

The Agency

Department of Human Services

Agency Operations

The Department of Human Services (DHS) operates various programs in support of the agency goal of assisting those persons in Rhode Island in need. These programs and services extend well beyond the vital financial support services historically provided to poor and low income individuals and families, and include redesigned and innovative programs which provide quality and accessible health care, child care, supportive services and options to working parents, individuals and families. These programs are all designed: to help families become strong, productive, healthy and independent; to help adults achieve their maximum potential; to ensure that children are safe, healthy, ready to learn, and able to reach their maximum potential; to honor and care for our State's veterans; and, to assist elderly and persons with disabilities in order to enhance their quality of life and sustain their independence. The department operates on a population-based structure for its program policy and service delivery, reflecting the department's philosophy of clients' needs being the focus of the organization.

Major state and federal reforms in the mid-1990s provided unprecedented flexibility in how the State may utilize funds to accomplish its goals. Rhode Island's Family Independence Program (FIP) allowed DHS to design and implement a variety of services to assist those families transitioning from cash assistance to employment. These critical "work supports" are provided as a means of easing the transition into the labor force, and include vital child care assistance and health care benefits. These work supports are seen as a crucial element of the (FIP) program, which replaced the former Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program, and which imposed a 60 month lifetime limit for adults receiving cash assistance.

The department continues to be one of the largest purchasers of health care benefits in the State, providing health coverage, including managed care, fee-for-service care, long-term care, and community-based care services to approximately 185,000 Rhode Islanders.

The department also provides services to veterans through the Veterans' Affairs Program, which serves Rhode Island's 97,000 veterans and their families. An additional priority of DHS is to provide assistance to persons with disabilities seeking to achieve economic independence and integration with society, through its Office of Rehabilitation Services.

Agency Objectives

To provide a full continuum of high quality and accessible programs and services to those Rhode Island families, children, adults, individuals with disabilities, veterans, and the elderly in need of assistance.

Statutory History

Title 40 Chapter 1 and Title 42 Chapter 12 of the Rhode Island General Laws established the Department of Human Services within the executive branch of state government.

The Budget

Department of Human Services

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Revised	FY 2006 Recommended
Expenditures by Program				
Central Management	12,167,644	11,766,331	14,086,320	15,940,084
Child Support Enforcement	-	-	-	10,461,579
Individual and Family Support	68,552,911	68,910,083	74,798,382	78,071,006
Veterans' Affairs	21,683,155	22,865,218	24,273,319	27,146,228
Health Care Quality, Financing & Purchasing	59,964,633	61,497,912	73,881,027	73,737,373
Medical Benefits	1,000,796,891	1,123,829,014	1,217,702,520	1,309,266,661
Supplemental Security Income Program	27,156,848	26,560,554	27,763,088	28,517,520
Family Independence Program	156,901,131	159,775,778	156,170,503	146,114,432
State Funded Programs	71,266,123	75,634,503	78,936,082	81,745,551
Total Expenditures	\$1,418,489,336	\$1,550,839,393	\$1,667,611,241	\$1,771,000,434
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	99,974,403	99,936,952	112,734,872	124,891,023
Other State Operations	23,913,603	24,139,829	26,508,344	29,540,915
Aid To Local Units of Government	-	1,712	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	1,293,954,707	1,425,367,522	1,526,403,387	1,612,587,140
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$1,417,842,713	\$1,549,446,015	\$1,665,646,603	\$1,767,019,078
Capital Improvements	646,623	1,393,378	1,964,638	3,981,356
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$1,418,489,336	\$1,550,839,393	\$1,667,611,241	\$1,771,000,434
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	603,149,660	635,374,031	719,157,089	768,915,978
Federal Funds	811,725,133	911,839,549	944,015,281	996,086,834
Restricted Receipts	3,474,543	3,625,813	4,438,871	5,612,622
Other Funds	140,000	-	-	385,000
Total Expenditures	\$1,418,489,336	\$1,550,839,393	\$1,667,611,241	\$1,771,000,434
FTE Authorization	1,069.6	1,058.6	1,069.6	1,172.4
Agency Measures				
Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce	11.0%	13.0%	13.0%	13.0%
Females as a Percentage of the Workforce	74.0%	74.0%	74.0%	74.0%
Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce	3.0%	3.0%	5.0%	5.0%

The Program

Department of Human Services Central Management

Program Operations

Central Management supervises, coordinates, and monitors all departmental functions: to assure efficient and effective use of state and federal resources for the purpose of providing services to poor, disabled, or aged individuals and families; to assist them in reaching their highest potential for self-sufficiency; and, to support the achievement of the department's mission. Central Management, organized through the office of the director, provides leadership, management, strategic planning, direction, and control of departmental activities. A principal function is intergovernmental liaison with the Governor's staff, other department directors and agency heads, federal government representatives, state and federal legislators, local welfare directors, and national and local human service professionals and organizations.

