

# Department of Public Social Services

**MISSION:** Together, we connect individuals and families to social services that promote lasting economic mobility and well-being.









## MANDATORY & MAJOR DUTIES

- **Cash Assistance Programs:** Administers California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) for families, General Relief (GR) for adults, Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI), and Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) programs.
- **Food and Nutrition Benefits:** Administers the CalFresh program.
- **Healthcare Coverage:** Administers the Medi-Cal program which offers low-cost or free health coverage to eligible residents.
- **In-Home Care:** Administers the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program for aged, blind, or disabled residents, including children.
- **Employment & Training Programs:** Helps participants achieve economic mobility through the Greater Avenues to Independence (GAIN) and Skills and Training For Tomorrow (START) programs.



## CURRENT BUDGET OVERVIEW

FY 2025-2026  
Final Adopted Budget  
(\$ Millions)

Total Appropriation		\$6,212
<i>(What We Budgeted to Spend in FY 2025-26)</i>		
	Salaries & Employee Benefits (14,587 positions)	1,952 (32%)
	Services & Supplies	1,015 (16%)
	Other (Cap Assets/Equip, Other Charges)	3,245 (52%)
Sources of Funding		\$6,212
<i>(How We Pay For All of This)</i>		
	Federal Assistance	2,212 (36%)
	State Assistance	3,127 (50%)
	Fees/Charges for Services*	-- (0%)
	Other Resources**	24 (<1%)
	Net County Cost <i>remaining balance, covered by locally generated revenues</i>	849 (14%)

\* Some State and Federally funded services are reflected as “Fees/Charges for Services” through reimbursement mechanisms (e.g., Medi-Cal billing)

\*\* “Other Resources” includes miscellaneous revenues not otherwise classified, including fines, settlements, interest earnings, and interdepartmental billing

## BUDGET BREAKDOWN BY PROGRAM AREA

What These Investments Deliver For Residents

General Program Category	% of Dept Budget
Eligibility and Case Management Staff	24%
Program Services to Participants	15%
Administrative Expenses	13%
CalWORKs / IHSS Assistance Programs	39%
Other Assistance Programs	9%

Program categories shown here are presentation-level groupings created to consolidate information from the new LA County Enterprise System (LACES) for this briefing. Note that as part of the County's initial rollout of data-driven budgeting through LACES, categories and outcome measures will continue to evolve based on practical use and data insights as departments operationalize the system in FY 2026–27.

## DEPARTMENT PRIORITIES, METRICS & OUTCOMES

- Partner with the Board, State partners, and community stakeholders to enact significant state and federal policy changes.
- Advance the redesign of the General Relief program.
- Work collaboratively with our sister County departments to prevent and end homelessness.
- Identify and address disparities across our programs and services, including those related to access, take-up rates and outcomes.
- Maintain viability of the CalFresh program while addressing the federal administrative cost shift to administer the program.
- Align funding allocations between CalFresh and General Relief claiming.
- Restore funds to DPSS customers impacted by EBT skimming.

## BUDGET REQUEST (FY2026-2027)

Total New Appropriation Request*	\$329.4 M
Additional positions requested	0.0
Additional NCC requested	\$140.2 M

Key Budget Requests	Amount (\$Millions)	One-Time/ Ongoing	Positions
CalFresh County Match	\$40.0	Ongoing	0.0
General Relief (GR) Funding	\$22.3	Ongoing	0.0
EBT Replacement Benefits	\$28.2	One-Time	0.0

\* Priority budget and unmet needs requests

## CHALLENGES & MITIGATION STRATEGIES

- **General Relief Program Funding Shortfall** – requesting via the current budget phase ongoing funding for this Board-mandated program. Operational costs for this program are escalating rapidly, a trend expected to continue.
- **Revenue shortfall/County curtailments** – to address funding shortfalls from declining revenue and reduced County subventions, the Department is implementing strict fiscal controls, including a hiring freeze and where possible, deferring costs to future years. Other measures include reprioritizing existing project funds and capping discretionary spending.
- **H.R. 1/State Changes** – upcoming reductions in federal spending could potentially result in budget shortfalls and increased administrative workloads for our two largest programs: CalFresh and Medi-Cal. The Department is advocating at the State level for programmatic changes and additional funding to effectively help our customers keep their benefits.