

House Bill 1012

House Appropriations | Human Resources Division
Representative Jon Nelson, Chairman

Economic Assistance

Connecting people to resources that help meet basic needs

NORTH
Dakota | Human Services
Be Legendary.™

DHS 2021-2025 KEY PRIORITIES



Strong Stable Families

- Maintain family connections
- Improve stability and prevent crises
- Promote and support recovery and well-being



Early Childhood Experiences

- Support workforce needs with improved access to childcare
- Help kids realize their potential with top quality early experiences
- Align programs for maximum return on investment



Services Closer to Home

- Create pathways that help people access the right service at the right time
- Engage proactively with providers to expand access to services



Efficiency Through Redesign

- Embrace process redesign to find efficiencies in our work
- Leverage technology to support greater efficiency, quality and customer service



High-Performing Team

- Develop a One DHS Team culture
- Engage team with opportunities for learning and development
- Implement fiscal scorecard to drive efficiency and effectiveness

Reinforce the Foundations of Well-being

Economic Health | Behavioral Health | Physical Health

They are thread running through every person's life

Foundations of Wellbeing are Interconnected



Economic Health

Having the resources you need to meet basic needs contributes to stability and is a foundation you can build on



Behavioral Health

Having good mental health and a healthy relationship with substances boosts your ability to weather life's storms



Physical Health

When you are in good physical health you can better navigate the activities of daily and community life

The stability that comes from good **economic** health can **improve behavioral** health.
The stability that comes from good **physical** and **behavioral** health **enables economic** health.

ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Program Purpose

The Economic Assistance team **helps** lower income **North Dakotans** when they **are struggling to make ends meet** by **connecting** them to **resources** that can **help meet** their **basic needs, preventing** greater and more damaging **crises**.



ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Federal Programs



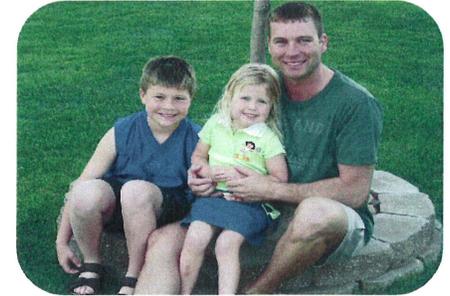
Child Care Assistance
Program (CCAP)



Low-Income Home
Energy Assistance
Program (LIHEAP)



Supplemental Nutrition
Assistance Program
(SNAP)



Temporary Assistance
for Needy Families
(TANF) Program

ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

What We Do

Program Administration

- Federal Compliance
- State Plan
- State Law & Administrative Rules
- Federal Reporting
- Federal & State Agreements

Eligibility System Support

- Program and Policy Support
- Training
- Benefit Issuance
- Integrated Eligibility System Development and Maintenance

Program Integrity and Performance

- Program Monitoring
- Federal and State Quality Reviews
- Federal and State Audits
- Performance Improvement

Connecting North Dakotans to economic assistance is a partnership

The state and Human Service Zones work together to deliver help to low and moderate-income families

Contact Human Service Zone

The local applicant can contact their human service zone directly or they can simply apply online.

Determine eligibility

An eligibility worker will review the information, reach out if needed, and make a determination of eligibility.



Person decides to apply

Making ends meet is getting more difficult every month so the applicant makes the decision to reach out for help.

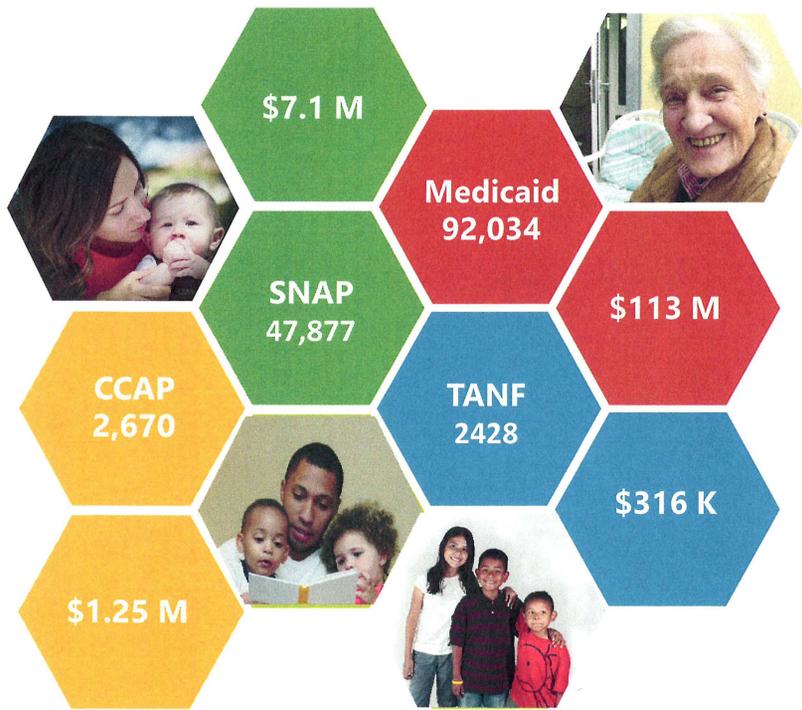
Gather information

The applicant can enter as much info as they can in the SPACES self-service portal.

Issue benefits

If the applicant is eligible to receive assistance, the state will issue the benefit in the appropriate manner.