The establishment and maintenance of community relations with consumers and service providers, and the provision of information to the general public, are core responsibilities of this program area. Additionally, all field operation activities are direct functions of Central Management, although the associated costs are budgeted in two programs, Individual and Family Support, and Health Care Quality, Financing and Purchasing. Central Management is responsible for the Electronic Benefits Transfer System, which electronically distributes cash assistance and food stamp benefits to clients.

Within Central Management, the Office of Policy Analysis, and Research and Development provides planning support for the department in the development and implementation of revised programs and initiatives. The Office of Legal Services represents the department in litigation, and provides counsel to the director and staff on legal issues relating to departmental operations. The Employee Relations Unit is responsible for the recruitment of staff, with emphasis on opportunities for minority employment. The Operations Management Unit develops and maintains departmental information systems, performs quality control for various programs, and operates the central mail room. Other centralized functions include support for financial management, information systems, collections and fraud investigations, and contract management.

Program Objective

To provide leadership, management, strategic planning, and central support for the department.

Statutory History

Title 40 Chapter 1 of the Rhode Island General Laws establishes that all functions, services, and duties of the Department of Human Services will be organized by the Director of the department.

The Budget

Department of Human Services Central Management

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Revised	FY 2006 Recommended
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	3,620,154	3,702,002	3,896,530	4,599,519
Other State Operations	418,995	330,956	427,320	409,523
Aid To Local Units of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	8,121,570	7,727,201	9,762,470	10,931,042
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$12,160,719	\$11,760,159	\$14,086,320	\$15,940,084
Capital Improvements	6,925	5,672	-	-
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$12,167,644	\$11,765,831	\$14,086,320	\$15,940,084
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	5,988,589	5,656,771	6,432,490	6,580,655
Federal Funds	3,811,139	3,774,878	5,203,830	6,649,429
Restricted Receipts	2,367,916	2,334,682	2,450,000	2,710,000
Total Expenditures	\$12,167,644	\$11,766,331	\$14,086,320	\$15,940,084
Program Measures				
Percentage of Homeless Families Placed in Permanent Housing Which Do Not Return for Services	97.0%	95.0%	90.0%	90.0%

The Program

Department of Human Services Child Support Enforcement

Program Operations

Child Support Enforcement is a program within the Division of Taxation of the Rhode Island Department of Administration. The Governor's FY 2006 Budget proposes to transfer the program to the Department of Human Services. This program is established to strengthen families through financial support and to reduce welfare dependence by ensuring that parents honor obligations to support their children. The concern for the well being of children who live with only one parent, and the desire to promote self-sufficiency for these single parent families, prompted both the state and federal governments to establish Child Support Enforcement Programs nationwide.

Program Objectives

Child Support Enforcement was established to strengthen families through financial support and to reduce welfare dependency by ensuring that parents are responsible for supporting their children.

Statutory History

R.I.G.L. 15-11.1 outlines the duties and responsibilities of the Child Support Enforcement Program.

The Budget

Department of Human Services Child Support Enforcement

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Revised	FY 2006 Recommended
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	-	-	-	8,267,955
Other State Operations	-	-	-	2,191,648
Aid To Local Units of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	-	-	-	1,976
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	-	-	-	\$10,461,579
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	-	-	-	\$10,461,579
 Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	-	-	-	3,463,716
Federal Funds	-	-	-	6,997,863
Restricted Receipts	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	-	-	-	\$10,461,579
 Program Measures				
Current Child Support Collected as a Percentage of Support Owed	61.1%	61.8%	61.4%	61.5%

The Program

Department of Human Services Individual and Family Support

Program Operations

The Individual and Family Support Program (IFS) has the primary responsibility within the department to implement state and federal welfare reform changes and the State's early care and education programs. The Individual and Family Support Program provides policy and program development and management, including monitoring and evaluation, systems development, and the processing and payment functions related to social services for populations served by the department. The Individual and Family Support Program is responsible for ensuring that the services affecting all populations are provided in accordance with state and federal mandates.

