

Department of Human Services

Governor's FY 2026 Revised, FY 2027 & Capital Budgets
Staff Presentation to
House Finance Subcommittee on Human Services
March 25, 2026

EOHHS – Overview

Principal agency to manage the 4 health and human service agencies

- Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH)
- Children, Youth and Families (DCYF)
- Human Services (DHS)
- Health (DOH)

Medicaid funded programs in each of the agencies

Summary

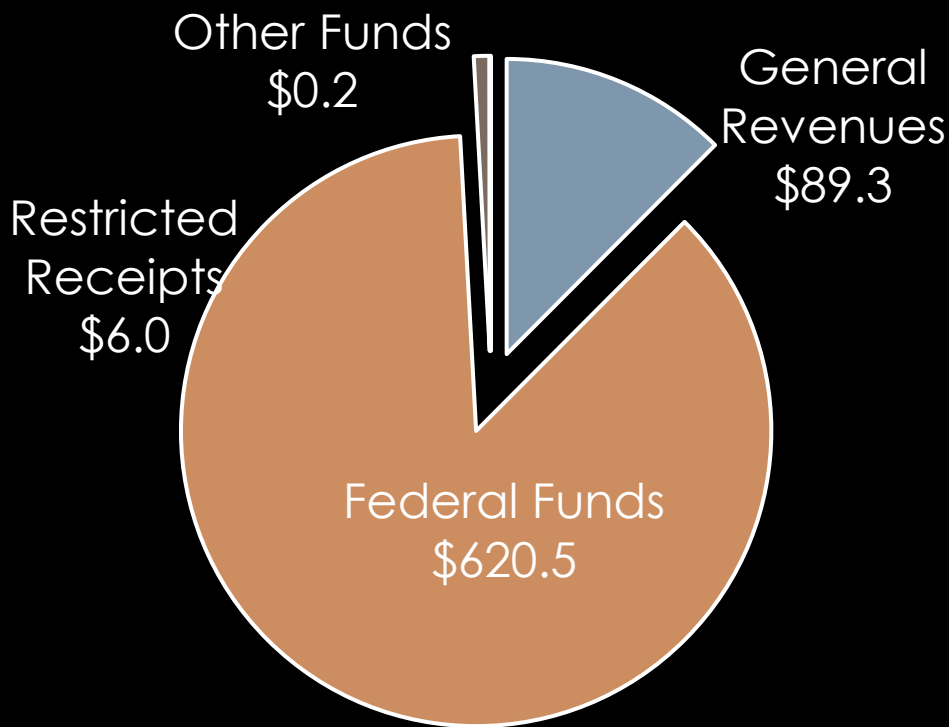
- Governor's Budget
 - Proposes initiatives and 29 positions to reduce SNAP payment error rate
 - Maintains current services for caseload programs
 - Shifts Weatherization Assistance Program to Office of Energy Resources
 - Assumes January 2026 federal laws & policies

