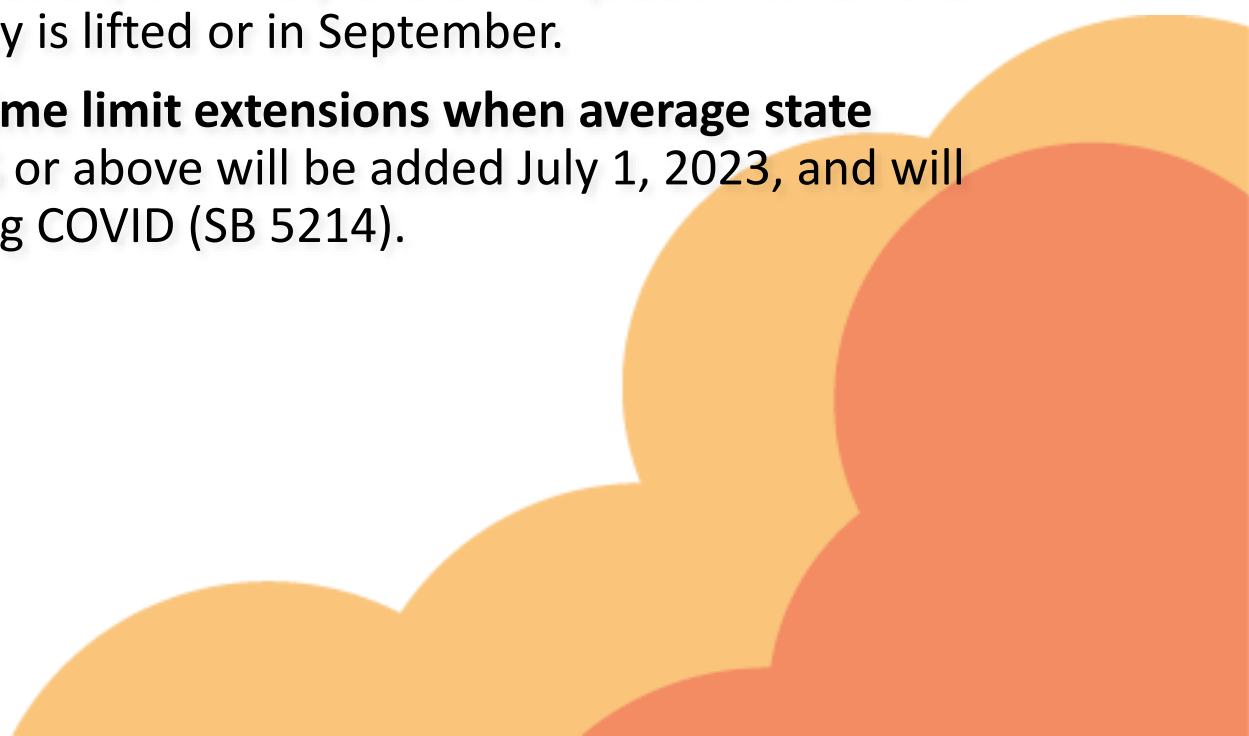


2021 Legislative Session Public Benefit Updates



TANF

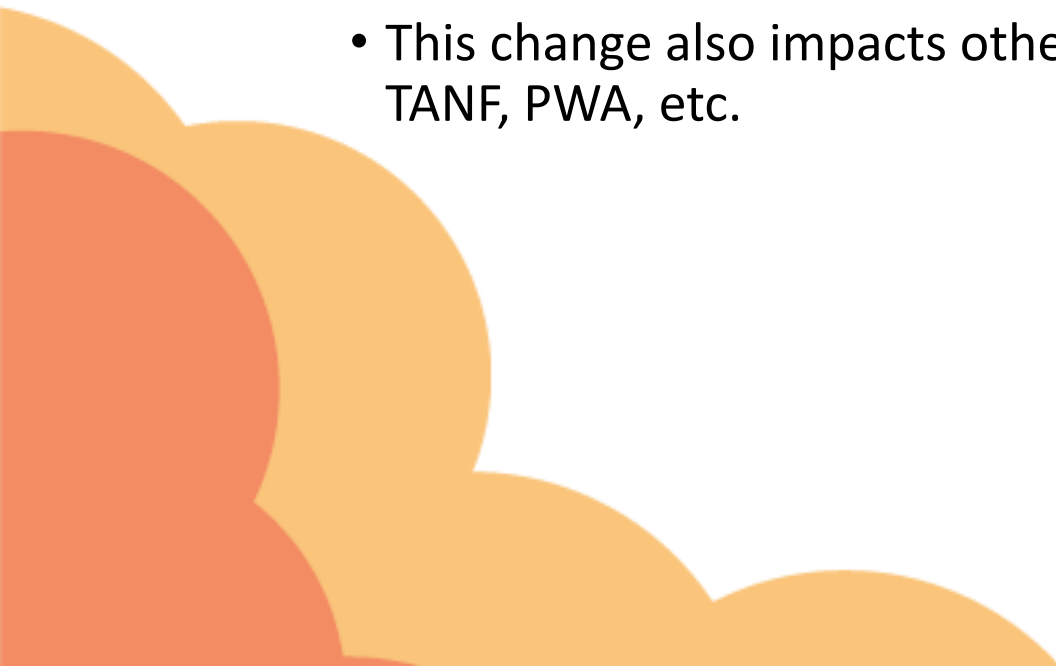
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