140,000 - 150,000 North Dakotans utilize SPACES to access economic assistance in North Dakota each year



Average Monthly Individuals/Benefits (FY20)



119,763 people in 68,287 households have a Medicaid record in SPACES



73,262 people in 34,795 households have a SNAP record in SPACES

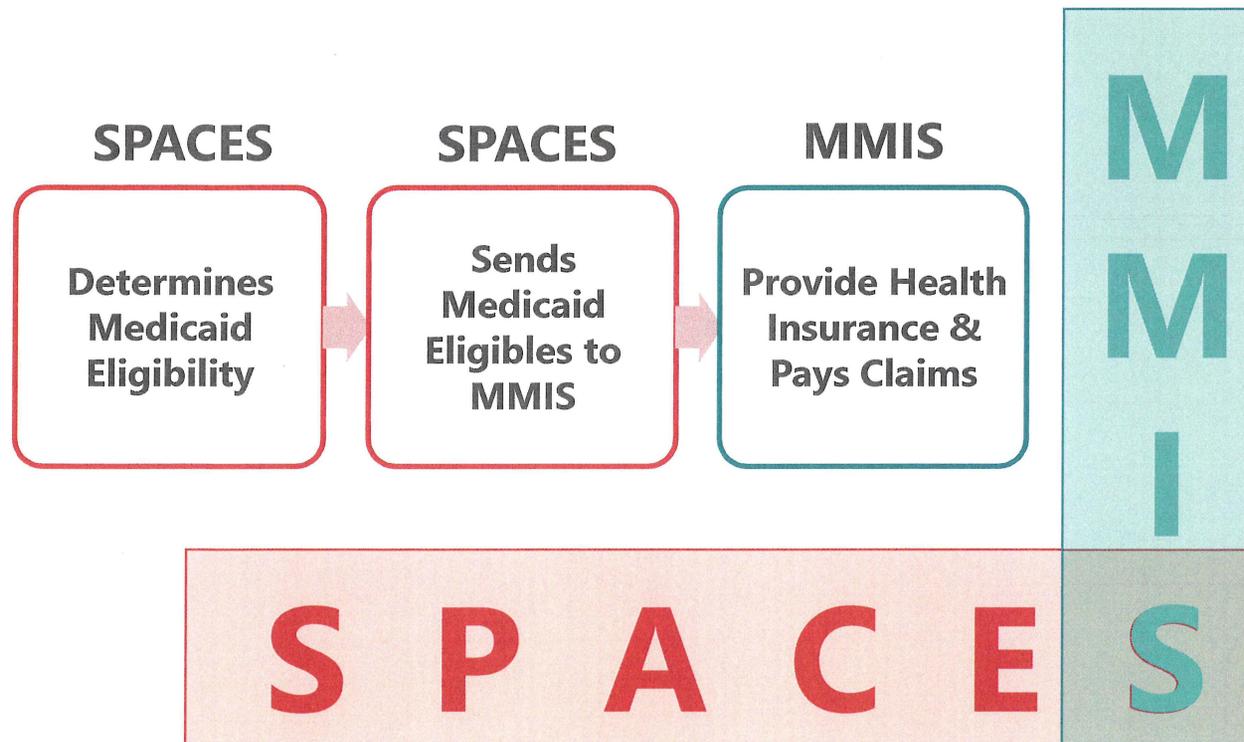


5,124 people in 1,981 households have a TANF record in SPACES



4,946 people in 2,960 households have a CCAP record in SPACES

Two major technology platforms work together to connect low-income North Dakotans to resources



SPACES interfaces with more than 50 systems, including:

- Child Support
- Social Security
- Vital Records
- IRS
- EBT & EPC Systems
- ND PeopleSoft

145,000

North Dakotans

\$1,472,000,000

Economic Assistance

1993

ND DHS leadership begins looking for a way to integrate 5 separate eligibility systems into 1

2013

ND IT began development of the SPACES platform; Deloitte started leading dev in 2015

2016

SPACES Release 1 went live February 2016, bringing 66,000 ACA Medicaid cases online

2019

SPACES Release 2 went live March 2019, bringing 109,000 TANF, SNAP and CCAP cases online

2020

SPACES Release 3 went live Aug 2020, bringing 24,000 Non-ACA MA cases online

2021

SPACES Release 4 scheduled to go live Aug 2021, bringing 13,000 LIHEAP cases online

SPACES Implementation

A 5 year phased deployment of ND's new integrated eligibility platform

ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

State Median Income for ND households 2020

Many federal assistance programs are designed to help individuals and families who earn less than 60% of State median income (SMI).

60% SMI is roughly equivalent to 200% of the federal poverty level.

Household Size	30% SMI		60% SMI		100% SMI	
	Annual Income	Hourly Wage	Annual Income	Hourly Wage	Annual Income	Hourly Wage
1	\$ 15,720	\$ 7.56	\$ 31,440	\$ 15.12	\$ 52,400	\$ 25.19
2	\$ 20,562	\$ 9.89	\$ 41,124	\$ 19.77	\$ 68,540	\$ 32.95
3	\$ 25,398	\$ 12.21	\$ 50,796	\$ 24.42	\$ 84,660	\$ 40.70
4	\$ 30,234	\$ 14.54	\$ 60,468	\$ 29.07	\$ 100,780	\$ 48.45
5	\$ 35,070	\$ 16.86	\$ 70,140	\$ 33.72	\$ 116,900	\$ 56.20
6	\$ 39,912	\$ 19.19	\$ 79,824	\$ 38.38	\$ 133,040	\$ 63.96
7	\$ 40,818	\$ 19.62	\$ 81,636	\$ 39.25	\$ 136,060	\$ 65.41
8	\$ 41,724	\$ 20.06	\$ 83,448	\$ 40.12	\$ 139,080	\$ 66.87

