



Senate Bill 2012

House Appropriations Committee | HR Section

Representation Nelson, Chairman

Disability Determination Services | Sheri Seil, Director | March 9, 2023



Health & Human Services



Who we serve

The Disability Determination Section delivers disability determinations to those applying for Social Security Disability Benefits

About Disability Determination Services

The Social Security disability program provides Social Security Disability Insurance (**SSDI**) and/or Supplemental Security Income (**SSI**) benefits to persons with disabilities who are unable to work

100% federally funded

of disability decisions is determined by Social Security Admin (SSA)

Staff make medical disability determinations using SSA guidelines

3 main claim levels:

- Initial claims
- Reconsideration claims
- Continuing Disability Reviews

Disability Determination Services Section

Making disability determinations collaborating with Social Security, medical providers and claimants across the state, using 100% federal funds

Dept of Health and Human Services

DDS staff and contracted medical consultants review claims for medical evidence to make the disability determination

Social Security Administration

- Receives and reviews disability applications for benefit eligibility, sends to DDS to make the disability determination
- Handles the notification and appeals process for claimants
- Handles payment processes for those found disabled

Medical providers

- Provide medical records for claimants to assist in the determination process
- Provide consultative examination services for those who need further medical evidence for the determination process

Claimants

Assist in the disability determination process by providing their medical source information, completing forms and attending consultative examinations

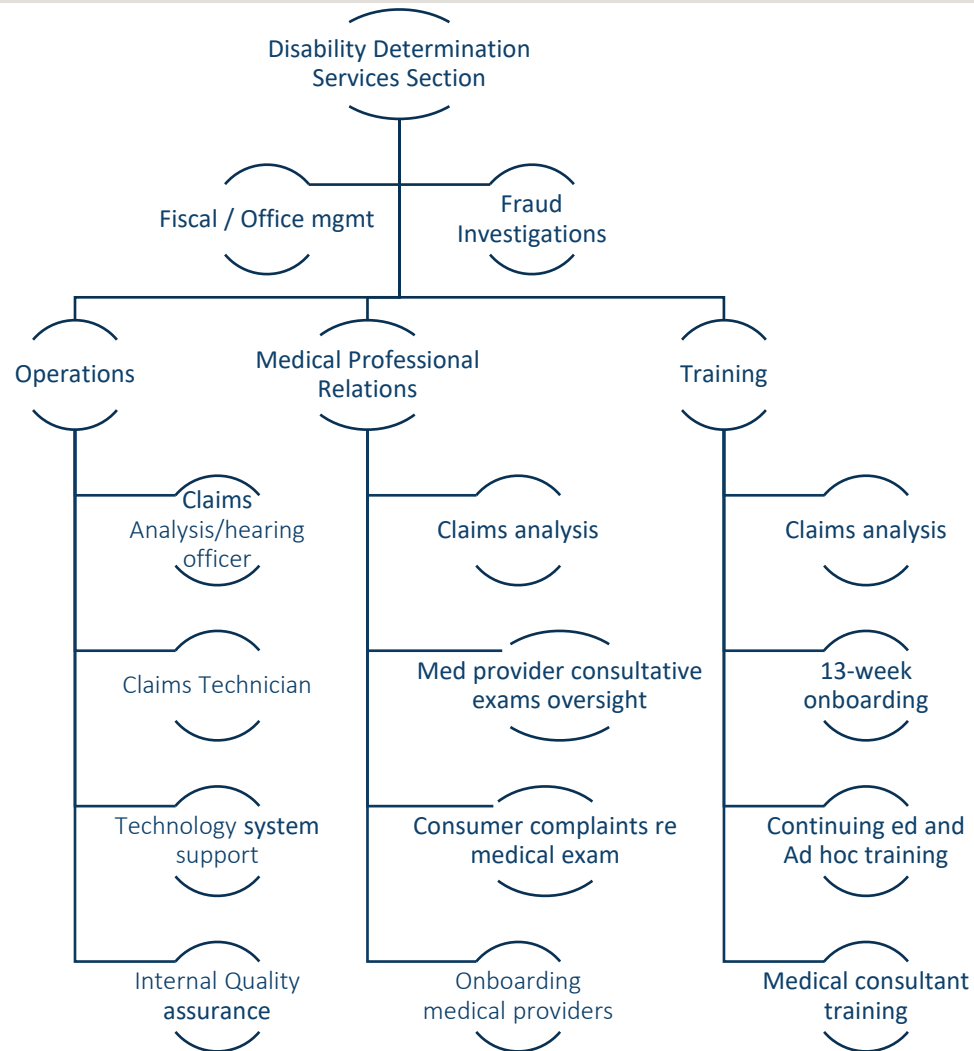
Disability Determination Services: Staffing and Team Structure

