

Economic Services Overview: TANF and Working Connections Child Care



Senate Ways and Means Staff Presentation

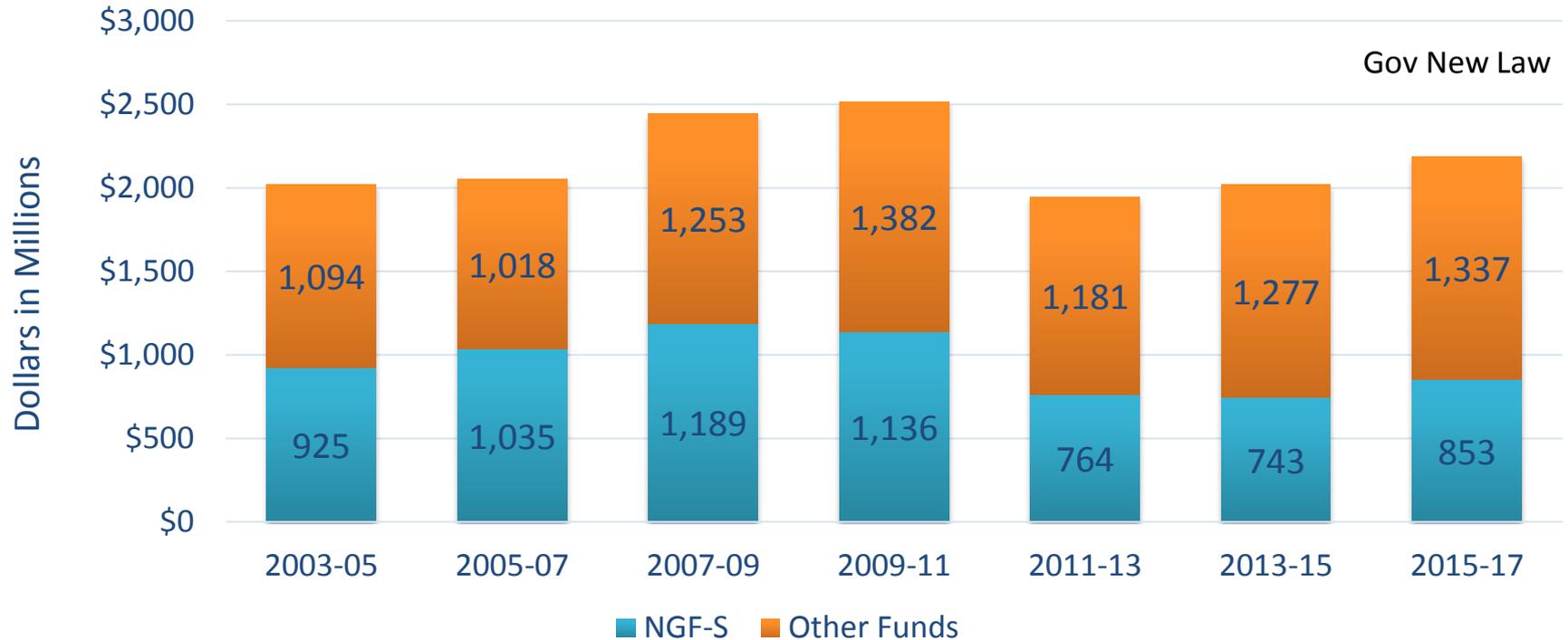
February 10, 2015

Economic Services Administration (ESA)

- Administers public assistance programs for low-income Washington residents including:
 - cash assistance
 - food assistance
 - “classic” medical assistance
 - child support enforcement and collections
 - child care
 - disability determinations
 - refugee and immigrant assistance
 - employment services and referral to other social services.
- Administers federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant
 - Major fund source for TANF cash assistance, child care subsidies and the WorkFirst program

