	64,300,687	70,236,356	73,925,653	3,689,297
Salaries & Benefits	27,282,602	29,948,097	31,536,073	1,587,976
Services & Supplies	2,948,680	4,188,528	3,554,491	(634,037)
Other Charges	28,043,573	30,366,322	32,091,914	1,725,592
Fixed Assets	66,040	113,000	0	(113,000)
Other Fin Uses	0	100,000	130,000	30,000
Intrafund Transfers	7,859,189	9,379,540	9,853,996	474,456
Total Appropriations	66,200,084	74,095,487	77,166,474	3,070,987
FUND 1000 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	1,899,396	3,859,131	3,240,821	(618,310)

Health and Human Services Agency

RECOMMENDED BUDGET • FY 2024-25

MAJOR BUDGET CHANGES

Revenue

State Intergovernmental

\$1,212,656 Increase in State revenue for public assistance programs, primarily for child welfare and housing support programs, including Bringing Families Home, Families First Prevention Services Act, Home Safe, Excellence in Family Finding/Engagement, and Continuum of Care Reform programs.

\$578,526 Increase in State funding for CalFresh, the supplemental nutrition program.

Federal Intergovernmental

(\$855,272) Decrease in Federal funding due to the Governor's proposed budget which included the elimination of CalWORKs programs including Expanded Subsidized Employment, Family Stabilization, and a 20% reduction in the CalWORKs Single Allocation.

\$107,310 Increase due to federal participation in the Excellence in the Family Finding and Engagement Program

\$937,443 Increase in Federal funding related to case assistance cost increases in the areas of CalWORKs and adoption assistance.

Other Financing Sources

\$300,000 Increase in Operating Transfer In of Tenant Based Rental Assistance funding from the Planning and Building Department.

\$250,000 Increase in Operating Transfer In of CalAIM Providing Access and Transforming Health (PATH) Justice-Involved funding for the implementation of CalAIM.

\$236,827 Increase in ARPA revenue to funded assistance to households who were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

\$615,597 Increase in Operating Transfer In of 1991 Social Services Realignment mostly due to implementing the 10% transfer authority from the 1991 Realignment Health account to the Social Services account.

\$306,210 Increase in Operating Transfers In of 2011 Social Services Realignment to support Child Welfare Services, prevention services, and adoptions.

Appropriations

Salaries and Benefits

\$267,554 Increase in Salaries and Benefit costs due to the addition of 1.0 FTE Social Worker III in Adult Protective Services due to increased referrals for elder abuse, 1.0 FTE Social Worker III in In- Home Supportive Services (IHSS) due to the expansion of services for

Social Services

RECOMMENDED BUDGET • FY 2024-25

undocumented Medi-Cal eligible recipients, and 0.5 FTE Senior Citizen's Attorney to support Community Services Senior Legal needs.

\$256,872	Increase due to FY 2023-24 Board-approved additions of a 1.0 FTE Sr. IT Department Coordinator allocation, 1.0 FTE Social Worker I/II Limited Term allocation, and a 0.2 FTE Office Assistant I/II allocation that is shared with Community Services in Housing and Homelessness Programs.
\$688,002	Increase in Salaries and Benefits expenses primarily due to Health Insurance cost increases, employee step increases, and changes to benefit elections.
\$579,820	Increase in CalPERS employer's contribution due to an increase to the County's unfunded accrued liability payment.
(\$357,317)	Decrease in Retiree Health Program charges due to a rate holiday to conserve General Fund costs.
\$153,045	Increase in Workers' Compensation premium charge.

Service and Supplies

(\$592,505)	Decrease in Lease costs primarily due to an accounting change where the costs are now included in the Other Charges section.
(\$41,532)	Decrease due to adjustments across multiple objects to align the budget to actual costs.

Other Charges

\$555,505	Increase Lease costs due to an accounting change where the costs are now included in the Other Charges section instead of the Services and Supplies section.
\$874,887	Increase in Adoption Assistance to families.
\$500,000	Increase in CalWORKs assistance to families.
(\$204,800)	Decrease across multiple assistance objects due to aligning the budget with projected actual costs.