Hourly wage based on assumption of 2,080 hours of work / year (full time equivalent)

EVERY OCCUPATION HAS A DIFFERENT EARNING PROFILE, WHICH HELPS US UNDERSTAND WHO MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE

Sampling of occupations by average wage (2019)



Less than \$12 / hr	\$12 - \$20 / hour	\$20 - \$28 / hour	\$28 - \$35 / hour
Waiter/Waitress	Pharmacy tech	Carpenter	School counselor
Child care worker	Home health	Loan processor	Rotary drill oper
Dishwasher	PT assistant	Legal secretary	HR specialist
Bartender	Hair stylist	Correctional officers	Accountant
Cafeteria worker	Retail	Auto service tech	Real Estate Sales
Short order cook	Farmworker	Surgical tech	PR specialist
Cashiers	Restaurant cook	Roofer	Counselor
Clerical assistant	Data entry	Lic Practical Nurse	Registered Nurse
Personal care aide	EMTs & paramedics	Dental assistant	Computer network specialist
	Carpet installers	Firefighter	Construction supervisor
	Maintenance workers	Surgical assistant	Dental hygienist
	Nursing assistant	Clergy	Architecture occ
	Laborer	Social worker	Speech pathologist
	Substitute teacher	Police	
	Office/accounting clerk	Hotel manager	
	Light truck driver	Roustabout	
	Extraction helper	Heavy truck driver	

ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

CCAP helps pay a portion of the **cost of childcare** for working families or families in training or education programs.

Families can earn up to **60% of state median income** and be eligible for assistance.



ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

2,780

Average number of children served per month

\$15.6 million

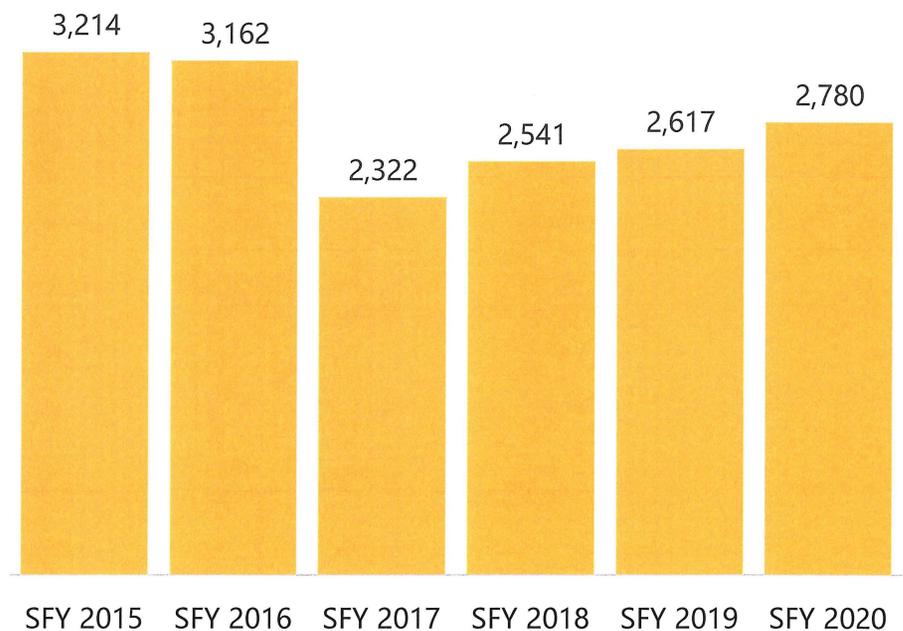
Support to families

\$466

Average payment per child per month

SFY2020

Average number of children served per month

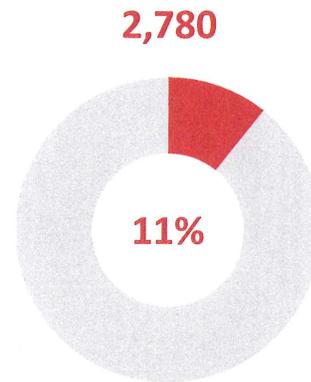


ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Child Care Assistance

73%

Parents in workforce
73% of the 44,237 North Dakota households who have children younger than age 5 likely have at least some need for child care as all available parents are in the workforce



1 in 10 eligible children
26,000 ND children age 13 or younger live in households where parent earnings are less than 200% of the federal poverty level. 2,780 children (**11% of potentially eligible**) are **currently served** by CCAP in our state.

40,769

7% receive CCAP
1,500+ approved child care providers are licensed to serve 40,769 children each year. In 2020, an average of 2,780 of those licensed slots served children who received assistance

ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

LIHEAP helps households with **home heating costs** by paying a portion of their heating bills, and with **improving** their home's overall **energy efficiency**.

Families can earn up to **60% of state median income** and be eligible for assistance.



ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

12,785

Households served last heating season

\$12 million

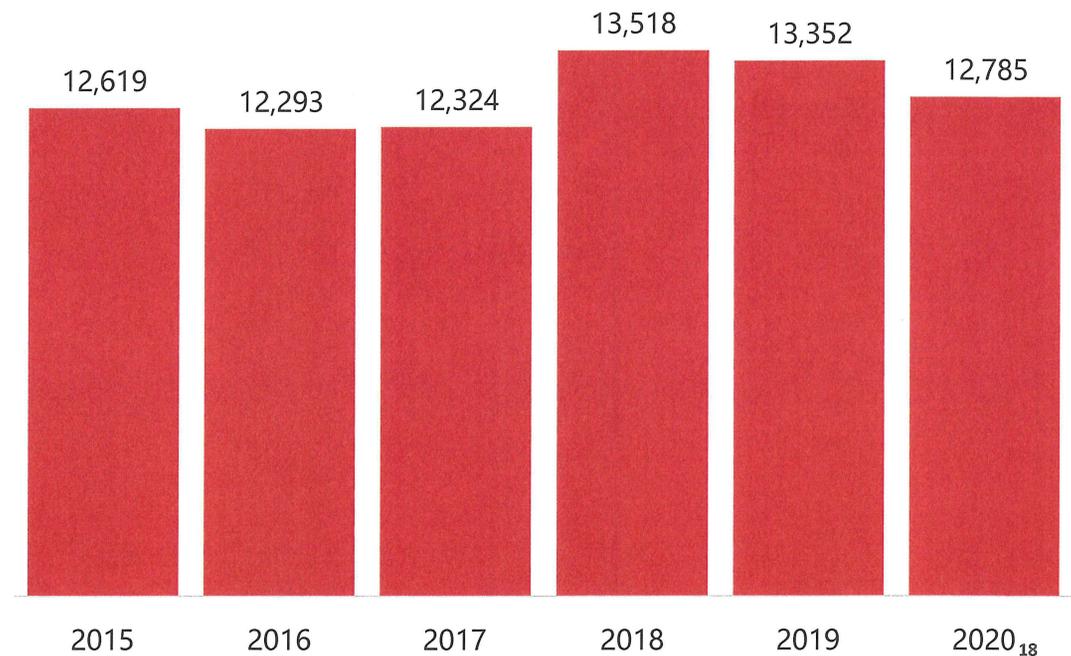
Support to households

\$930

Average payment per household per heating season

SFY2020

Average Households served per Heating Season (Oct-May)



ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of lower income families so they can purchase healthy food and move towards self-sufficiency

Families can earn up to **60% of state median income** and be eligible for assistance.



ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

520

SNAP is a partnership

520 retailers in North Dakota are authorized to accept SNAP payments from eligible households

\$1.00 → \$1.54

Local economies benefit

Beyond helping families gain access to nutritious food, SNAP offers local economic benefits as well. Each \$1.00 in SNAP generates \$1.54 in local economic activity.

1/3

Boosting family food budgets

SNAP provides nutrition assistance to people of all ages and circumstances.

36% - children under 18

35% - aged or disabled

35% - have earned income

ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

48,323

Average number of individuals in served in 23,178 households

\$78 million

Support to households

\$280

Average payment per household per month

SFY2020

Average households served per month



Sample Menus for USDA Food Plans which serve as the basis for SNAP benefits

Food Plan / Meal	Avg Cost / month	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
Thrifty	Family of 2: \$398.70 Family of 4: \$668.50	Orange Juice Cereal Milk Toast	Peanut butter sandwich Carrot/celery sticks Applesauce	Baked beans and frankfurters Hash browns Carrots Bread Cookies
Low-Cost	Family of 2: \$511.70 Family of 4: \$880.40	Orange Juice Cereal Milk Coffee Cake	Grilled cheese sandwich Green beans Peaches Cookies	Roast beef Quartered potatoes Onions, Carrots, Spinach Roll Ice cream
Moderate-Cost	Family of 2: \$634.70 Family of 4: \$1,100.30	Orange Juice Scrambled eggs English muffin Jam	Bologna/cheese sandwich Assorted relish tray Pickles Apples Cookies	Baked ham Scalloped potatoes Green beans Lettuce salad Hot roll Cake
Liberal	Family of 2: \$792.80 Family of 4: \$1,332.40	Grapefruit halves Bacon French Toast Syrup	Assorted cold cuts & sliced cheeses Relish tray Buttered bread Potato chips, French onion dip Pickles	Baked ham Potatoes au gratin Broccoli Tomatoes & mixed green salad Assorted fresh fruits Hot biscuits Cake with ice cream

ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

TANF provides assistance to needy families with children who are deprived of parental support or care.

Which means that a parent is absent due to divorce, separation, death or one or both parents are aged or disabled.



ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

945

Average number of families served per month

81%

Of beneficiaries are children

52%

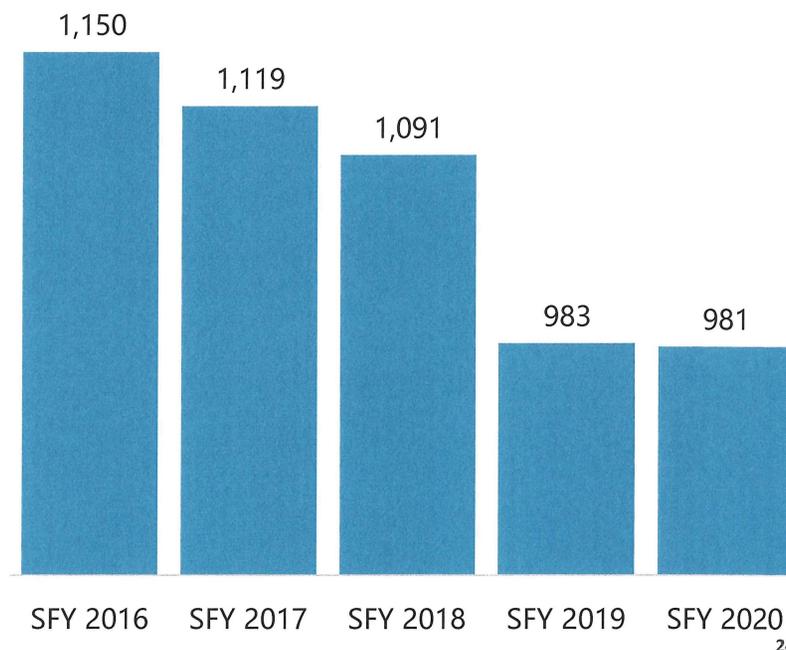
Of ND TANF cases are child only cases (children in the care of a non legally responsible caretaker)