ESA Budget over Five biennia

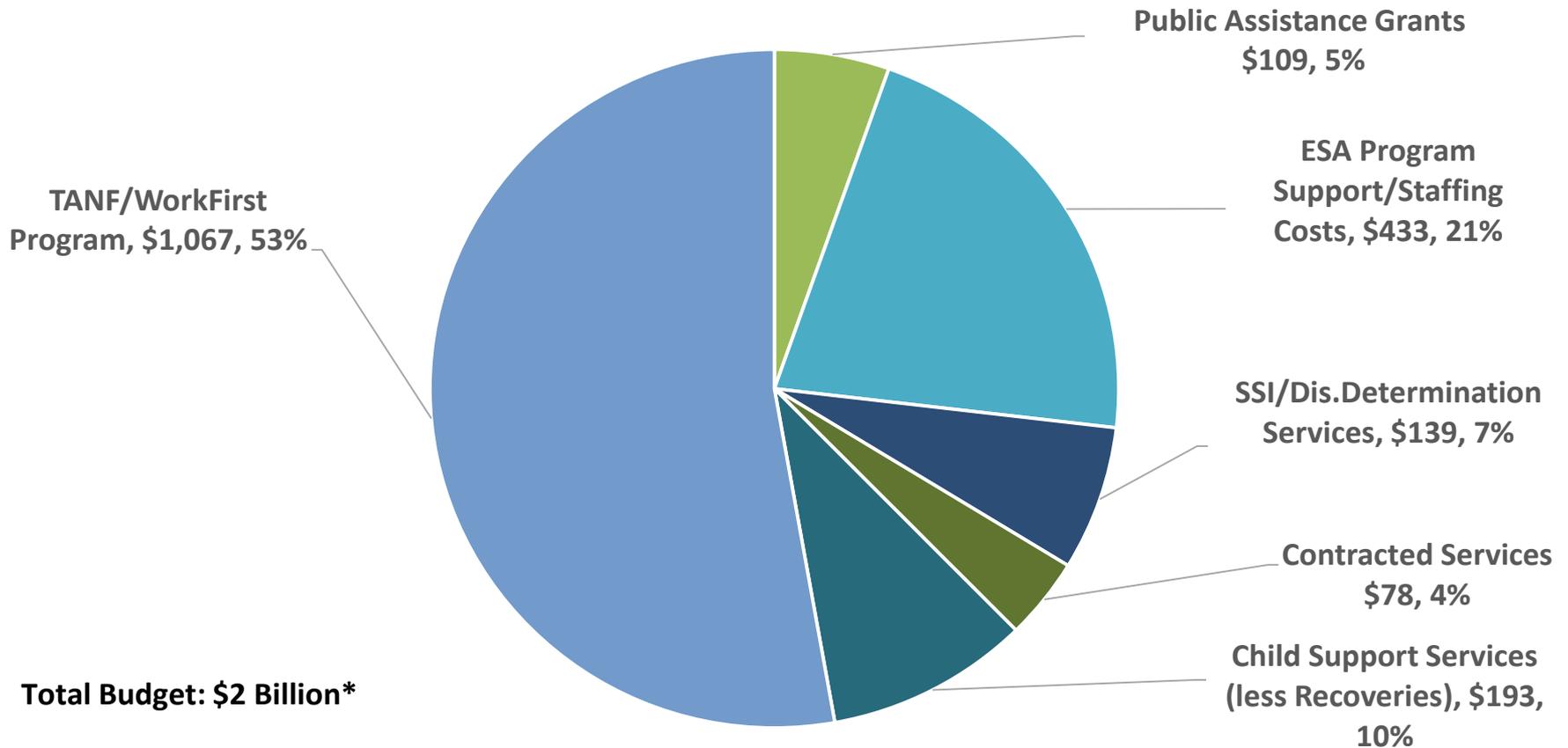
Economic Services Administration



	2003-05	2005-07	2007-09	2009-11	2011-13	2013-15	2015-17
Total Budget	\$2,019	\$2,054	\$2,443	\$2,518	\$1,945	\$2,020	\$2,189
% change over 2003-05: no change, dollars not adjusted for inflation							