DHS by Category

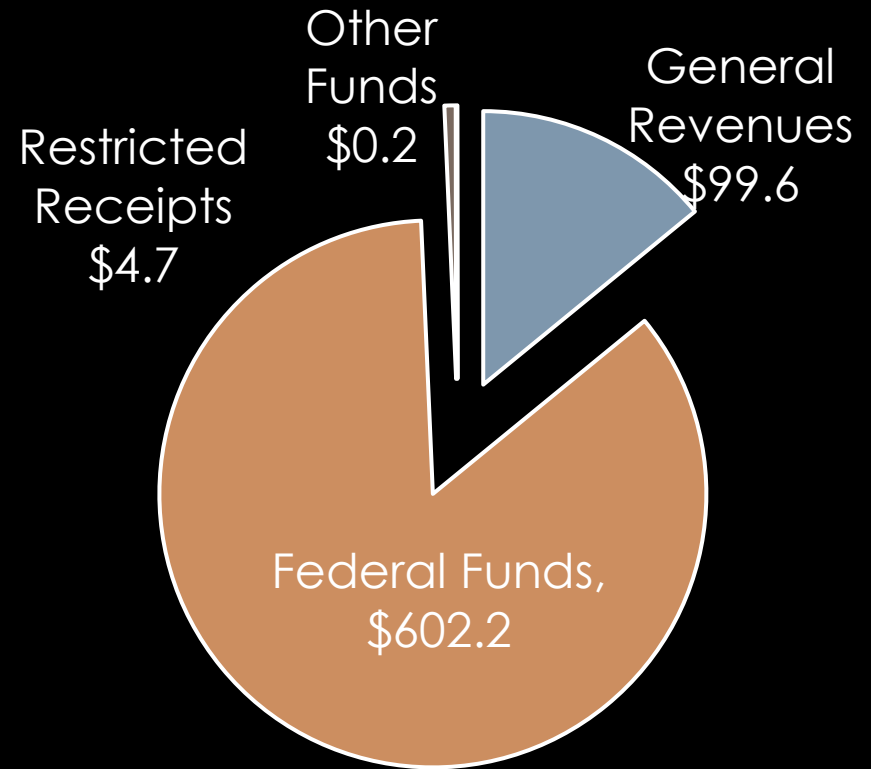
Category	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2026 Revised	FY 2027 Governor	Chg. to Enacted
Salaries & Benefits	\$94.7	\$92.9	\$100.8	\$6.1
Contracted Services	21.5	30.2	27.4	5.9
Operating	24.4	23.9	25.5	1.2
Assist & Grants	605.4	568.9	552.7	(52.7)
Capital	0.5	0.1	0.1	(0.4)
Total	\$746.5	\$716.1	\$706.6	\$(39.9)
FTE	779.0	789.0	804.0	25.0

DHS by Source

FY 2026 REVISED



FY 2027 GOVERNOR



\$ in millions

Staffing History

Fiscal Year	Average Filled Positions		
	Total	DHS	Vacancy
March 2026*	779.0	691.0	88.0
2025	779.0	695.6	83.4
2024	770.0	680.0	90.0
2023	773.0	647.0	126.0
2022	753.0	627.2	125.8
2021	754.0	666.0	88.0
2020	755.0	681.3	73.7
2019	700.9	667.5	33.4
2018	746.3	627.8	118.5

* As of March 13 - not average

Staffing

- Assembly has added new positions over past few years
 - Also requirement for 60-day reports on recruiting & retaining staff
 - Hiring activity, vacancies, staff on leave
 - Call center activity, caseload trends
 - Civil service exam administration

Assembly	New FTE	Responsibilities	Filled
2022	20	Redeterminations	20
2024	9 Eligibility Technicians	Pawtucket Call Center	9
	1 Supervisor		1

Staffing

- DHS reported filling 26 positions from January 2026 – March 2026
 - Half were internal candidates
 - Filled positions decreased by 13 since then
 - Backlog of applications has increased
 - 1,569 in March 2026 vs 1,396 in March 2025
 - Call center wait times stayed the same
 - 24 minutes – same March to March timeframe
 - Call back function in place

Benefits Administration

DHS Benefits Administration	Admin		UHIP		All Expenses	
	Gen. Rev.	Total	Gen. Rev.	Total	Gen. Rev.	Total
FY 2026 Enacted	\$32.7	\$85.6	\$3.6	\$12.8	\$36.4	\$98.3
FY 2026 Gov. Rev.	\$32.9	\$87.9	\$3.1	\$12.8	\$36.0	\$100.8
Chg. to Enacted	\$0.2	\$2.3	\$(0.6)	\$(0.1)	\$(0.4)	\$2.4
FY 2027 Gov.	\$44.2	\$93.7	\$3.3	\$13.2	\$47.5	\$106.8
Chg. to Enacted	\$11.4	\$8.1	\$(0.3)	\$0.4	\$11.2	\$8.5

