



Implementation of ESHB 2082 Monthly Status Report For the Period of 9/01/11 to 10/31/11

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

[ESHB 2082](#) was passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Gregoire on June 15, 2011. The new law:

- Terminates the Disability Lifeline program effective October 31, 2011.
- Establishes **three** new programs effective November 1, 2011:
 - **Aged, Blind, or Disabled cash assistance program**
To be eligible for **Aged, Blind, or Disabled cash assistance (ABD)**, a person must be age 65 or older, blind, or have a long-term medical condition that is likely to meet federal disability criteria. The ABD program will provide a maximum monthly cash grant of \$197 a month.
 - **Pregnant Women Assistance program**
The **Pregnant Women Assistance** program is for pregnant women who meet TANF income and resource standards and are ineligible for TANF for reasons other than failing to comply with TANF requirements. The majority of women on this program are women who have reached the 60-month time limit for receiving TANF assistance. The Pregnant Women Assistance program will provide a maximum monthly cash grant of \$197 maximum a month.
 - **Housing and Essential Needs**
The Washington State Department of Commerce administers the Housing and Essential Needs program, which may provide non-cash housing and other assistance for some recipients of state-funded Medical Care Services (MCS)*. Eligibility for MCS is determined by DSHS. Housing and Essential Needs services are funded through grants by the Department of Commerce to a network of local homeless and housing providers.

Assistance may include:

- Limited rent and utilities.
- Personal health and hygiene items.
- Cleaning supplies.
- Transportation.

Note: Housing and Essential Needs does not provide a monthly cash grant.

For more information and a list of local Housing and Essential Needs providers, please visit:
www.commerce.wa.gov/hen. (The list of local providers is located under: Find Your Local Housing and Essential Needs Provider.)

*Recipients of ADATSA or the ABD program who receive MCS will not be eligible for Housing and Essential Needs assistance.

- **Medical assistance eligibility and coverage** will not be affected by the termination of the Disability Lifeline program. There will be no changes in mental health or any other health services offered on November 1, 2011. Medical Care Services and Medicaid coverage will continue unchanged.

KEY IMPLEMENTATION ITEMS REGARDING RULES (With Projected Dates)

- The Health Care Authority (HCA) is planning to file WACs regarding Medical Care Services via emergency adoption by November 1, 2011. For copies of the WACs, contact Kevin Sullivan with the Health Care Authority at 360-725-1344 or Kevin.Sullivan@hca.wa.gov.
- The Department of Social and Health Services is amending, repealing and creating new rules to eliminate references to Disability Lifeline and to establish standards for the Aged, Blind or Disabled and Pregnant Women Assistance programs. The rules were filed via an emergency adoption as [WSR 11-21-049](#), effective November 1, 2011.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Who are the Housing and Essential Needs providers?

Every community has a local Housing and Essential Needs provider. Visit the Department of Commerce: Housing and Essential Needs Grant website at: www.commerce.wa.gov/hen and click on: [Find Your Local Housing and Essential Needs Provider](#).

What information will clients need to show in order to apply and see if they are eligible for Housing and Essential Needs services?

DSHS worked with Commerce to tailor access to the web-based verification system (Benefits Verification System), so that Housing and Essential Needs grantees can confirm a client's eligibility for possible rent and essential needs assistance. Once eligibility is confirmed, a client may receive assistance for housing support and/or utility assistance based on their risk of homelessness. If a client is currently homeless, they may receive assistance in obtaining a rental unit. All clients are eligible for any available Essential Needs assistance. Essential needs assistance may include: personal health and hygiene items, cleaning supplies and transportation (such as bus passes).

Can clients apply for Housing and Essential Needs Services prior to November 1, 2011?

Housing and Essential Needs grantees cannot issue rent, utility or essential needs assistance prior to November 1, 2011. However, clients may contact the local Housing and Essential Needs grantees / providers to learn about how intake and assessment will be conducted in their community. Visit the Department of Commerce: Housing and Essential Needs Grant website at: www.commerce.wa.gov/hen and click on: [Find Your Local Housing and Essential Needs Provider](#) to find our local provider.

Will there be proposed changes to the Washington Administrative Codes (WACs)?

Yes. The Health Care Authority (HCA) is planning to file WACs regarding Medical Care Services via emergency adoption by November 1, 2011. For copies of the WACs, contact Kevin Sullivan with the Health Care Authority at 360-725-1344 or Kevin.Sullivan@hca.wa.gov.

The Department of Social and Health Services is amending, repealing and creating new rules to eliminate references to Disability Lifeline and to establish standards for the Aged, Blind or Disabled and Pregnant Women Assistance programs. The rules were filed via an emergency adoption as [WSR 11-21-049](#), effective November 1, 2011.

DSHS and the HCA are also going through the regular rule making process. DSHS filed a "CR 101 – Preproposal Statement of Inquiry" on July 20, 2011 as [WSR 11-15-104](#). HCA filed a "CR 101 – Preproposal Statement of Inquiry" on August 3, 2011 as [WSR 11-16-104](#).

To receive copies of HCA and DSHS's CR 102 – Proposed Rule Making Order regarding the implementation of ESHB 2082, send an e-mail request to 2082@dshs.wa.gov. For Economic Services Administration, DSHS rules, you can sign-up for the Policy Review List-Serve to receive e-mail notices of all proposed rule changes from ESA. To sign-up for the ESA list-serve, [follow this link](#) and enter your name and e-mail address. This is one phase of the regular rule-making process. Every rule change will have a [scheduled hearing](#) where formal comments are received in writing or through testimony. People can provide comments as part of the hearing process and they can also provide comments during the review process (prior to the hearing).

If a client received assistance in October under the Disability Lifeline program, will they be eligible for assistance in November, 2011?

The Disability Lifeline program is ending October 31, 2011. Medical assistance is not impacted by the termination of the program. Clients receiving medical assistance based on age, blindness or disability are eligible for the new ABD program effective November 1, 2011. Clients who were receiving medical benefits based on pregnancy are eligible for the Pregnant Women Assistance program effective November 1, 2011. Clients receiving Medical Care Services may be eligible for Housing and Essential Needs.

To apply for the Aged, Blind or Disabled cash assistance program, the Pregnant Women Assistance program or Medical Care Services, please visit a [local Community Services Office](#) or apply [online](#). To apply for Housing and Essential Needs assistance, please visit the Department of Commerce: Housing and Essential Needs Grant website at: www.commerce.wa.gov/hen and click on: [Find Your Local Housing and Essential Needs Provider](#).

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COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

Community stakeholder meetings were held in July in Spokane, Yakima, Wenatchee, Pasco, Tacoma, Seattle, Vancouver and Everett and in Poulsbo on August 5, 2011. We held a second round of community stakeholder meetings in the nine locations in September, 2011. The goal of the meetings was to share updates and ask for feedback regarding the implementation of ESHB 2082.

The next round of community stakeholder meetings will take place in January, 2012.

Please email any questions and feedback to: 2082@dshs.wa.gov