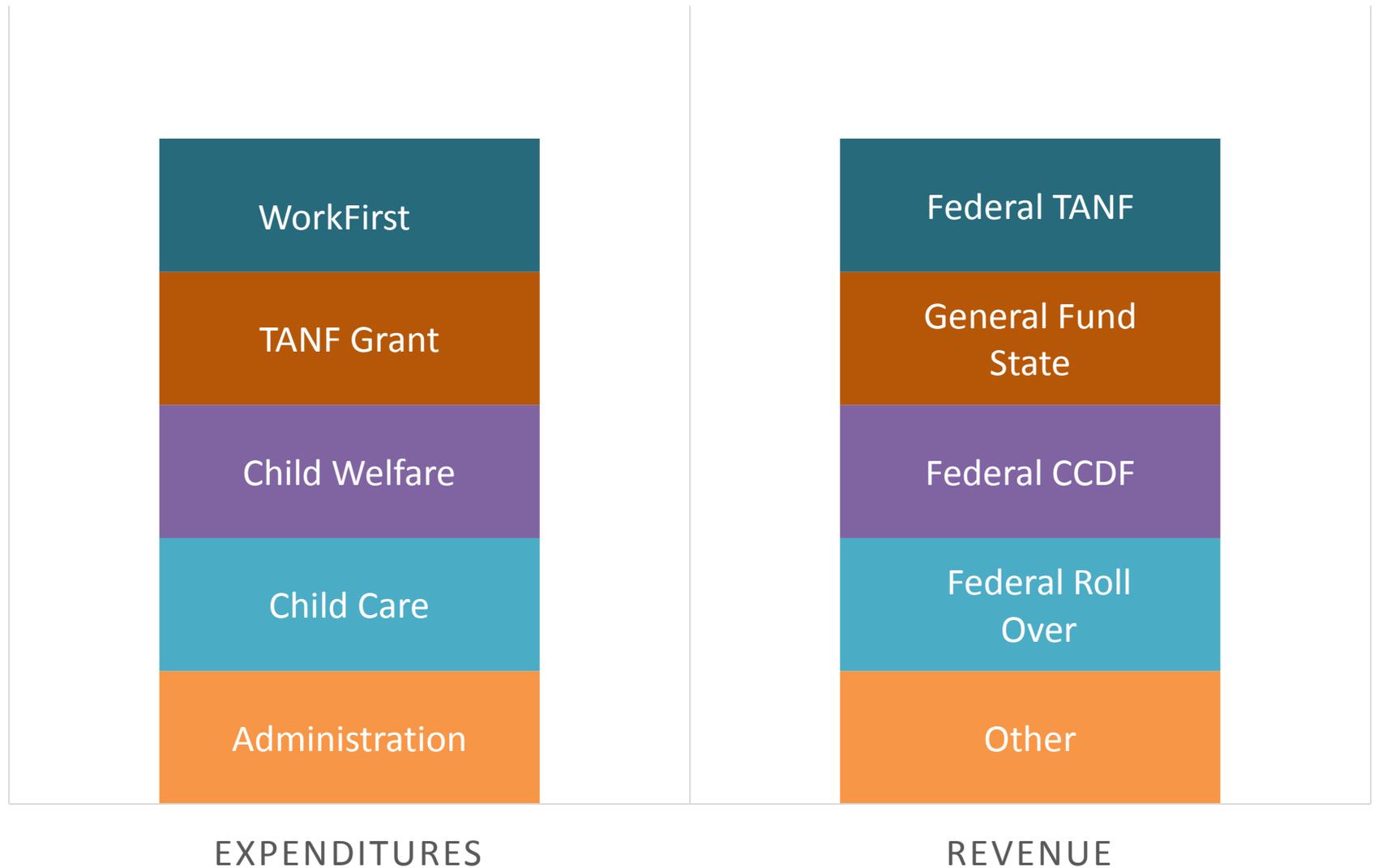
ESA Budget By Service

2013-15 (FY14 Supplemental)
ESA Budget By Program/Service
Dollars in Millions

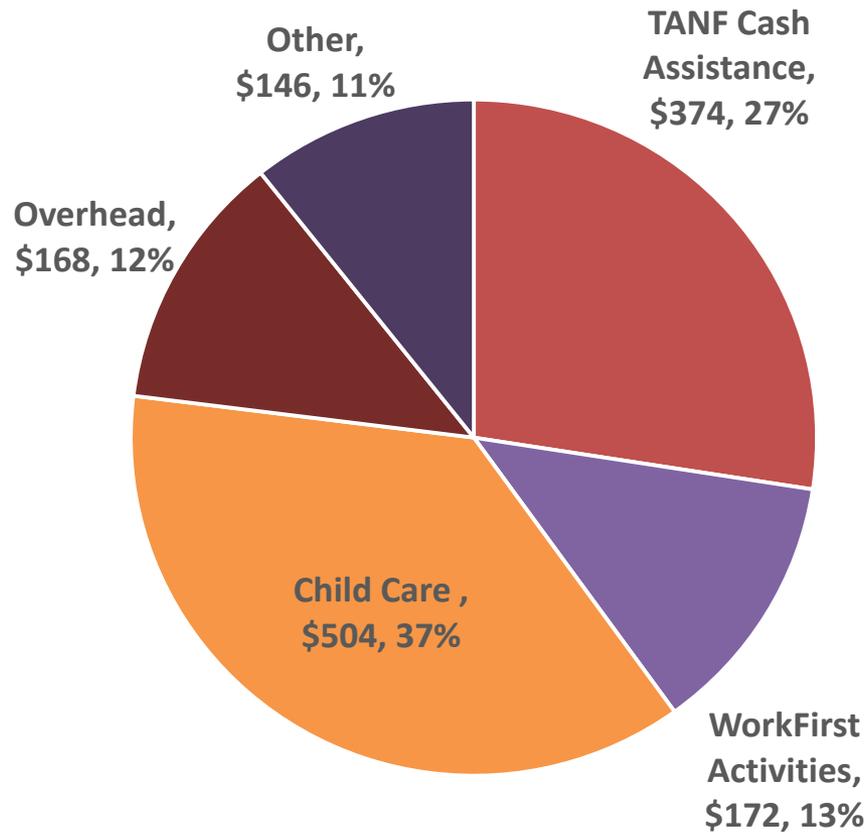


*TANF/WorkFirst Budget also includes \$297 million in funding that is appropriated in other agencies (Department of Early Learning and Children's Administration; or not-appropriated (Tribal TANF).