The Disability Determination Section delivers disability determinations to those applying for Social Security Disability Benefits.

Disability Determination Services

21-23 Authorized FTE Base	23-25 Executive Budget FTE	12-31-22 Vacancies
23.0	23.0	3.0

Avg Age	Avg Yrs of Service	Turnover 2021	Turnover 2022
47	12	10%	15%



About DDS Contracts

- DDS currently holds 6 contracts with medical consultants
- Most are retired from private practice
- Key part of the determination process by providing medical expertise to the DDS team members on claims

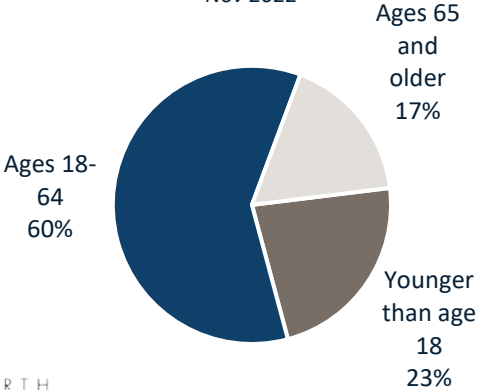


Who benefits from the Social Security Disability programs?

SSI

“To be eligible for SSI, beneficiaries must have low incomes, limited assets, and either be age 65 or older or have an impaired ability to work at a substantial gainful level as a result of significant disability.”

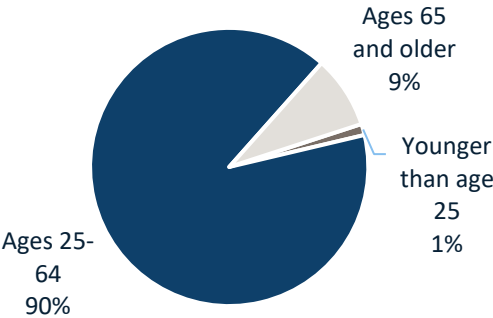
SSI beneficiaries in U.S.
Nov 2022



SSDI

“Unlike SSI, there are no income or asset limits for SSDI eligibility. Instead, to qualify for SSDI, enrollees must have a sufficient work history (generally, 40 quarters) and meet the strict federal disability rules.”

SSDI beneficiaries in U.S.
Nov 2022



Source: <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/supplemental-security-income-for-people-with-disabilities-implications-for-medicaid/>



