

HB 5026

Department of Human Services

HB 5026 is the budget bill for the Department of Human Services. DHS delivers a range of supports and services for children, families, seniors, and people with disabilities through a system of field offices and community partners.

The Human Services Subcommittee approved a budget of \$3.8 billion General Fund, \$12.4 billion total funds, and 9,399 positions; the total funds budget is 6.1% over the current budget; the General Fund budget is a \$634.5 million, or a 19.8% increase.

The budget continues core programs, adjusts for caseload changes, and adds new or expanded funding for some programs. Actions taken to reduce General Fund include reprioritizing spending through limited program reductions and taking advantage of federal or other revenue sources.

Key program elements and significant budget actions include:

- Adds 347 positions and \$176.1 million General Fund to Child Welfare; this is a 29.3% increase from the current biennium. The budget includes new case workers and other field staff; more child abuse hotline screeners; a team to recruit foster parents; statewide expansion and/or continuation of efforts supporting foster families; funding for caseworker legal representation; and an investment in therapeutic foster care. A \$4 million special purpose appropriation is created to help increase capacity for non-Medicaid in-home services.

- In Self Sufficiency, the budget reinvests \$40 million in federal TANF funds to cover caseload and other program costs, supports pilot projects in HB 2032, and helps stabilize housing. It also sets an overall Employment Related Day Care budget of \$179.8 million total funds, which is expected to serve an average of 8,230 families over the biennium.
- Within the Aging and People with Disabilities program, Oregon Project Independence is continued at current levels. Services offered by local Area Agencies on Aging are affected by reductions in program funds but the AAAs along with local APD offices do receive the equivalent of 143 positions to address workload. The budget also includes rate increases for community based care providers and adds agency staff to keep on top of facility inspections.
- To help increase wages of direct support professionals, the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities budget contains \$30 million General Fund (\$98.1 million total funds) to pay for provider rate increases; wages are expected to be as close as possible to \$15.00 per hour by the end of the biennium. Another investment helps pay for partial implementation of a new workload model for IDD case management work, including client needs assessments. The budget also includes funding to increase enhanced foster care and small group home capacity for IDD youth.

The budget report for this bill contains five budget notes requiring interim work and reporting. The agency's request for performance measure changes was approved; the related recommendation includes specific direction on addressing data and targets for newly authorized measures over the interim.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends HB 5026 be amended by the –1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.