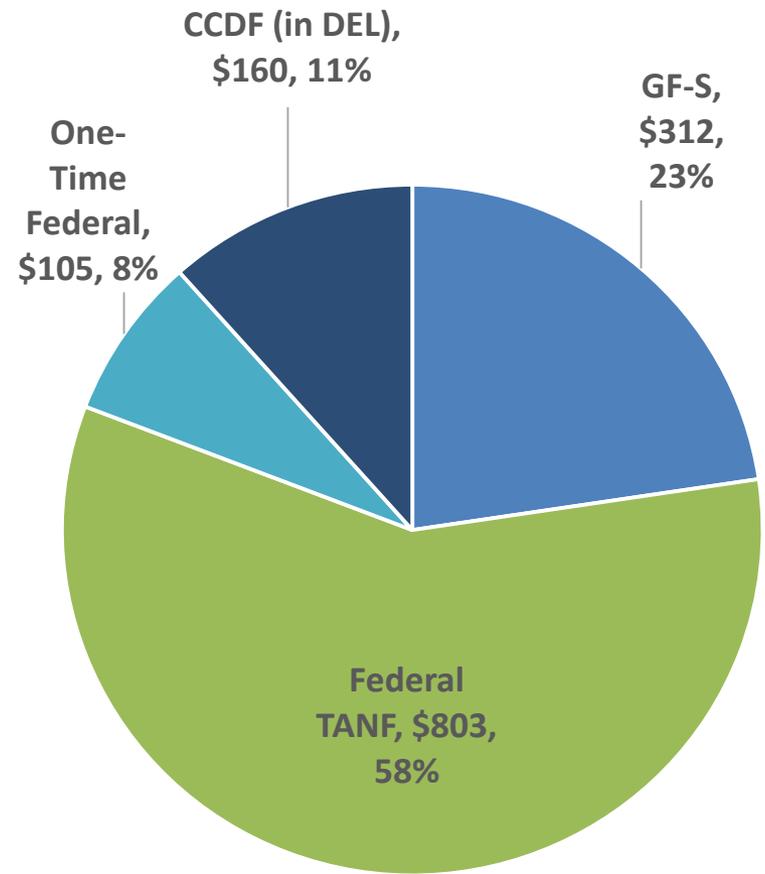
TANF/WORKFIRST BUDGET



WorkFirst Program: 2014 Supplemental Budget



Total Spend: \$1.4 billion

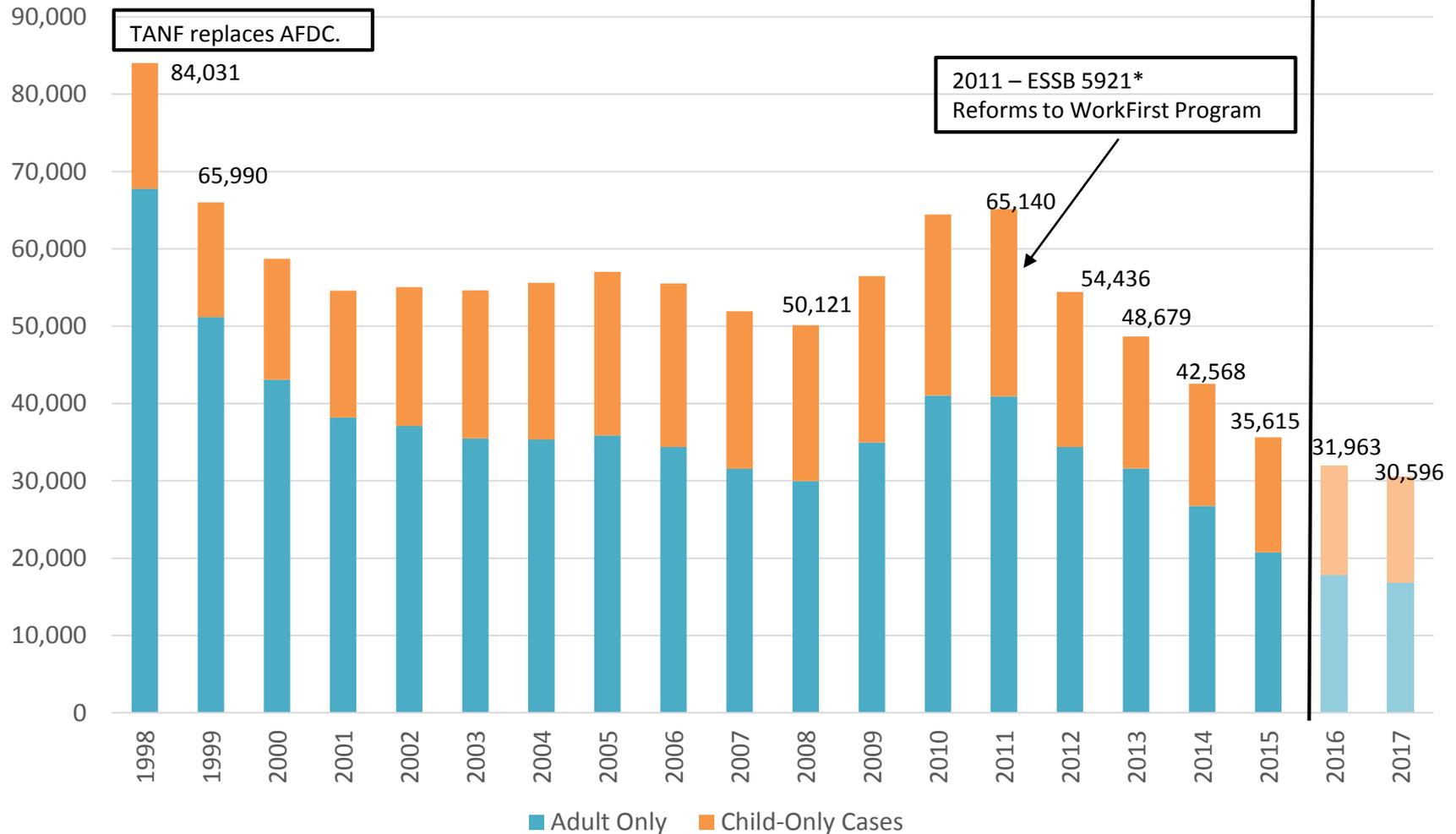