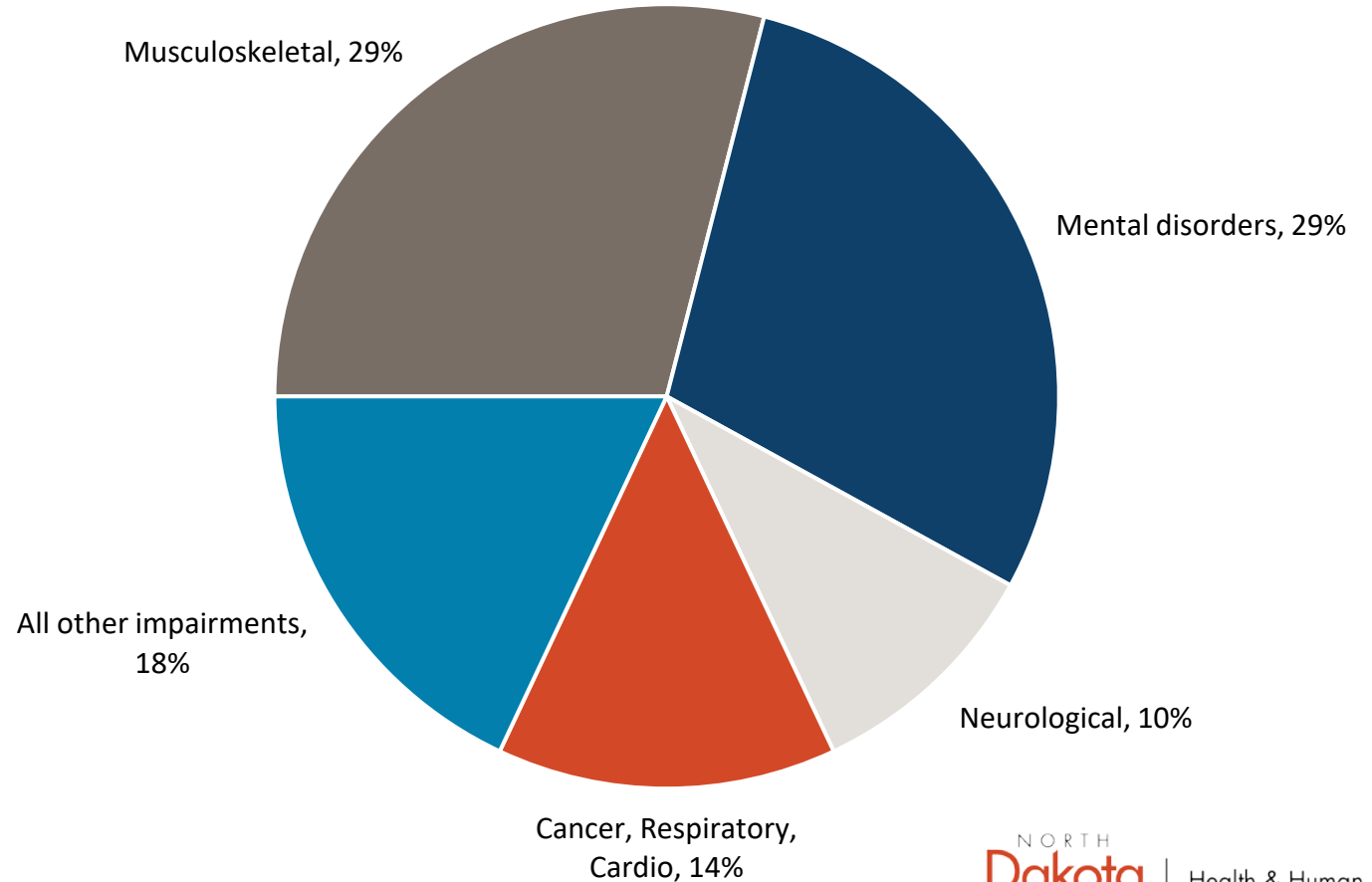
Primary reason (by body system) for initial claims for SSDI/SSI

North Dakota snapshot federal fiscal year 2022

- “The Listing of Impairments describes, for each major body system, impairments considered severe enough to prevent an individual from doing any gainful activity (or in the case of children under age 18 applying for SSI, severe enough to cause marked and severe functional limitations).
- “Most of the listed impairments are permanent or expected to result in death, or the listing includes a specific statement of duration.
- “For all other listings, the evidence must show that the impairment has lasted or is expected to last for a continuous period of at least 12 months.

Source:

<https://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/listing-impairments.htm>



Improving the lives of North Dakotans

Social Security benefits provide an important source of income for disabled North Dakotans