The Individual and Family Support Program has the responsibility for the operational planning, direction, coordination and implementation of programs such as the Family Independence Program (FIP), Child Care Development Fund, and the Head Start Collaboration Grant. Funding for the Title XX Block Grant, the Community Services Block Grant, the Refugee Assistance Program, and special funding for victims of domestic violence, the homeless, and the elderly are also within the IFS program. Funding for the administration of the General Public Assistance Program, Food Stamp Program, and Supplemental Security Income is recorded in the IFS Program.

The Individual and Family Support Program also contains comprehensive case management programs for teen mothers and their children and provides child care services for both FIP clients and low income families. Serving Rhode Island's disabled population is the Office of Rehabilitation Services (ORS) and Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI). ORS continues to implement new technologies in its service delivery systems, which works in partnership with consumers to achieve meaningful employment outcomes.

Program Objective

To provide assistance and supports to clients so that they may transition to self-sufficiency.

Statutory History

Title 40 Chapter 5.1 of the Rhode Island General Laws establishes the Family Independence Program. The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) replaces Title IV-A of the Federal Social Security Act. Title 42 Chapter 12 of the Rhode Island General Laws establishes the Vocational Rehabilitation Program; Title 40 Chapter 9 establishes the Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired Program; Title 40 Chapter 19 authorizes the Adolescent Pregnancy and Parenting Program; and Title 40 Chapter 6.2 authorizes the Child Care Services Program. Article 11 of the FY 1999 Appropriations Act establishes the Starting Right Initiative in Title 40, Chapters 5.1 and 6.2, Title 42, Chapters 12 and 72.1.

The Budget

Department of Human Services Individual and Family Support

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Revised	FY 2006 Recommended
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	37,625,610	38,415,839	41,021,597	43,413,100
Other State Operations	15,530,882	15,196,332	16,498,694	16,971,951
Aid To Local Units of Government	-	1,712	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	15,256,419	15,213,335	17,273,091	17,295,955
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$68,412,911	\$68,827,218	\$74,793,382	\$77,681,006
Capital Improvements	140,000	82,865	5,000	390,000
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$68,552,911	\$68,910,083	\$74,798,382	\$78,071,006
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	20,212,151	19,604,999	20,894,774	22,691,531
Federal Funds	48,156,854	49,221,034	53,818,983	54,905,850
Restricted Receipts	43,906	84,050	84,625	88,625
Other Funds	140,000	-	-	385,000
Total Expenditures	\$68,552,911	\$68,910,083	\$74,798,382	\$78,071,006
Program Measures				
Persons with Individualized Plan for Employment Achieving an Employment Outcome	77.5%	59.3%	58.3%	60.5%
Accuracy of Disability Determination Adjudications - Office of Rehabilitation Services	93.9%	94.6%	95.6%	95.6%

The Program

Department of Human Services Veterans' Affairs

Program Operations

The Veterans' Affairs Program serves eligible Rhode Island Veterans, their surviving spouses, and dependents. Benefits include a comprehensive program of social, medical and rehabilitative services. The Veterans' Affairs Program is comprised of the Rhode Island Veterans' Home, the Rhode Island Veterans' Affairs Office, and the Rhode Island Veterans' Memorial Cemetery.

Veterans' Affairs is confronting a growing challenge as a result of a rapidly aging veteran's population. Rhode Island has a population of approximately 97,000 veterans. Although the total number of war service veterans is declining, the growth in the proportion of aging (World War II and Korean) veterans is escalating. Of the 76,000 War Veterans, approximately 21,000 are World War II Veterans, with an average age above 69.