Total Revenue: \$1.4 billion

TANF Caseload changes

TANF Caseloads

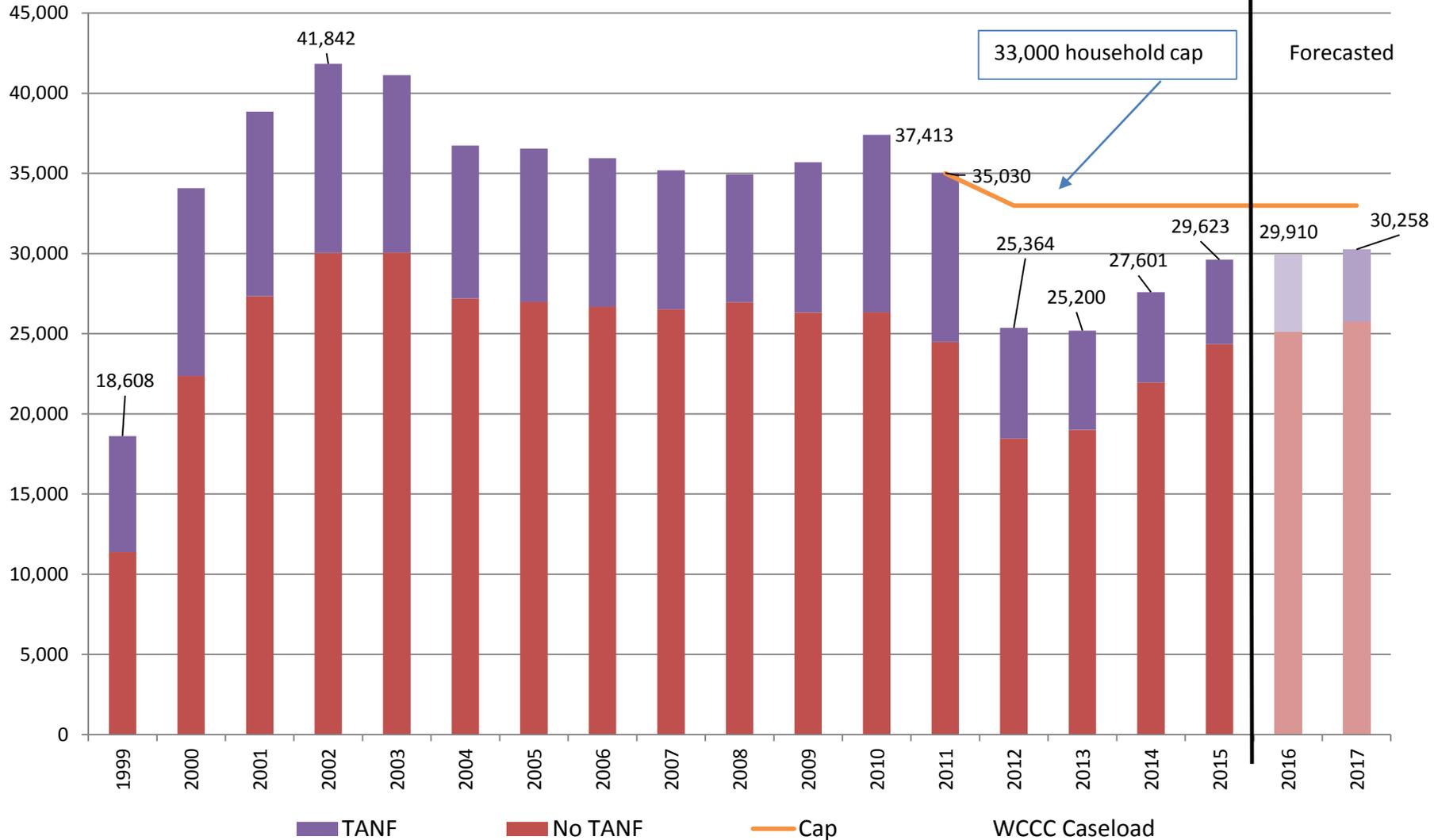
Forecasted



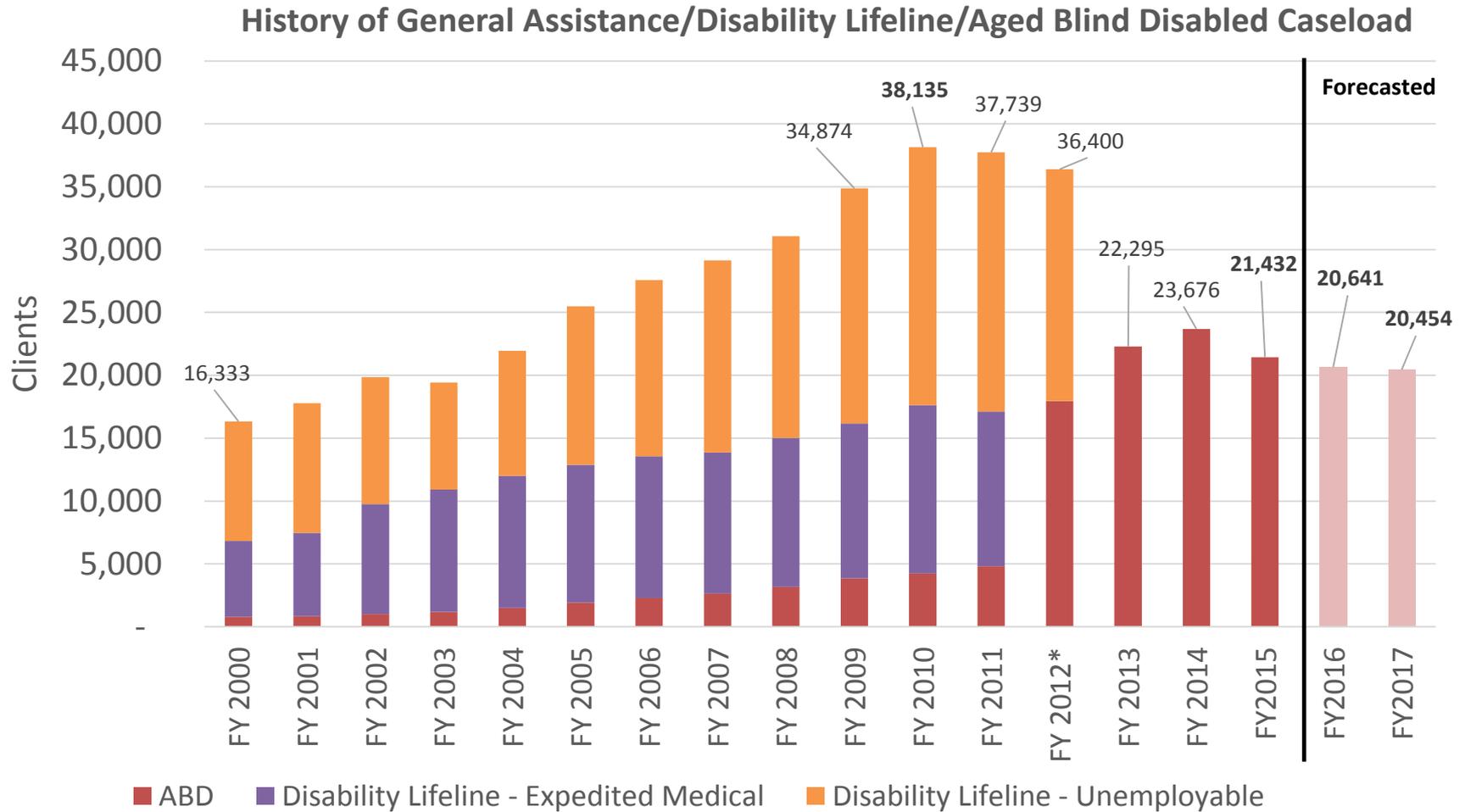
2011 – ESSB 5921* Reforms to WorkFirst Program: Time limit for child only; Changes in child-only income eligibility; Permanent disqualification for 3 non-compliance sanctions; 15 percent TANF grant reduction.