\$ in millions

DHS Locations

- Reservoir Ave. Office lease expired March 3
- Warwick office closed on March 13
 - Lease expires April 8
 - Staff shifted to Hazard Building – opens on 4/6

Customer Facing Offices		Building	Sq. Ft.	FTE
125 Holden Street	Providence	Lease	21,500	66
80 Washington Street		State	11,194	48
249 Roosevelt Ave.	Pawtucket	Lease	25,582	122
219 Pond Street	Woonsocket	State	2,918	15
31 John Clarke Rd.	Middletown	Lease	4,400	13
4808 Tower Hill Rd.	Wakefield	State	3,100	16
Total			68,694	280

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Benefits

- Eligibility & benefit amounts are based on income & household size
 - Households with an older adult or disabled individual if income is < 200% of poverty
 - Other Households < 185% of poverty

Household	185%	200%	Max Benefit
1	\$28,968	\$31,320	\$298
2	\$39,144	\$42,312	\$546
3	\$49,308	\$53,304	\$785
4	\$59,496	\$64,320	\$994
5	\$69,660	\$75,312	\$1,183

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Benefits

- Currently federally funded
 - Governor recommends \$330.8 million for FY 2026
 - \$323.2 million for FY 2027
- Anticipates decreased participation
 - New eligibility guidelines

	FY 2025	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2026 Revised	FY 2027 Governor
Benefits	\$345.5	\$365.1	\$330.8	\$323.2

H.R.1 – SNAP Changes

- Updated eligibility guidelines
 - Excludes individuals with refugee status
 - Introduces a 5-year waiting period for some lawful permanent residents
- Work Requirements
 - Increased age limit from 54 to 65
 - Removed exceptions for veterans and homeless individuals
- Counts utility assistance as income for some individuals
 - Results in higher effective income

H.R.1 – SNAP Changes

- 10/1/2026 – Admin. Match Rate to 75% from 50%
- 10/1/2027 – New state share of benefits based on payment error rate – currently 100% federally funded
 - RI current error rate is 12.3% from FFY 2024

General Revenues	FY 2027	FY 2028			
		< 6%	< 8%	< 10%	10%+
Error Rate	\$-	\$-	\$17.1	\$34.2	\$51.3
Admin 75%	9.3	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.0
Total	\$9.3	\$13.0	\$30.1	\$47.2	\$64.3

\$ in millions; FY 2029 full year

SNAP Payment Error Rate Improvement Plan

- Contract with Human Services Group Improvement Plan
 - Submitted with budget request
 - \$200,000 federal funds
- Areas to improve
 - Policy Simplification
 - Quality Assurance and Control
 - Workload Management
 - Process Optimization

SNAP Payment Error Rate

- Most Common Error Categories*
 - Income
 - Errors in payroll data and income reporting
 - Unverified or missing information
 - Shelter Deductions
 - Deductions inadequately documented
 - Utility or rent data not adjusted during changes
 - Household Composition
 - Policy not followed on who is included

**From state's Federal Compliance Advisory Meeting - 8/19/2025*

SNAP Payment Error Rate

	FY 2026		FY 2027	
Proposal	Cost	FTE	Cost	FTE
AI Training Platform	\$0.5	2	\$1.2	5
Chat Bot	0.8	-	1.5	-
Office of Program Integrity	0.2	4	0.9	6
Increased Staffing	0.2	4	2.4	18
Accuracy/Efficiency Initiative	-	-	1.0	-
Total	\$1.6	10	\$7.1	29
General Revenues	\$0.8	-	\$4.1	-

\$ in millions

SNAP – Summer Benefit Program

- Federally funded benefit
 - \$40/per child payment for 3 months
 - June, July & August
 - Families with school-age children eligible for free or reduced lunch or meet income eligibility standards

	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2026 Revised	FY 2027 Governor
Benefit	\$13.8	\$13.8	\$13.8
Administrative Expenses	1.0	1.1	1.1
Total	\$14.8	\$14.9	\$14.9
<i>General Revenues – Admin.</i>	\$0.5	\$0.5	\$0.7