The purpose of the Veterans' Home is to provide quality nursing and domiciliary care to the veteran. Social, medical, nursing, and rehabilitative services for eligible Rhode Island Veterans, their survivors, and/or dependents, are available to improve their physical, emotional, and economic well-being. The Rhode Island Veterans' Home has an operational bed capacity of 339 beds (260 nursing and 79 domiciliary/sheltered care beds). Within the 339 bed complement is a 36-bed unit for veterans who suffer from dementia type illnesses. The Veterans' Home admits war service veterans who have been honorably discharged and have resided in the State at least two years prior to admission and/or were inducted into the military service from the State. Residential care is available to eligible veterans who require a sheltered care environment. The Veterans' Transitional Supportive Program (VTSP) is a program operated in concert with the federal Veterans Administration. VTSP offers a multitude of psychological/social counseling, substance abuse treatment, and contract work therapy opportunities provided on a short-term basis to assist veterans with reintegration to their communities.

Program Objective

To continue to improve the physical, emotional, and economic well-being of Rhode Island veterans.

Statutory History

Title 30 Chapters 17, 24, 25, and 29 and Title 30 Chapter 25 of the Rhode Island General Laws established the Division of Veterans Affairs.

The Budget

Department of Human Services Veterans' Affairs

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Revised	FY 2006 Recommended
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	17,890,585	17,994,278	18,617,280	19,728,500
Other State Operations	3,245,032	3,549,051	3,678,701	3,808,672
Aid To Local Units of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	47,840	17,048	17,700	17,700
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$21,183,457	21,560,377	\$22,313,681	\$23,554,872
Capital Improvements	499,698	1,304,841	1,959,638	3,591,356
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$21,683,155	\$22,865,218	\$24,273,319	\$27,146,228
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	15,535,977	16,021,865	16,677,729	17,789,642
Federal Funds	5,302,128	6,293,214	6,218,344	6,958,291
Restricted Receipts	845,050	550,139	1,377,246	2,398,295
Total Expenditures	\$21,683,155	\$22,865,218	\$24,273,319	\$27,146,228
Program Measures				
Veterans' Home Compliance with Health Department Survey Standards				
	99.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Persons Completing the Veteran Transitional Supportive Program Securing Housing by the End of Six Months				
	79.0%	70.0%	75.0%	75.0%

The Program

Department of Human Services Health Care Quality, Financing and Purchasing

Program Operations

The objectives of the Health Care Quality, Financing and Purchasing (HCQFP) Program are: to assure the availability of high quality health care services to consumers; to assure the efficiency and economy of services delivered to program recipients by monitoring providers of services; to coordinate service-delivery efforts with other state departments and agencies; to purchase medically necessary services covered by the Medicaid State Plan; and, to administer programs in a manner consistent with federal and state laws and regulations. These services are provided to three population groups: families and children, individuals with disabilities, and the elderly.

DHS is the Single State Agency authorized by the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to administer the Medicaid program in Rhode Island. In this role, DHS supervises disbursements to a number of state agencies, as well as local school districts, for administrative and program activities in support of the Medicaid program.

The HCQFP Program operates a claims processing system, secures financial recoveries from third parties for claims liability, and conducts utilization review of inpatient and outpatient hospital services. To encourage the utilization of community-based services rather than institutional programs, HCQFP administers home and community-based waivers – both directly and through interagency agreements with the Departments of Elderly Affairs and Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals.

HCQFP also administers a demonstration waiver to provide health services to families through a managed care delivery system, RIte Care, and is responsible for administration of a Section 1115 SCHIP waiver amendment to the current managed care program in order to implement the provisions of Health Reform RI 2000. This assures that the program serves either persons without access to affordable employer-sponsored insurance, or maintains persons in employer-based insurance, if more cost-effective. HCQFP administers the Early Intervention Program for at risk children up to age three and processes the payments to the local education authorities for Medicaid reimbursement for administrative costs.

Program Objective

To purchase health care services for consumers at a reasonable cost, while assuring quality and access, and to administer the Medical Assistance Benefits Program activities in a manner consistent with federal and state laws and regulations.

Statutory History

Title XIX of the Federal Social Security Act was enacted by Congress under the provisions of Public Law 89-97. Title 40 Chapter 8 of the Rhode Island General Laws establishes the Rhode Island Medical Assistance Program. Title 40 Chapter 16 of the Rhode Island General Laws authorizes the Health Centers and Visiting Nurse Grant Program. Title 42 Chapter 12.3 and Title 40-6.2 of the Rhode Island General Laws authorizes the Department of Human Services to establish and administer both the RIte Care Program and health care for certain child care providers, and Section 23-13-22 of the Rhode General Laws authorizes the department to administer the Early Intervention Program.