Fixed Assets

(\$113,000)	Decrease in Fixed Assets for two Lobby Kiosks and a vehicle that were included in the FY 2023-24 Budget.
-------------	--

Other Financial Uses

\$30,000	Increase in Operating Transfers to Fleet for a replacement vehicle upgrade to all-wheel drive for use in inclement weather.
----------	---

Health and Human Services Agency

RECOMMENDED BUDGET • FY 2024-25

Intrafund Transfers

\$474,456 Increase in Intrafund transfers primarily due to the HHS Administration and Finance Indirect Cost Rate and Executive Staff Cost Allocation charges that recover the appropriate share of those costs from the programs.

DEPARTMENT BUDGET SUMMARY – CALAIM PATH

Description	FY 2022-23 Actual	Current Year Adopted	CAO Recommended	Difference from Adopted
Rev Use Money/Prop	39	306	306	0
IG Rev - State	0	0	360,000	360,000
IG Rev - Federal	179,846	693,441	250,000	(443,441)
Fund Balance	0	6,559	0	(6,559)
Total Revenue	179,885	700,306	610,306	(90,000)
Salaries & Benefits	0	294,149	0	(294,149)
Services & Supplies	0	124,154	110,306	(13,848)
Other Charges	179,845	282,003	250,000	(32,003)
Other Fin Uses	0	0	250,000	250,000
Total Appropriations	179,845	700,306	610,306	(90,000)
FUND 1113 TOTAL	(39)	0	0	0

MAJOR BUDGET CHANGES

Revenue

State Intergovernmental

\$360,000 Increase in State CalAIM Providing Access and Transforming Health (PATH) Justice-Involved (JI) funding into the fund which was previously used for SB163 Wraparound Services that no longer receives funding.

Federal Intergovernmental

(\$443,441) Decrease in Federal funding primarily due to shifting the projected CalAIM PATH JI revenue from Federal to State.

Fund Balance

(\$6,559) Decrease in fund balance due to the closure of SB163 Wraparound Services.

Appropriations

Salaries and Benefits

(\$294,149) Decrease in Salaries and Benefit costs due to the change in use of the fund from SB163 Wraparound Services to CalAIM PATH.

Social Services

RECOMMENDED BUDGET • FY 2024-25

Services and Supplies

(\$13,848) Decrease in Services and Supplies due to the change in use of the fund from SB163 Wraparound Services to CalAIM PATH.

Other Charges

(\$32,003) Decrease in Services and Supplies due to the change in use of the fund from SB163 Wraparound Services to CalAIM PATH.

Other Financial Uses

\$250,000 Increase in Operating Transfer Out to Social Services General Fund programs for staff time on CalAIM PATH activities.

MISSION

The County of El Dorado Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), Social Services includes 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.

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), CalFresh, 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.

Health and Human Services Agency

RECOMMENDED BUDGET • FY 2024-25

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 its 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. IHSS Social Workers employed by the County conduct in-home 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

Social Services

RECOMMENDED BUDGET • FY 2024-25

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.

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.

BUDGET SUMMARY BY PROGRAM

Social Services Total	Appropriations	Revenues	Net County Cost	Staffing
CalAIM PATH Grant	\$ 360,306	\$ 360,306	\$ -	0.00
CalOES Elder Abuse Grant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00
CalOES Victim Services Grant	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ -	0.00
SS Admin & Public Assistance	\$ 77,166,474	\$ 73,925,653	\$ 3,240,821	291.35
Social Services	\$ 77,776,780	\$ 74,535,959	\$ 3,240,821	291.35

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: The 10% Realignment Transfer Authority for 1991 and 2011 Realignment 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 was included in the FY 2023-24 Budget.

The Recommended Budget includes the 10% transfer of 1991 Realignment from Public Health to Social Services. 1991 Realignment has no statutory base restoration. So, due to decreases in Sales and Use Tax revenue, the State could potentially not fund caseload growth for the foreseeable future and base revenues may not be met, resulting in Realignment revenue that is lower than current levels, if revenues continue to decline.