\$ in millions

SNAP Healthy Incentives

- Retail SNAP pilot program - \$11.5M million from general revenues
 - Eligible households receive an incentive payment of \$0.50 for every \$1.00 spent on fruits and vegetables on their EBT card
 - Program started January 2024
 - Unspent funds carried forward
 - \$0.6 M spent in FY 2023; \$2.6M in FY 2024; \$4.4 M in FY 2025
 - FY 2026 – Governor includes remaining \$4.0M

Caseload - Cash Assistance

Program	Funding
Rhode Island Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funds (TANF)
Child Care Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child Care Development Block Grant• TANF• Social Services Block Grant• General Revenues
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General Revenues
SSI Transition/Bridge	

TANF Federal Block Grant

TANF Supported Expenses	FY 2026	FY 2027
RI Works Program Benefits/Administration	\$56.6	\$56.9
Child Care Assistance Benefits/Adminin.	41.7	49.4
DCYF – Emergency Housing	4.2	4.2
DCYF - Other Programs	14.4	14.2
Head Start	3.0	3.0
UHIP/RIbridges	1.8	1.7
Adult Education (RIDE)	1.4	1.4
Home Visiting for RIW Families (DOH)	0.2	0.2
Total	\$123.4	\$131.1

\$ in millions

Head Start

- Primarily a federally funded program
 - Children ages 3 to 5 at 8 locations
- Governor recommends \$4.2 million
 - FY 2026 & FY 2027
 - \$1.2 million from general revenues
 - \$3.0 million from federal TANF funds
 - Added by 2023 Assembly
 - Supports 130 children

Rhode Island Works

SUMMARY

- Cash & employment assistance to eligible low-income residents
 - Monthly cash benefit
 - Limited to lifetime benefit of 60 months
- ~ 30% of recipients are child-only cases
 - Payment excludes parents
 - Timed off or
 - No work plan

RECENT CHANGES

- Increases to
 - Payments & income disregards
 - Resource limits
 - Clothing allowance
 - Eligibility
 - Children up to 19 & in high school remain
 - Coverage from pregnancy onset
- College as sole activity
 - 2nd year at CCRI as part of work plan

Rhode Island Works

	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2026 Revised	Chg. to Enacted	FY 2027 Governor	Chg. to Gov. Rev.
Persons	9,875	9,400	(475)	9,585	185
Monthly Cost/ Person	\$298.00	\$287.00	\$(11.00)	\$288.00	\$1.00
Monthly Bus Passes	536,064	510,279	(25,785)	520,322	10,043
Clothing	750,000	701,518	(48,482)	715,000	13,482
Supportive Services	1,000,000	1,000,000	-	1,000,000	-
Total	\$37.6	\$34.6	\$(3.0)	\$35.4	\$0.8

Total in millions

Child Care - Summary

- Provided to
 - RIW recipients
 - Families at or below 261% of poverty
 - Income can increase to 300% before ineligible
 - Enrolled in a college degree program
- Continuous eligibility after job loss
 - For 12 months
- Rates in statute
 - Vary by age & setting
- No co-pay for
 - RI Works participants
 - Homeless families applying for RIW
 - Families up to 100% FPL
- Co-pay up to 7% of income
 - Families up to 300% of FPL
 - Receiving RI Works on behalf of a child

Subsidized Child Care

	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2026 Revised	Chg. to Enacted	FY 2027 Governor	Chg. to Gov. Rev.
Subsidies	6,818	7,000	182	7,700	700
Annual cost per subsidy	\$11,956	\$10,900	\$(1,056)	\$10,900	-
Total	\$81.5	\$76.3	\$(5.2)	\$83.9	\$7.6

Total in millions

Subsidized Child Care

- Center-based facilities account for most enrollment
- Family-based facilities
 - licensed for 4 – 12 children

Setting	# of Providers	# of Children Enrolled
Center	418	5,585
Family	385	1,806
Total	803	7,391