The Budget

Department of Human Services Health Care Quality, Financing and Purchasing

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Revised	FY 2006 Recommended
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	40,774,249	39,767,157	49,199,465	48,881,949
Other State Operations	4,718,664	5,063,490	5,903,629	6,159,121
Aid To Local Units of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	14,471,720	16,667,265	18,777,933	18,696,303
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$59,964,633	\$61,497,912	\$73,881,027	\$73,737,373
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$59,964,633	\$61,497,912	\$73,881,027	\$73,737,373
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	23,147,207	24,373,329	28,792,529	29,546,874
Federal Funds	36,604,177	36,476,622	44,576,498	43,789,797
Restricted Receipts	213,249	647,961	512,000	400,702
Total Expenditures	\$59,964,633	\$61,497,912	\$73,881,027	\$73,737,373
Program Measures				
Length of Stay				
Average Length of Stay for:				
Pneumonia	6.3	7.1	5.9	5.9
Angina Pectoris	2.2	2.7	2.3	2.3
Alcohol Dependency	4.5	5.1	3.1	4.5
Chest Pain	4.2	3.1	3.0	3.1
Congestive Heart Failure	7.0	5.7	6.0	6.0
Depressive Disease	7.5	7.6	6.9	6.9
Chronic Airway Obstructive Disease	8.2	6.5	6.4	6.4
Abdominal Pain	4.8	4.4	4.4	4.4
Acute Pancreatitis	9.6	5.7	5.0	5.0
Recurrent Depression	9.9	9.6	9.5	9.5

The Program

Department of Human Services Medical Benefits

Program Operations

The Medical Benefits Program assures quality and access to necessary medical services for approximately 185,000 consumers through the purchase of health care at a reasonable cost, primarily financed by Medicaid. These services are provided to three population groups: families and children, individuals with disabilities, and the elderly. Medicaid is a federal and state matching entitlement program administered by states to provide medical benefits. The federal share of reimbursement, which is based on a state's per capita personal income, is 55.38 percent for federal fiscal year 2005 and 54.45 percent for federal fiscal year 2006.

DHS, in accordance with the federally-approved State Plan and a multitude of state and federal laws, specifies the scope of covered services, establishes fees for services and reimbursement rates for hospital and nursing facility services, adjudicates and pays claims for medical facility services, and adjudicates and pays claims for medical services submitted by providers. The Medical Benefits Program covers a broad scope of medical services provided to eligible individuals by service providers licensed by the Department of Health or other appropriate state or federal accrediting authority, and enrolled as service providers by the Medical Benefits Program.

The Medical Benefits Program provides health insurance to FIP families, children through age 18 with family incomes not in excess of 250 percent of the federal poverty limit and other low income families. Health care is provided to children with special needs under the Supplemental Security Income Program (SSI) or the Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) program. Acute and long-term care services are provided to adults with disabilities and the elderly. There are four home and community-based waiver programs administered directly by DHS or through the Departments of Elderly Affairs (DEA) and Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals. DHS, in cooperation with DEA and the Rhode Island Housing Mortgage and Financing Corporation (RIHMFC), is working to develop waivers for assisted living programs. A Section 1115 SCHIP waiver provides that families without access to employer-based insurance will have health insurance coverage, or be able to maintain their employer-sponsored insurance benefits, if more cost-effective. HCQFP administers the Early Intervention Program for at-risk children up to age three.

Program Objective

To assure the availability and accessibility of high quality health care services to program recipients.

Statutory History

Title XIX of the Social Security Act was enacted by Congress under the provision of Public Law 89-97 on July 30, 1965. The Rhode Island Medical Assistance Program was implemented under Title 40 Chapter 8 of the Rhode Island General Laws. Title 42 Chapter 12.3 and Title 40-6.2 of the Rhode Island General Laws authorized the Department of Human Services to establish and administer the Rite Care Program and health care for certain childcare providers. R.I.G.L. 23-13-22 authorizes the department to administer the Early Intervention Program.

