



2018 Supplemental Budget Proposal Comparison

Throughout the 2018 legislative session, the Governor, House of Representatives, and Senate will each propose a supplemental budget. Although the legislature passed an operating budget for the 2017-2019 biennium during the last legislative session, the supplemental budget is necessary because of emergent priorities and unanticipated costs that have arisen since the passage of the operating budget. After each branch of government introduces a budget proposal, the House Appropriations committee and Senate Ways & Means committee hold hearings on these proposals and ultimately pass a negotiated budget. Throughout the legislative session, the Statewide Poverty Action Network will provide an overview of the budget proposals that impact our legislative priorities.

BASIC NEEDS

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) assists parents with incomes so low they cannot meet basic needs for themselves and their dependent children. The program provides cash support, childcare, job training opportunities, and other support services as parents transition to employment. The current TANF cash grant is \$521 for a family of three, or 31 percent of the Federal Poverty Line. Over the last twenty years the value of the TANF cash grant has eroded more than 40 percent. The erosion of the cash grant coupled with policy changes that have made it harder to access and remain on TANF have driven our state's caseload to its lowest point ever (less than 27,000 families) despite persistent poverty rates and a deep poverty rate that is double that of twenty years ago. As the caseload has declined due to restrictive policy, hundreds of millions of dollars have been swept out of the TANF program to fund other programs in the state budget in the last decade.

State Family Assistance provides a cash assistance program comparable to TANF to documented immigrant families with children who have resided in the U.S. less than five years and do not yet qualify for the federal TANF program.

Governor's budget	House budget	Senate budget	FINAL BUDGET
<p>Maintains current benefits and service levels; however, \$12.24 million are pulled out of TANF due a projected drop in the caseload (This is on top of \$36.2 million that was directed away from the program in the 2017-2019 operating budget.)</p> <p>As explained above, policy changes that restrict access to TANF are primarily responsible for the caseload decline. Poverty Action advocates for any caseload savings to be reinvested in the program through grant</p>			



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<p>increases, eligibility expansion, and other policy changes that would strengthen TANF such as raising or eliminating asset limits and reinstating the child support pass-through.</p>			
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The **Working Connection Child Care (WCCC)** program provides subsidized child care to low-income families whose incomes are below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. WCCC is a critical support that helps low-income parents access and afford child care so they can enter and make gains in the workforce.

Governor's budget	House budget	Senate budget	FINAL BUDGET
<p>Maintains current investment and service levels. An additional \$20.75 million is added to the program due to a projected caseload increase.</p>			

The **Housing and Essential Needs (HEN)** program provides assistance with housing and essential needs, such as health and hygiene products, to very low-income adults who have a disability that temporarily prevents them from working.

Governor's budget	House budget	Senate budget	FINAL BUDGET
<p>Maintains current investment.</p>			



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The **Aged, Blind and Disabled (ABD)** program provides a \$197 monthly cash grant to low-income elderly and disabled adults who are waiting to transfer to the federal Supplemental Security Income program. A small number of disabled and elderly immigrants who are not eligible for the federal Supplemental Security Income and Social Security programs also receive assistance through the ABD program. Recipients use their cash grant to pay for housing and meet their basic needs.

Governor's budget	House budget	Senate budget	FINAL BUDGET
Maintains current service and benefit levels, but \$30,000 is diverted from the program due to a projected caseload decline.			

The **State Food Assistance** program helps immigrant families and individuals avoid hunger by providing subsidies to help purchase food. Immigrants are not eligible for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP – formerly called Food Stamps) until they have been in the U.S. for five years.

Governor's budget	House budget	Senate budget	FINAL BUDGET
Maintains current service and benefit levels, but \$997,000 is diverted from the program due to a projected caseload decline.			



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The **Housing Trust Fund (HTF)** is the main source of funding for affordable housing in our state. This housing makes it possible for people living on low incomes to afford housing and still have enough money to cover other basic needs. Investments in the HTF have created thousands of jobs and have generated millions in state and local tax revenues.

Governor's budget	House budget	Senate budget	FINAL BUDGET
<p>Adds \$106.77 million is provided to build and preserve affordable housing.</p> <p><i>For the first time ever, the legislature did not pass a Capital Budget in 2017. This allocation is for two-year capital budget.</i></p>			

HEALTH CARE

Under federal health care reform, the Affordable Care Act, states had the option to expand Medicaid. By choosing to adopt the Medicaid expansion in 2013, our state is now working to provide healthcare to all Washingtonians with incomes below 138 percent of the federal poverty level. Since expansion, a record number of Washingtonians have signed up for this critical health care program. With the current U.S. Congress abandoning efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act, the threat to the continuation of the Medicaid expansion has subsided.

Medicaid's Adult Dental coverage is an optional Medicaid program that had been eliminated for nearly all adult Medicaid recipients in recent years. In 2013, the legislature restored funding to Adult Dental, which ensured that the people who are newly eligible for Medicaid under the expansion could also access adult dental coverage at no cost to the state. Unfortunately, there are still many adults going without the care they need, including disabled, senior immigrants.

Governor's budget	House budget	Senate budget	FINAL BUDGET
<p>\$15.34 million is provided for grants to build dental clinic capacity to improve dental access in rural and underserved locations in the state as identified by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services as</p>			



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<p>designated dental shortage areas. The funding is provided for 21 projects to increase access to dental care and dental residency.</p>			
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The **Apple Health for Kids** program provides health care for children from families earning up to 318 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, regardless of citizenship status.

Governor's budget	House budget	Senate budget	FINAL BUDGET
<p>Maintains current investment. However, because Congress has not reauthorized State Children's Health Insurance (SCHIP) funding in 2017, health insurance funding for more than 840,000 Washington kids could be in jeopardy.</p> <p>Poverty Action will continue to monitor and advocate for this issue at the federal level.</p>			



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REVENUE

In Washington state, people with the lowest incomes pay up to eight times the amount of their personal income in taxes than those in the top one percent of income earners. Poverty Action is committed to increasing revenue for basic education and essential health and human services investments and ensuring those investments are equitable and require the wealthiest Washingtonians to pay their fair share of taxes.

Governor's budget	House budget	Senate budget	FINAL BUDGET
<p>The Governor proposal includes \$1.5 billion in new revenue. This includes taking \$950 million from the state's rainy day fund, and using a one-time accounting gimmick for education funding to save the state money in the short-term.</p> <p>The Governor also released a carbon tax proposal that would generate \$726 million in 2020 and \$3.3 billion over the next four years. Revenue generated from this proposal would be used, in part, to replenish the depleted rainy day funds.</p>			