SSI

\$560

Average monthly payment

\$4.1 million

Total monthly SSI benefits to
North Dakotans

SSDI

\$1,159

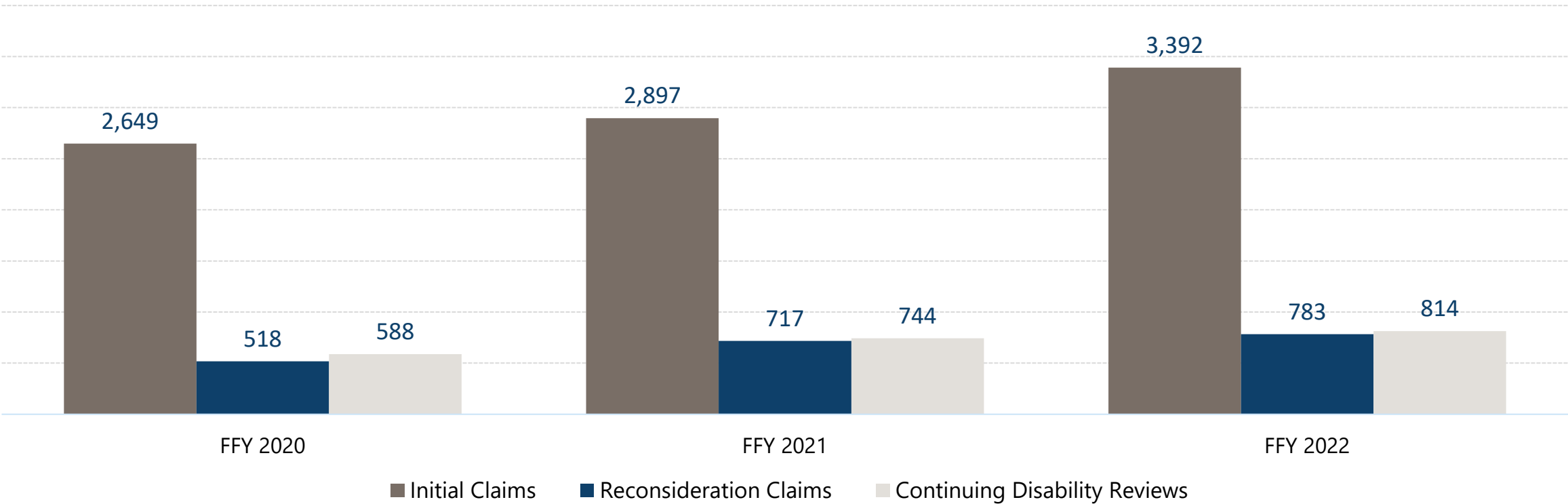
Average monthly payment

\$18.25 million

Total monthly SSDI benefits
to North Dakotans