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. The IHSS provider labor agreement expires in December 2024,

Health and Human Services Agency

RECOMMENDED BUDGET • FY 2024-25

it is likely that there will be financial impacts resulting from the successor agreement. 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.

State Budget Challenges: The Social Services Programs are subject to constant change by federal and state legislation. The State, in the FY 2024-25 State Budget, is considering cuts in funding to Social Services in the areas of CalWORKs program administration, Expanded Subsidized Employment, Housing Support, Family Stabilization, and is considering additional deferrals of one-time multiyear allocations including Bringing Families Home, Home Safe, and the Families First Transition Act State Block Grant. Staff continue to closely monitor that development of the State Budget. If these deferrals are passed and will impact El Dorado County, HHSA will return to the Board with the Adopted Budget with cost saving measures which could include the delay of filling vacant positions or reducing other costs.

STAFFING TREND

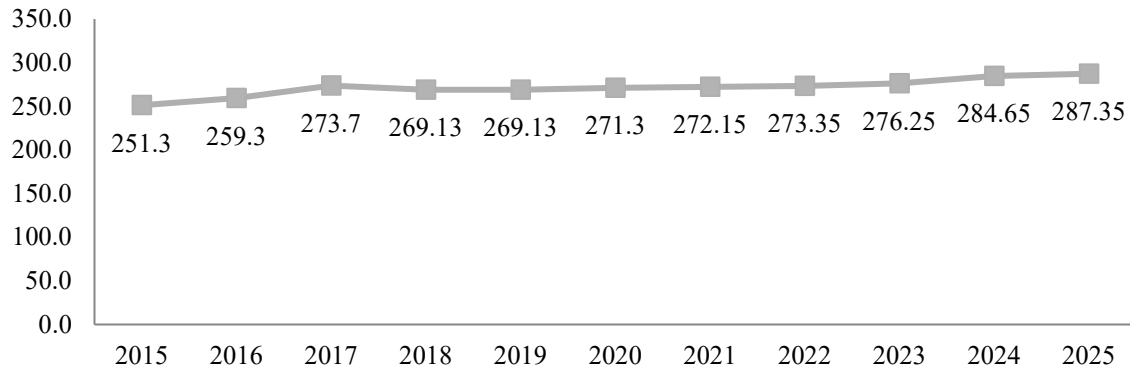
The recommended staff allocation for FY 2024-25 is 287.35 FTE allocations, an increase of 4.7 FTE from the FY 2023-24 Adopted Budget allocation of 284.65 FTE. After the adoption of the FY 2023-24 Budget, the Board approved the addition of 1.0 FTE Senior Information Technology Department Coordinator on April 23, 2024 (Legistar item 24-0440). The Board approved the deletion of a 1.0 FTE limited term Social Worker I/II allocation and a 1.0 FTE limited term Program Coordinator allocation due to the funding for the allocations ending (Legistar item 23-1154). The Board also approved the addition of 1.0 FTE limited term Social Worker I/II allocation and 1.0 FTE Office Assistant allocation to support the Housing and Homelessness Program, only 0.2 FTE of the Office Assistant is funded by Social Services with 0.8 FTE funded by Community Services (Legistar item 24-0504).

The Recommended Budget includes the addition of 1.0 FTE Social Worker III within the In-Home Supportive Services Program due to the expansion of services for undocumented Medi-Cal eligible recipients. The Recommended Budget also includes the addition of 1.0 FTE Social Worker III within Adult Protective Services due to increased referrals for elder abuse. Lastly, Social Services has received grant funding to support the addition of a 0.5 FTE Senior Citizens Attorney to support Senior Programs in Community Services.

Social Services

RECOMMENDED BUDGET • FY 2024-25

During FY 2023-24, one vacant Social Worker Supervisor II was alternately filled with a Social Worker Supervisor I allocation due to changing programmatic needs. The Recommended Budget revises the allocation to match the current classification of the allocation.



SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS

The Social Services Division 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.

