

Creating Opportunities to Prosper

2010 BUDGET PROPOSAL COMPARISON

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: ASSET BUILDING

The **Working Families Rebate** is the state version of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The Working Families Rebate would make Washington's tax system fairer by providing a rebate to low- and moderate-income families and individuals. The legislature passed the Tax Rebate law in 2008, but did not provide funding for it.

Governor's Proposal*: No funding included

Senate Proposal: Funds the Rebate at 5% of the federal EITC

House Proposal: No funding included

Individual Development Accounts Program (IDA) is a program that matches the savings of low-income people to help purchase or build assets like a home, an education or a business. Funding is also provided for local asset building coalitions to do outreach on the federal EITC, provide financial literacy courses and help people fill out their tax returns.

Governor's Proposal: No funding for IDA Program or asset building coalitions

Senate Proposal: No funding for IDA Program and \$400,000 for coalitions

House Proposal: No funding for IDA Program and \$522,000 for coalitions

BASIC NEEDS

The **General Assistance Unemployable (GAU)** program provides small, monthly cash grants and medical coverage for 21,000 disabled adults who are unable to work. The support GAU provides is often the difference between housing and homelessness, between a meal and going hungry.

Governor's Proposal: Limits GAU cash and medical benefits to 6 months in a lifetime

Senate Proposal: Limits GAU medical to 12 months in a 24-month period and eliminates the cash grant, replacing it with a monthly \$50 stipend

House Proposal: No major cuts

The **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** program assists parents with incomes so low they cannot meet basic needs for themselves and dependent children. In 2008, Poverty Action helped achieve a 3% grant increase – the first TANF grant increase in 15 years.

Governor's Proposal: Cuts 7,000 families off TANF by imposing a strict 5-year lifetime limit

Senate Proposal: Cuts welfare grants by 7.5%

House Proposal: Maintains current level of funding

The **Working Connections Child Care** program helps 36,000 families each month pay for childcare while parents work or go to school. Without these subsidies, fewer providers would be able to care for low-income children.

Governor's Proposal: Cuts program by \$49 million

Senate Proposal: Maintains current level of funding

House Proposal: Cuts program by \$30 million (or 7,000 slots)

The **Housing Trust Fund** is the main source of funding for affordable housing in our state. More than 70% of Trust Fund housing units serve people with extremely low incomes (those living on 30% or less of area median income). This housing makes it possible for working people to afford housing and still have enough money for basics like groceries, gas and child care. The Fund was cut by \$100 million last year.

Governor's Proposal: Maintains current level of funding

Senate Proposal: We are awaiting word on the Senate's level of funding for the Housing Trust Fund

House Proposal: Restores \$100 million to the Fund

The **Food Assistance Program** helps immigrant families and individuals avoid hunger by providing subsidies to help purchase food.

Governor's Proposal: Maintains current level of funding

Senate Proposal: Cuts assistance to immigrants by 6%

House Proposal: Maintains current level of funding

*The Governor's budget proposal listed on this document is her second proposal of this legislative session. This version includes new sources of revenue.

HEALTH CARE

The **Basic Health Plan** provides health care coverage to individuals under 200 percent of the federal poverty level. This Plan serves about 60,000 individuals and families with low incomes in our state. Coverage is especially important as unemployment rates continue to rise and families lose employer-paid healthcare insurance.

Governor's Proposal: Maintains current level of funding

Senate Proposal: Maintains current level of funding

House Proposal: Maintains current level of funding through March 2011, but program would be ended if federal funds are not obtained

The **Apple Health for Kids** program provides health care for children with families making up to 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

Governor's Proposal: Maintains current level of funding

Senate Proposal: Cuts program by \$425,000 by eliminating funding for outreach

House Proposal: Maintains current level of funding

Adult Day Health provides skilled nursing and rehabilitative therapy for frail seniors and adults with medical or disabling conditions. This program assists with activities of daily living, such as bathing, grooming and toileting.

Governor's Proposal: Phased reduction (-\$12.5 million). This means that no new people will be accepted into this program and it will eventually end.

Senate Proposal: Phased reduction but 300 slots would be saved (-\$11.5 million)

House Proposal: Same as Governor's proposal

Our state provides funding for **HIV/AIDS services and prevention** efforts in order to reduce HIV and AIDS in our state and provide care for those living with AIDS.

Governor's Proposal: Cuts \$6 million from this program

Senate Proposal: Maintains current level of funding

House Proposal: Cuts program by 20% (\$4 million)

Community Health Clinics are our state's principal provider of primary and preventive medical and dental care for uninsured people. In 2009, these clinics cared for over 225,000 uninsured patients.

Governor's Proposal: Cuts \$12 million from this program

Senate Proposal: Maintains current level of funding

House Proposal: Maintains current level of funding

MENTAL HEALTH AND TREATMENT SERVICES

Mental health services provide community mental health and treatment services. These services are the only source of support for clients who are not eligible for Medicaid.

Governor's Proposal: Cuts Medicaid rates by \$2.6 million

Senate Proposal: Cuts \$3.1 million from targeted non-Medicaid programs

House Proposal: Cuts Medicaid rates by \$3.1 million

The **Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment and Support Act (ADATSA) program**, often called "Chemical Dependency Treatment," provides residential and outpatient alcohol and substance abuse treatment to people with low incomes.

Governor's Proposal: Cuts \$7 million from this program

Senate Proposal: Maintains current level of funding

House Proposal: Cuts \$2 million from this program