\$297

Average benefit per family per month

SFY2020

Average households served per month



ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

Alternatives to Abortion

Reimbursements to organizations that deliver alternative services and education to the public.

Crossroads

Case management and support service payments to qualified teen parents who are pursuing an education.

TANF Funded Programs

Kinship Care

Alternative to foster care for children living with a relative and in the care, custody and control of a Human Service Zone, Division of Juvenile Services, or a tribal agency within ND.

Parental Responsibility Initiative for the Development of Employment (PRIDE)

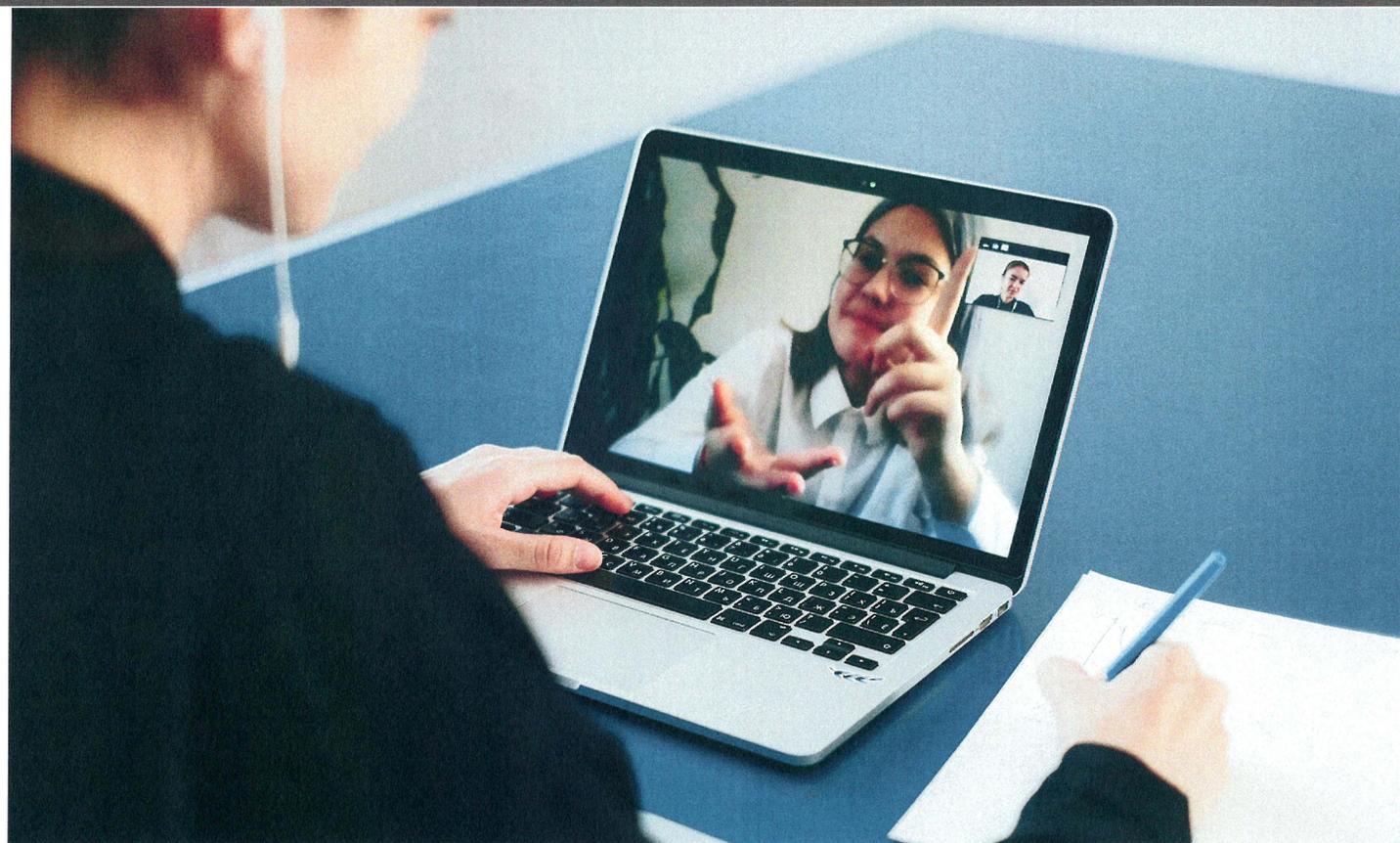
Case management and support service payments to address nonpayment of child support by noncustodial parents.

ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

COVID 19 Program Administration and Service Delivery

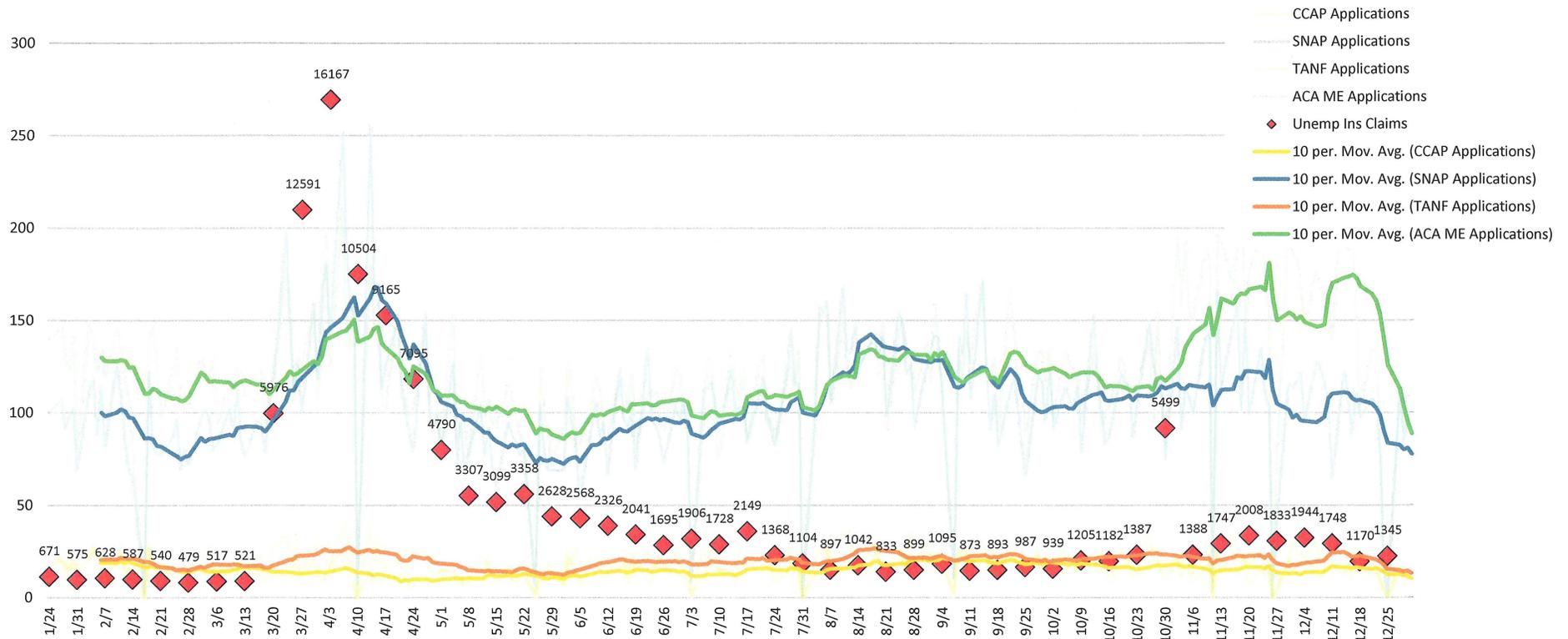
To ensure the health and safety of the individuals we serve along with Human Service Zone staff the following measures were implemented:

- Waiver of face-to-face interview requirement
- Mail issuance of EBT Cards
- Waived mandatory work requirements



ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS DURING 2020

Daily applications remained above pre-COVID levels throughout 2020 with peaks in April, August and November/December



ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

COVID 19 - Emergency Food and Energy Assistance

Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)

- Issued SNAP benefits to children eligible for free or reduced-price school meals who did not receive those meals due to school closure.
- Delivered info to families in partnership with DPI.
- Approximately 36,750 children received \$9.5 million in SNAP benefits due to COVID school closure March-May 2020.

\$9.5 million

SNAP Emergency Assistance

- Provides the maximum SNAP benefit to all SNAP eligible household starting in March 2020.
- An average of 15,000 households receive \$2.6 million in additional benefits per month.
- Optional program benefit is authorized each month by USDA FNS.

\$26 million

Pandemic LIHEAP (P-LIHEAP)

- Provided one-time help with the cost of electric utility bills for qualifying households.
- Payments were issued directly to participants' electric utility providers.
- Assistance available to households eligible in 2019-20 heating season
- Assisted 6,500 households as of 12-31-20

\$3 million

ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

COVID 19 - Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

- Allowed for more than 40 absence hours per month due to illness, quarantine and provider closures
- Allowed families to maintain eligibility as they were seeking employment (both at application and re-review)
- Extended payment request deadlines and aligned with Child Care Emergency Operating Grant (CEOG)



ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

COVID 19 - SNAP Enhancement Grants

Grant program to help ND grocers update their point-of-sale systems and websites to enable online and by-phone ordering and delivery, improving access to food for both SNAP beneficiaries and community residents

Through Dec 2020 assisted grocery stores with system upgrades in:

- Minot
- Ruthville
- Mohall
- Newtown
- Michigan
- Scranton



ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

COVID 19 - Emergency Rent Bridge (ERB)

1,410

Rental assistance to 1,500 households in 33 counties

\$520

Average amount of rental assistance per household per month

\$2.9 million

Total CRF funds distributed through 12-31 for ERB, paid to 486 housing providers



FEDERAL FUNDS TO BECOME AVAILABLE FOR COVID RESPONSE

Pandemic Relief Bill signed 12-30-21

Child Care

Child Care Assistance Program through (CCDBG via ACF/HHS)

Housing

Rental Assistance (US Treasury)

Low Income Water Utility Assistance (ACF/HHS)

Food Assistance

P-EBT (for families eligible for free or reduced lunch in school) (SNAP via FNS/USDA)