- **15% cash grant increase** will begin on July 1, 2021
 - **COVID protections granting time limit extensions** for hardship are extended through July 1, 2022.
 - Unfortunately, other protections made during COVID (i.e. waiving WorkFirst participation) will likely end or ramp down when the state of emergency is lifted or in September.
 - Automatic monthly **time limit extensions when average state unemployment is 7% or above** will be added July 1, 2023, and will include months during COVID (SB 5214).
- 

ABD

Aged, Blind, or Disabled

- There were **no cuts** made to this program
- **The standard of need** (used to calculate grant amounts) will be **required to be updated** by July 1, 2022.
 - This will hopefully set the stage for an ABD cash grant increase
 - This change also impacts other cash assistance programs like TANF, PWA, etc.



HEN

Housing and Essential Needs

- A **\$27 Million increase** was included in the budget!
 - This will hopefully help shrink the waitlist and get folks housed faster



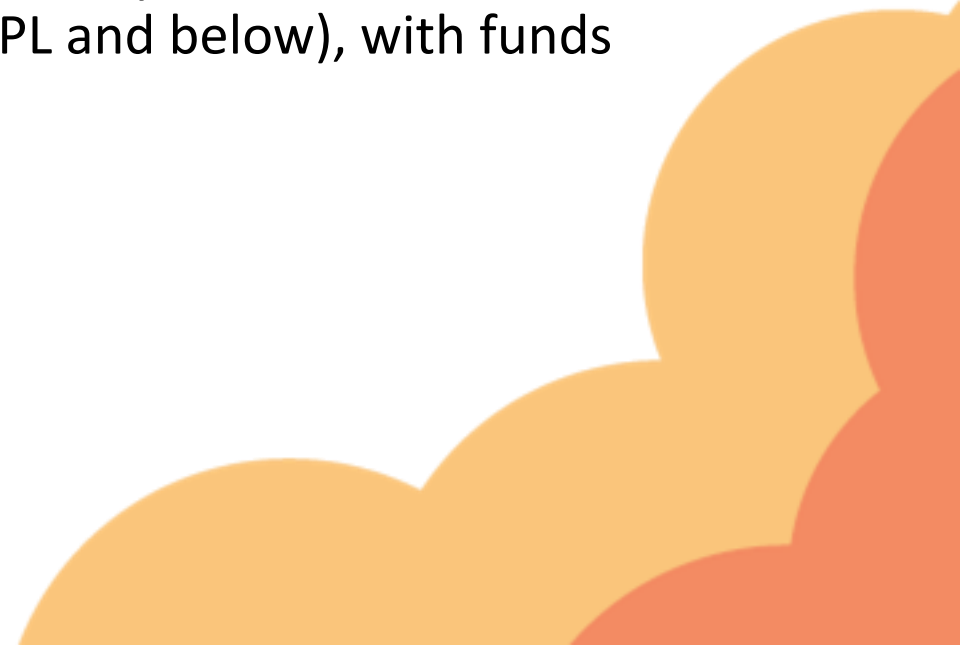
DCAP

Disaster Cash Assistance Program

- **DCAP was reinstated (again!)** and now allows people to access the program more than once in a 12-month period (HB 1151).
 - DSHS began administering this 4.19.21.
 - After exhausting all funds on June 3, DCAP abruptly closed.
 - Just last week (June 10), the Governor announced that the program would reopen on June 14 for 2 weeks with an additional \$5M. This round of DCAP will expire on June 30.

Federal funds:

- About \$23 Million were set aside for Washington in the **Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund** to spend in assisting low-income families.
 - There are **no specifics available on this yet**, as DSHS is still deciding how this will be spent
 - Funds *are likely* to be targeted to very low-income families on TANF and SNAP (likely at 75% FPL and below), with funds loaded on to existing EBT cards



Questions?



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