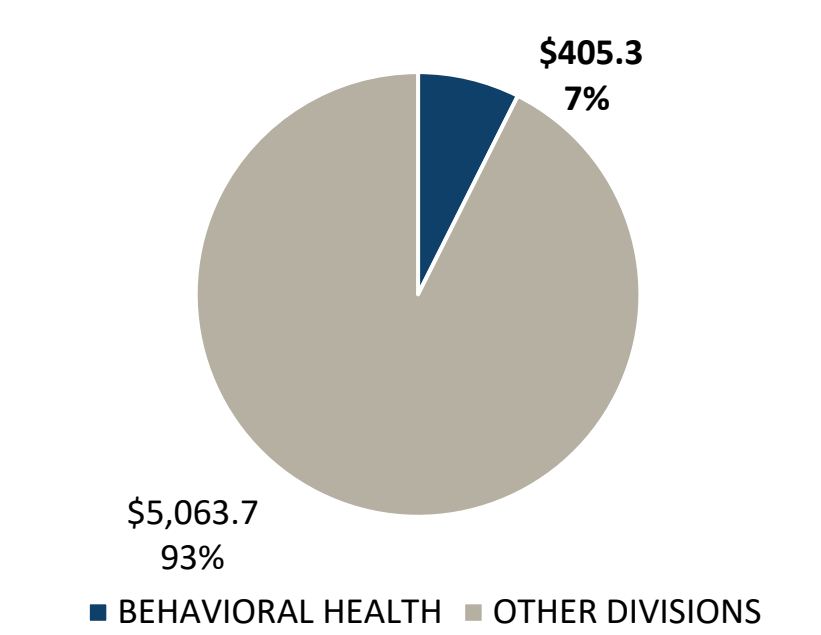
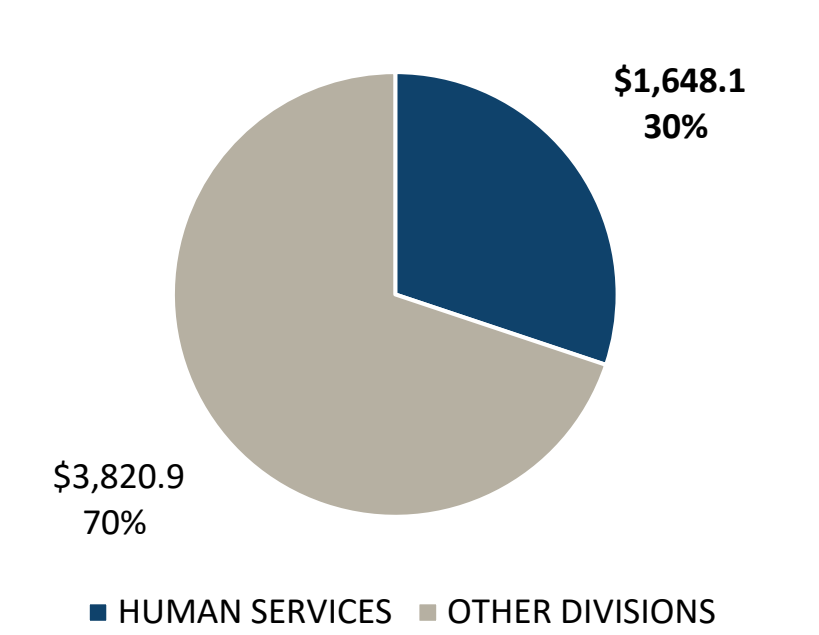
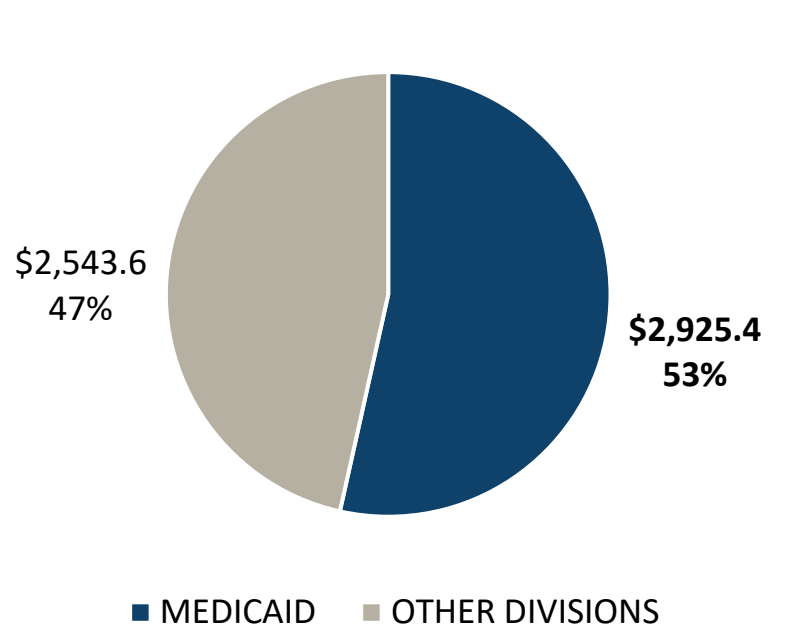


Initial claims decisions for SSDI/SSI disability determination increased by 26% from FY 20 to FY22