Working Connections Child Care Caseload changes

Working Connections Child Care Households



Aged Blind and Disabled program



*The Disability Lifeline program was eliminated October 31, 2011 and the former DL-X clients were absorbed into the ABD program beginning November 1, 2011. DL-U clients no longer receive cash assistance.

Aged, Blind and Disabled Policy Changes

E2SHB 2872 (2010) – required DSHS to end the General Assistance program and create the Disability Lifeline program.

ESHB 2082 (2011) – Terminated the Disability Lifeline program and replaced it with Aged, Blind and Disabled, Pregnant Women Assistance and Essential Needs and Housing Support (HEN), effective November 1, 2011. The population formerly classified as Disability Lifeline – Unemployable was no longer eligible for cash benefits. This population would likely be referred to the Housing and Essential Needs program at Department of Commerce.

SHB 2069 (2013) – made the criteria for ABD eligibility less restrictive than federal Supplemental Security Income criteria. The less restrictive criteria was intended to be in place for 18 months between January 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015. Also, changed the eligibility determination criteria for the Housing Essential Needs program from receipt of Medical Care Services to an incapacity determination by DSHS. The Medical Care Services low-income health care program was limited to only ABD and HEN recipients ineligible for Medicaid expansion.

SB 6573 (2014) – Aligned the ABD eligibility criteria with the federal SSI criteria on July 1, 2014. This essentially sunset the expanded eligibility criteria created by SHB 2069, one year early.

Medicaid Cost Allocation – Eligibility work

The implementation of ACA made substantial changes to eligibility rules for Medicaid and other medical benefits. Medicaid eligibility work transferred from ESA to the Health Benefit Exchange (HBE). The impact of this change resulted in a significant decrease in federal Medicaid revenue to support staffing and administrative costs at ESA.

Governor's Budget	FY15	15-17
Redirected TANF	2.4	9.2
Redirected State	4.9	19.0
Estimated Title XIX	0	20.2
Total Resources	7.3	48.4
Remaining Shortfall	\$ (0.3)	\$ (0)

Governor's Budget Solution: Provided Health Plan Finder access to financial eligibility workers at DSHS. This would enable ESA to draw down \$20.2 million in federal Title XIX. There are potential issues with duplication of effort between HBE and ESA financial eligibility work. There may also be issues with the impact of this proposal on the HBE budget.

Questions to Consider

Based on your public policy goals, what is the appropriate amount of funding for TANF, Working Connections, Aged, Blind, Disabled cash grant and other Economic Services programs?

Are programs such as TANF/Workfirst and the Working Connections Child Care program achieving the desired outcomes?

What tools are in place to coordinate client data between agencies and to assist TANF/Workfirst program staff with case management?

Are public assistance benefits being delivered timely and accurately to eligible residents?

Are there adequate quality controls in place to ensure that benefits are paid only to clients who are eligible?

How can technology assist with the identification of fraudulent activity?

APPENDIX

Appendix: TANF Eligibility and Benefits

- TANF provides cash assistance to families who are citizens, have at least one child or are pregnant, and who income qualify. Half of the income earned by TANF clients is disregarded when determining the amount of their grant.
- A family of three with no income would receive a monthly TANF grant of \$478.

Number of Family Members	Maximum Grant (if paying shelter costs)	Number of Family Members	Maximum Grant (if paying shelter costs)
1	\$305	6	\$736
2	\$385	7	\$850
3	\$478	8	\$941
4	\$562	9	\$1,033
5	\$648	10 or more	\$1,123