Enhanced SNAP benefit eligibility (SNAP via FNS/USDA)

Senior Meals (OAA via ACL/HHS)

Behavioral Health

Mental Health Grants (SAMHSA)

Aging Services

Supportive services (OAA via ACL/HHS)

OVERVIEW OF BUDGET CHANGES

Description	2019-2021 Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	2021-2023 Executive Budget
Salary and Wages	6,777,828	750,224	7,528,052
Operating	10,183,362	(129,940)	10,053,422
Grants	242,885,074	14,531,536	257,416,610
Total	259,846,264	15,151,820	274,998,084
General Fund	8,605,617	3,256,938	11,862,555
Federal Funds	231,997,094	11,701,119	243,698,213
Other Funds	19,243,553	193,764	19,437,317
Total	259,846,264	15,151,820	274,998,084
Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	39.80	0.0	39.80

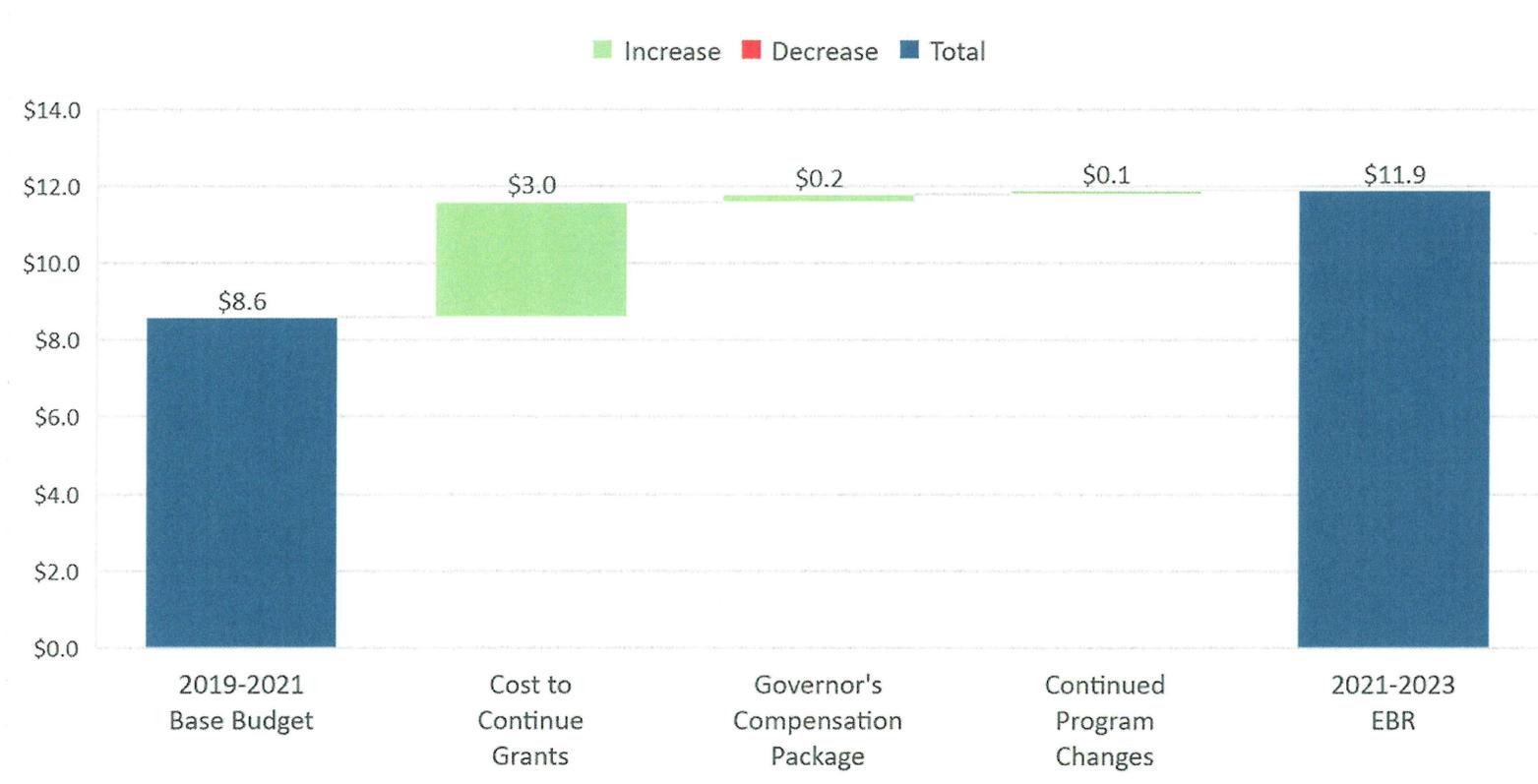
OVERVIEW OF BUDGET CHANGES (IN MILLIONS)



Continued Program Costs

- Emergency Rent Bridge \$3.5 million (Dept of Commerce / DCS HUD funds)
- Other cost changes \$0.1 million

GENERAL FUND CHANGES (IN MILLIONS)



GRANT CHANGES

North Dakota Department of Human Services

Changes in Economic Assistance (EA) Program Grants from 2019-2021 Appropriation to 2021-2023 Executive Budget To House