The Budget

Department of Human Services Medical Benefits

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Revised	FY 2006 Recommended
Expenditures By Subprogram				
Hospitals	202,171,438	232,000,579	241,700,000	246,512,479
Nursing Facilities	260,799,967	291,981,426	299,400,000	307,724,401
Managed Care	282,620,596	328,511,599	389,347,046	440,329,940
Other Services	220,063,204	238,216,211	252,255,474	276,199,841
Special Education	35,141,686	33,119,199	35,000,000	38,500,000
Total Expenditures	\$1,000,796,891	\$1,123,829,014	\$1,217,702,520	\$1,309,266,661
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	-	-	-	-
Other State Operations	-	-	-	-
Aid To Local Units of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	1,000,796,891	1,123,829,014	1,217,702,520	1,309,266,661
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$1,000,796,891	\$1,123,829,014	\$1,217,702,520	\$1,309,266,661
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$1,000,796,891	\$1,123,829,014	\$1,217,702,520	\$1,309,266,661
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	441,321,562	468,076,529	542,250,868	593,945,377
Federal Funds	559,470,907	655,743,504	675,436,652	715,306,284
Restricted Receipts	4,422	8,981	15,000	15,000
Total Expenditures	\$1,000,796,891	\$1,123,829,014	\$1,217,702,520	\$1,309,266,661

Program Measures

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Admissions Per One Thousand Live Births	89.6	89.0	90.0	90.0
Number of Physician's Office Visits per Rite Care Enrollee	5.7	5.6	6.0	6.0
Number of Emergency Room Visits per 1,000 Rite Care Enrollees	400	398	350	350
Number of Hospital Days per 1,000 Rite Care Enrollees	400	451	400	400

The Program

Department of Human Services Supplemental Security Income Program

Program Operations

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Program provides a floor of income for aged, blind and disabled persons who have little or no income or other resources. The basic federal SSI Cash Assistance Grant, annually adjusted for inflation, is funded in full by the federal government. Because the federal payment leaves many recipients below the federal poverty level, certain states have chosen to provide a supplement to the federal benefit. This supplementary payment is financed with state funds. Persons eligible for SSI are also eligible, under specified criteria, for in-state moving expenses, and for needs resulting from an emergency of a catastrophic nature.

Since the inception of SSI in 1974, the program caseload has grown each year. This reflects an increase in the aging population, new and emerging disabilities, less stringent disability requirements, and increases in allowable resource limits.

Program Objective

To provide financial aid to individuals who are aged, blind, or disabled and who do not have sufficient resources to maintain a reasonable standard of health and well-being.

Statutory History

Title XVI of the Federal Social Security Act in 1974 created a federally administered Supplemental Security Income Program. This program replaced the assistance program previously administered by the State, which provided aid to aged, blind, and disabled Rhode Islanders. Title 40 Chapter 6 of the Rhode Island General Laws established the Supplemental Security Income Program.

The Budget

Department of Human Services Supplemental Security Income Program

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Revised	FY 2006 Recommended
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	-	-	-	-
Other State Operations	-	-	-	-
Aid To Local Units of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	27,156,848	26,560,554	27,763,088	28,517,520
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$27,156,848	\$26,560,554	\$27,763,088	\$28,517,520
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$27,156,848	\$26,560,554	\$27,763,088	\$28,517,520
 Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	27,156,848	26,560,554	27,763,088	28,517,520
Total Expenditures	\$27,156,848	\$26,560,554	\$27,763,088	\$28,517,520
 Program Measures				
	NS	NS	NS	NS

The Program

Department of Human Services Family Independence Program

Program Operations

The Family Independence Program (FIP) provides support, including child care, health care, and cash payments to needy children and their families, along with a strong emphasis on requiring families who receive cash assistance to prepare for, and achieve, employment. Long-term assistance was replaced with a transitional and time-limited support system. Having replaced the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program, FIP provides for greater flexibility to the State in eligibility criteria, client responsibility, and types of benefits and services provided. TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) is the corresponding federal block grant, which is a major revenue source for FIP.

The emphasis in FIP is to achieve gainful employment and self-sufficiency, with the ultimate outcome of strong, healthy families. FIP promotes work as the source of family income and has a lifetime limit of 60 months for the receipt of cash assistance for adults. Child care, health care, and other supportive services are an entitlement to those families pursuing economic independence. Enhanced financial incentives in the form of income allowances encourage families to increase earned income. FIP beneficiaries may participate in education and training during the first 24 months of their employment, followed by a requirement to engage in paid or unpaid work.