Division budgets compared to Engrossed SB 2012

2023-2025 Engrossed SB 2012 in millions

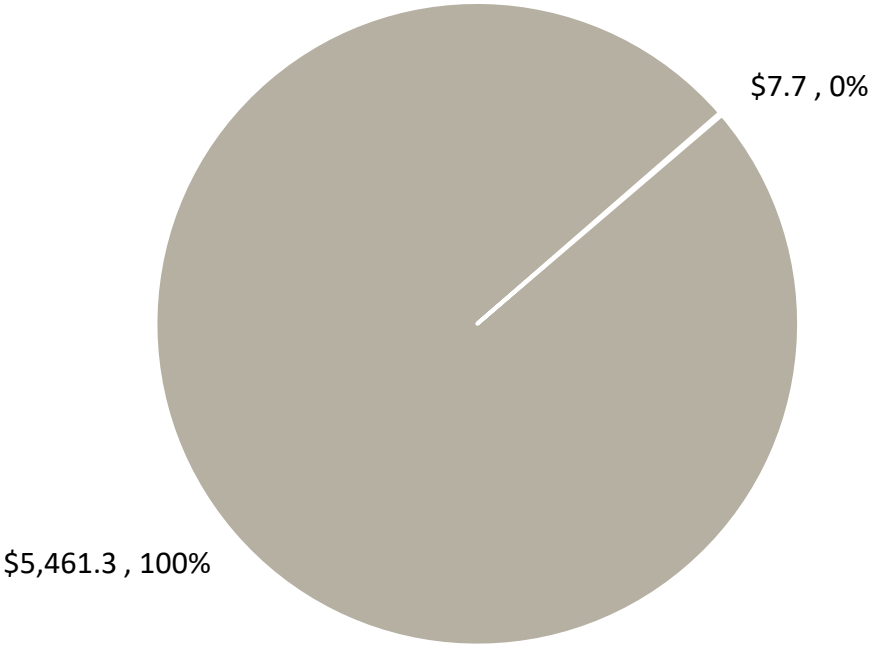


Section budget compared to Engrossed SB 2012 (in millions)

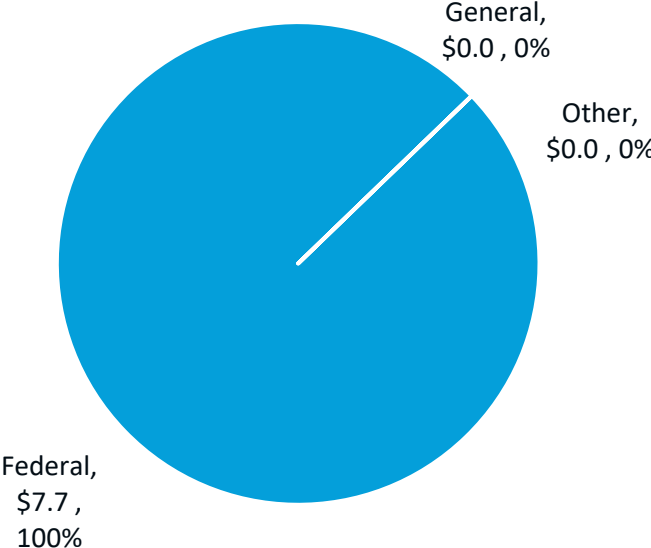
DDS section represents 0% of SB 2012, \$7.7 million

2023-2025 Engrossed SB 2012

■ DISABILITY DETERMINATION SERVICES ■ OTHER SECTIONS



Disability Determination Services Budget by Source



Comparison of 2023-2025 budgets and related funding

By major expense

Description	2023 - 2025 Budget Base	Increase / (Decrease)	2023 - 2025 Executive Budget	Increase / (Decrease)	Engrossed SB 2012
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 4,111,333	\$ 471,085	\$ 4,582,418	\$ (88,015)	\$ 4,494,403
Operating	1,364,526	171,112	1,535,638	-	1,535,638
IT Services	3,500	-	3,500	-	3,500
Capital Asset Expense	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Assets	-	-	-	-	-
Grants	1,650,000	-	1,650,000	-	1,650,000
Total	\$ 7,129,359	\$ 642,197	\$ 7,771,556	\$ (88,015)	\$ 7,683,541