Subsidized Child Care

- 2025 Assembly added a separate infant rate that is 20% higher than the toddler rate

Tier	Infant	Toddler	Pre-School	School Age
1-Star	\$334	\$278	\$236	\$210
2-Star	\$341	\$284	\$247	\$215
3-Star	\$355	\$296	\$255	\$231
4-Star	\$364	\$303	\$263	\$250
5-Star	\$378	\$315	\$273	\$263

Child Care Pilot Program

- Child care benefits to eligible childcare educators and staff
 - Family income up to 300% of poverty
 - Waiver tuition and co-pays
 - Originally a 1-year pilot program
 - Extended three years by the 2025 Assembly
 - Required report submitted by DHS

Fiscal Year	Timeframe	Funding
2024	8/1/2023 – 7/31/2024	\$2.6
2025	7/31/2025	\$5.1
2026 Enacted	7/31/2028	\$2.5
2026 Nov CEC/Gov Rev		\$4.2
2027 Nov CEC/Gov		\$3.2

ARPA – Child Care Support

Child Care Support	Pre-FY 2026	FY 2026	FY 2027	Total
Retention Bonus	\$38.6	\$ -	\$ -	\$38.6
Family-Based Provider Support	0.5	-	-	0.5
Workforce Registry & Quality Improvements	1.6	-	-	1.6
TEACH Program	0.4	-	-	0.4
Total	\$41.0	\$ -	\$ -	\$41.0
FY 2026 Gov. Rec.	-	1.0	-	1.0
Total	\$41.0	\$1.0	\$ -	\$42.0

\$ in millions

Preschool Development Grant

- DHS awarded a \$5.0M grant
 - 9/30/2024 through 9/29/2027
 - \$1.1 million will be used for the WAGE\$ program in each FY 2026 and FY 2027
 - Other examples of how funds may be used
 - Quality improvements
 - Strategic planning
 - Updating early childhood strategic plan

WAGE\$ Program

- Program to supplement wages for professionals working in a child care setting
 - RI Association for the Education of Young Children (RIAEYC) operates the program
- Supported by federal Preschool Development Grant
- Pilot program began in March 2023
- WAGE\$ launched on October 1, 2025

Supplemental Security Income

- SSI - Federal program for elderly and disabled individuals
 - State provides supplement to federal payment

	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2026 Revised	Chg. to Enacted	FY 2027 Governor	Chg. to Gov. Rev.
Persons	30,757	30,600	(157)	30,550	(50)
Monthly Cost	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$-	\$45.00	\$-
Total	\$16.7	\$16.6	\$(0.1)	\$16.6	\$(0.1)

Total in millions

SSI Transition/Bridge Program

- Bridge Program - individuals who have applied for SSI
 - State is reimbursed a portion of expenses if a person's application is accepted

	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2026 Revised	Chg. to Enacted	FY 2027 Governor	Chg. to Gov. Rev.
Persons	780	772	(8)	912	140
Monthly Cost	\$169.00	\$162.00	\$(7.00)	\$167.00	\$5.00
Total	\$2.2	\$2.1	\$(0.1)	\$2.5	\$0.3

Total in millions

Low-Income Heating Assistance Program

- Provides utility assistance to low-income families
 - Federally funded
- Governor includes \$25.4M for FY 2027
 - \$3.4 million more than enacted based on projected expenditures
 - \$25.5 million for FY 2026

Weatherization Assistance Program (HFC 3/5)

- Weatherization Assistance Program
 - Provides weatherization improvements to lower utility costs
- Article 3 transfers program from DHS back to OER
 - Previously managed program (2012)
 - Aligns with other federal energy programs it currently administers
 - DHS may offer advisory assistance to maintain continuity for eligible households

Child Support Enforcement

Federally required program

- Collects support payments & sends payments to every parent/guardian that has an order
- Reviews orders for consistency with guidelines
- Requests court modifications
- Establish, enforce & modify support orders
 - RI Works and CCAP participants must pursue child support services