Description	2019-2021 Appropriation	Continued Program Changes	Costs to Continue	Total Changes	Executive Budget Changes	2021-2023 Budget to House
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	\$7,623,000		(\$7,800)	(\$7,800)		\$7,615,200
Child Care Assistance	\$27,787,643		\$6,923,232	\$6,923,232		\$34,710,875
Kinship Care	\$2,990,000		(\$200)	(\$200)		\$2,989,800
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) - Benefits	\$165,240,000		\$2,760,000	\$2,760,000		\$168,000,000
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)	\$25,728,145		\$1,660,010	\$1,660,010		\$27,388,155
Total EA Program	\$229,368,788		\$11,335,242	\$11,335,242	\$0	\$240,704,030
General Fund	\$5,655,480	\$0	\$2,952,453	\$2,952,453	\$0	\$8,607,933

Also included in the grants line are other Economic Assistance Program grants for which cost and caseload data is not computed. These grants include:

TANF Transportation and Support Services	\$2,224,400	(\$613,170)		(\$613,170)		\$1,611,230
SNAP Training, Outreach, and Nutrition Education Grants	\$2,504,114	\$369,464		\$369,464		\$2,873,578
LIHEAP Weatherization, Outreach, and Case Management	\$8,787,772	(\$60,000)		(\$60,000)		\$8,727,772
Emergency Rent Bridge		\$3,500,000		\$3,500,000		\$3,500,000
Total Other Grants	\$13,516,286	\$3,196,294		\$3,196,294		\$16,712,580
General Fund	\$56,239	(\$22,639)		(\$22,639)		\$33,600

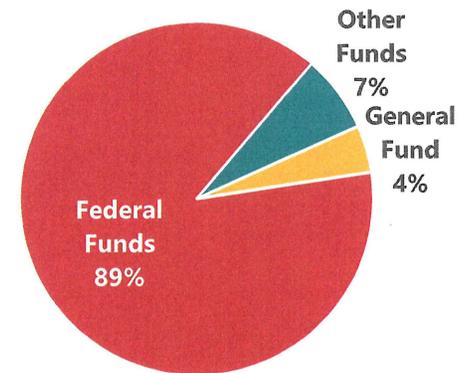
Total EA Grants	\$242,885,074	\$3,196,294	\$11,335,242	\$14,531,536	\$0	\$257,416,610
General Fund	\$5,711,719	(\$22,639)	\$2,952,453	\$2,929,814	\$0	\$8,641,533

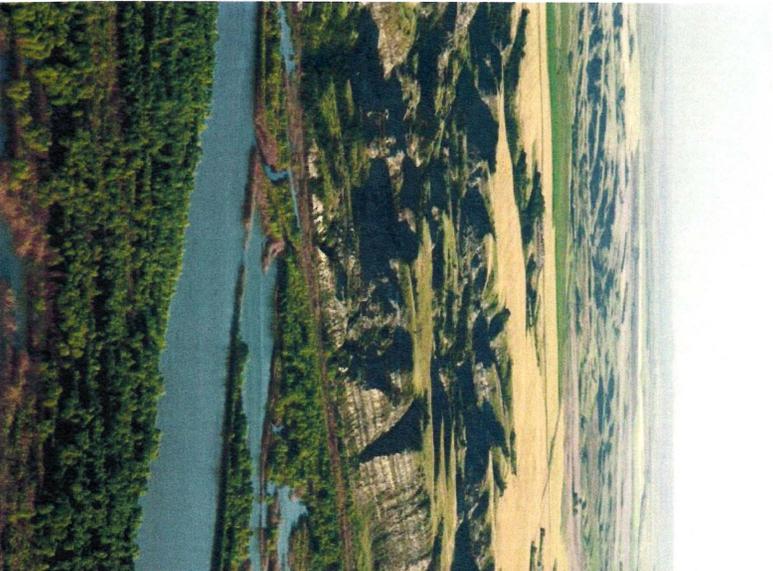


EA Budget Summary

No change in FTEs; \$15.1 million increase in total budget (77% from federal funding)

- Complete the integration of LIHEAP into integrated eligibility platform
- Finish converting cases from legacy mainframe systems to SPACES
- Administer federal COVID relief funds for low and moderate-income households
- Integrate department's housing assistance initiatives into the administration of economic assistance resources

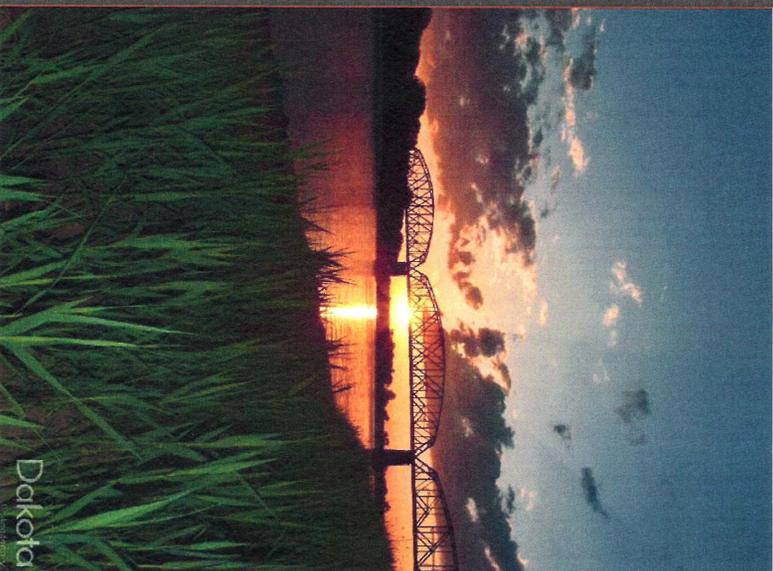




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