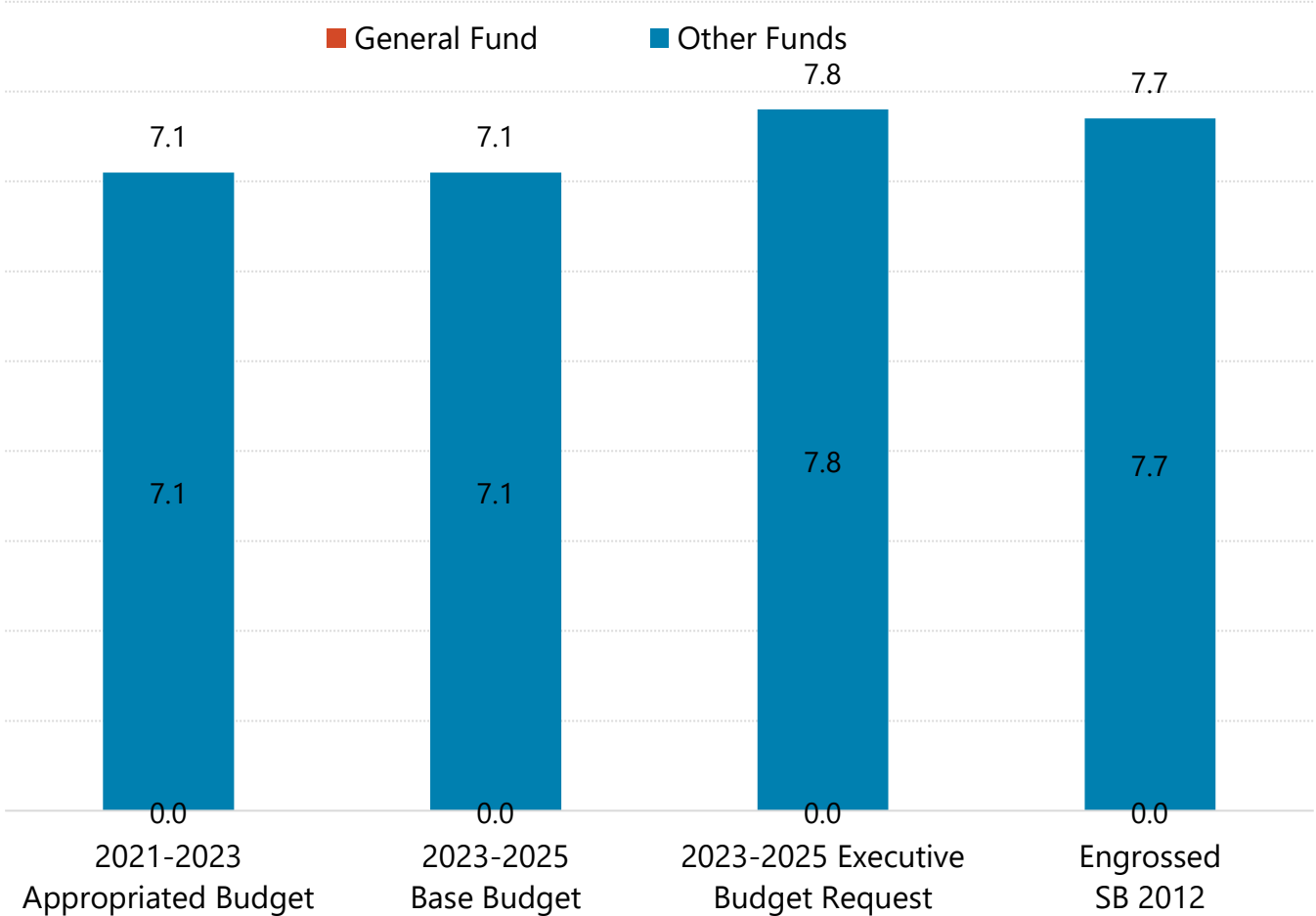
General Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Federal Funds	7,129,359	642,197	7,771,556	(88,015)	7,683,541
Other Funds	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funds	\$ 7,129,359	\$ 642,197	\$ 7,771,556	\$ (88,015)	\$ 7,683,541

Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	23.00	-	23.00	-	23.00
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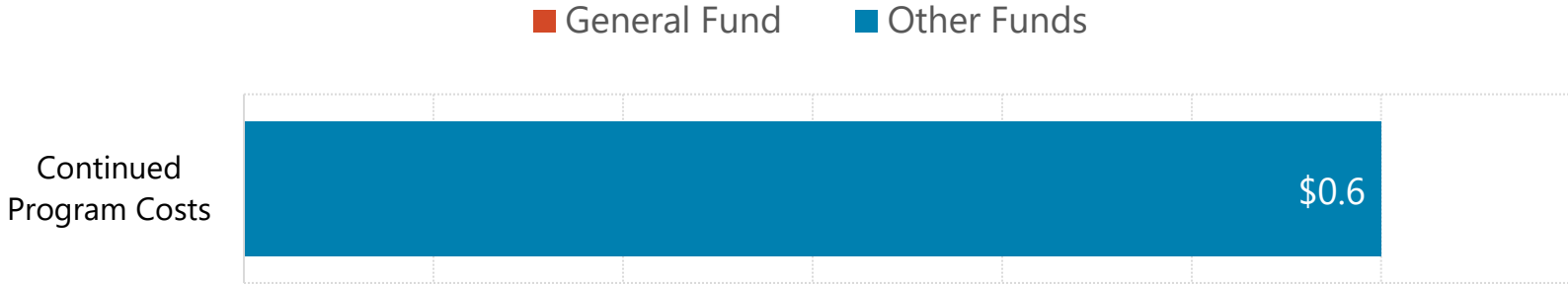
Comparison of total budget with funding (in millions)

INCREASE FROM BASE TO ENGROSSED SB
2012 \$0.6 MILLION

- \$383k for Salaries and Wages
- \$171k for Operating costs



Comparison of base budget to Engrossed SB 2012 (in millions)



Comparison of 2023-2025 budgets and related funding

By detailed expense

Description	2023 - 2025 Budget Base	Increase / (Decrease)	2023 - 2025 Executive Budget	Increase / (Decrease)	Engrossed SB 2012
511x Salaries - Regular	\$ 2,762,429	\$ 186,447	\$ 2,948,876	\$ (55,642)	\$ 2,893,234
512x Salaries - Other	-	-	-	-	-
513x Salaries Temp	-	90,816	90,816	-	90,816
514x Salaries Overtime	-	64,590	64,590	-	64,590
516x Salaries Benefits	1,348,904	129,232	1,478,136	(32,373)	1,445,763
Total Salaries & Benefits	\$ 4,111,333	\$ 471,085	\$ 4,582,418	\$ (88,015)	\$ 4,494,403
52x Travel	28,000	-	28,000	-	28,000
53x Supply	8,380	-	8,380	-	8,380
54x Postage & Printing	70,000	10,000	80,000	-	80,000
55x Equipment under \$5,000	17,000	-	17,000	-	17,000
56x Utilities	-	-	-	-	-
57x Insurance	-	-	-	-	-
58x Rent/Leases - Bldg/Equip	352,872	11,981	364,853	-	364,853
59x Repairs	600	-	600	-	600
61x Professional Development	900	-	900	-	900
62x Fees - Operating & Professional	886,774	149,131	1,035,905	-	1,035,905
67x Expenses	-	-	-	-	-
53x Supplies	3,500	-	3,500	-	3,500
60x IT Expenses	-	-	-	-	-
68x Land, Building, Other Capital	-	-	-	-	-
69x Over	-	-	-	-	-
69x Equipment Over \$5,000	-	-	-	-	-
71x Grants, Benefits, & Claims	1,650,000	-	1,650,000	-	1,650,000
72x Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Operating	\$ 3,018,026	\$ 171,112	\$ 3,189,138	\$ -	\$ 3,189,138
Total	\$ 7,129,359	\$ 642,197	\$ 7,771,556	\$ (88,015)	\$ 7,683,541

Comparison of 2023-2025 funding

Description	2023 - 2025 Budget Base		Increase / (Decrease)		2023 - 2025 Executive Budget		Increase / (Decrease)		Engrossed SB 2012
General Fund	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	-
Federal Funds		7,129,359		642,197		7,771,556		(88,015)	7,683,541
Other Funds		-		-		-		-	-
Total Funds	\$	7,129,359	\$	642,197	\$	7,771,556	\$	(88,015)	\$ 7,683,541



Contact information

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