Case Management System is decades old

Child Support Enforcement

- DHS requested to increase amount of child support retained by RI Works participants
 - Governor did not recommend

	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2026 Revised	FY 2027 Governor	Chg. to Enacted
Salaries & Benefits	\$7.8	\$8.0	\$8.3	\$0.5
Contracted Services	8.7	9.7	9.7	1.0
Operations	1.9	1.6	1.7	(0.2)
Federal Credits	-	(2.6)	(1.9)	(1.9)
Total	\$18.4	\$16.8	\$17.8	\$(0.7)
General Revenues	\$4.4	\$4.5	\$4.6	\$0.2

\$ in millions; federal match 66% for expenses

RIKidsBridge Child Support Case Management

- DHS capital plan request includes \$30.9M
 - FY 2026 enacted budget includes \$0.3M
 - \$0.2M from federal funds & \$0.1M from restricted receipts
 - Request not included in the 5-year capital plan
 - Planning vendor to help estimate cost
 - Governor includes \$0.8 million for FY 2026 and \$0.2 million for FY 2027
 - CT estimated \$68M - \$82M to replace its system in 2018

Fiscal Year	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	Total
DHS Request	\$0.8	\$0.2	\$3.8	\$15.0	\$11.3	\$30.9

\$ in millions

Office of Rehabilitation Services

- Supports individuals with disabilities who voluntarily want to obtain/maintain
 - Employment
 - Economic self-sufficiency
 - Independence
- Resources & services provided through
 - Vocation rehabilitation services
 - Services for the blind & visually impaired
 - Disability determination services

Office of Rehabilitation Services

	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2026 Revised	FY 2027 Governor	Chg. to Enacted
Salaries & Benefits	\$19.2	\$19.8	\$20.4	\$1.2
Contracted Services	3.4	3.6	3.6	0.1
Operating	3.9	3.3	3.3	(0.5)
Asst. & Grants	8.0	9.0	8.7	0.7
Total	\$34.5	\$35.6	\$36.0	\$1.5
GR Share	\$6.0	\$5.9	\$5.9	\$(0.1)

\$ in millions

ORS Programs

Program	FY 2025	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2026 Revised	FY 2027 Governor
Vocational Rehabilitation	\$20.7	\$19.7	\$21.4	\$21.9
Disability Determination	10.5	11.6	11.9	12.1
Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Home Modification*	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6
Personal Care Attendant*	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.3
Social Services for Blind*	0.0	0.8	0.1	0.1
Total	\$33.0	\$34.3	\$35.5	\$35.8
General Revenues	\$5.6	\$6.0	\$5.9	\$5.9

\$ in millions; *Medicaid match

Statewide Blind Vending Facilities

- 15 stores in state-occupied buildings
 - Operated by blind and visually-impaired individuals
- Governor includes \$165,000 from RICAP FY 2026 through post-FY 2031
 - Consistent with enacted level
 - Renovations, refurbishments, and facility maintenance

Non-Profit Agency Appropriations

Agency	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Community Action Agencies	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$600,000
RI Community Food Bank	800,000	950,000	950,000
RICFB & Other – One-time	-	-	1,000,000
Crossroads	500,000	500,000	500,000
RI Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs	450,000	450,000	450,000
RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence	400,000	400,000	400,000
Day One	300,000	300,000	300,000
Institute for the Practice & Study of Non-Violence	250,000	250,000	250,000

Non-Profit Agency Appropriations

Agency	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
United Way - 211	200,000	200,000	200,000
Higher Ground International	125,000	125,000	150,000
SUMHLC	100,000	150,000	150,000
Refugee Dream Center	50,000	50,000	50,000
Center for Southeast Asians	25,000	25,000	25,000
Oasis International	-	-	25,000
New Bridges for Haitian Success	-	-	25,000
Total	\$3,800,000	\$4,000,000	\$5,075,000

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