Under FIP, child care and health care are considered an essential component of the long-range plan to move clients from dependence to independence. An effective, seamless system of child care and health care for both cash assistance recipients and low income working families is a critical program element in the total mix of services which are necessary to foster independence.

Program Objectives

To provide assistance to clients to aid the transition to self-sufficiency.

Statutory History

The Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) Program, which was initiated in the 1930s as Title IV of the Social Security Act, is replaced by the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Title I of PRWORA. Child care funding is provided under Title VI of PRWORA. Title 40 Chapter 5.1 enacted the Rhode Island Family Independence Act (RI FIA).

The Budget

Department of Human Services Family Independence Program

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Revised	FY 2006 Recommended
Expenditures by Subprogram				
TANF/Family Independence Program	81,530,177	79,248,380	74,821,943	67,254,556
Child Care	75,370,954	80,527,398	81,348,560	78,859,876
Total Expenditures	\$156,901,131	159,775,778	\$156,170,503	\$146,114,432
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	-	-	-	-
Other State Operations	-	-	-	-
Aid To Local Units of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	156,901,131	159,775,778	156,170,503	146,114,432
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$156,901,131	\$159,775,778	\$156,170,503	\$146,114,432
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$156,901,131	\$159,775,778	\$156,170,503	\$146,114,432
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	65,559,379	72,056,535	73,322,109	63,214,033
Federal Funds	91,341,752	87,719,243	82,848,394	82,900,399
Total Expenditures	\$156,901,131	\$159,775,778	\$156,170,503	\$146,114,432
Program Measures				
Family Independence Program Families with Earned Income	22.0%	20.8%	21.0%	21.0%
Job Retention Rate For Family Independence Program Families No Longer Receiving Cash Assistance	66.0%	63.4%	63.4%	63.4%

The Program

Department of Human Services State Funded Programs

Program Operations

The program “State Funded Programs” is comprised of assistance programs with discrete appropriation lines described below.

The General Public Assistance (GPA) Program is designed to meet the health care needs of incapacitated and unemployable persons who are suffering from an illness, injury, or medical condition and do not qualify for other public assistance programs. The program provides for limited medical assistance, consisting of physician services and a limited formulary (list) of prescription medications. The program also funds burials for indigent persons. Limited cash assistance is available from two special contingency funds. Under state welfare reform statutes, two parent families who had received services from GPA became eligible under FIP.

The State Food Stamp Program was initiated in the FY 1998 Budget in order to respond to the termination of federal food stamp benefits for certain categories of legal immigrants who were in Rhode Island as of August 22, 1996. Federal eligibility for legal immigrants was restored in April, 2003, so the state funded program was ended by act of the Legislature.

Program Objectives

To provide for the medical needs for ill or disabled individuals who do not qualify for other federal programs, limited emergency cash assistance for individuals who experience extreme financial hardship, and, interim cash assistance for totally disabled individuals who are accepted for Title XIX Medical Assistance pending eligibility application for federal Social Security benefits.

Statutory History

Title 40 Chapter 6 of the Rhode Island General Laws (RIGL) established the General Public Assistance Program. R.I.G.L 40-6-8(d) established the State Food Stamp Program.

The Budget

Department of Human Services State Funded Programs

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Revised	FY 2006 Recommended
Expenditures by Subprogram				
Citizenship Participation	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
General Public Assistance	2,853,487	3,000,644	3,058,502	3,201,630
Food Stamps for Immigrants	1,340,314	1,195	-	-
Food Stamps - Benefits	67,022,322	72,582,664	75,827,580	78,493,921
Total Expenditures	\$71,266,123	\$75,634,503	\$78,936,082	\$81,745,551
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	63,805	57,676	-	-
Other State Operations	30	-	-	-
Aid To Local Units of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	71,202,288	75,576,827	78,936,082	81,745,551
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$71,266,123	\$75,634,503	\$78,936,082	\$81,745,551
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$71,266,123	\$75,634,503	\$78,936,082	\$81,745,551
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	4,227,947	3,023,449	3,023,502	3,166,630
Federal Funds	67,038,176	72,611,054	75,912,580	78,578,921
Total Expenditures	\$71,266,123	\$75,634,503	\$78,936,082	\$81,745,551
Program Measures	NS	NS	NS	NS