

ECONOMIC SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
Limited English Pathway



2015-17 BIENNIAL BUDGET

Reduction Option	FY16	FY17	15-17
FTE	(0.0)	(0.0)	(0.0)
GF-State	(\$2,366,000)	(\$2,366,000)	(\$4,732,000)
Total	(\$2,366,000)	(\$2,366,000)	(\$4,732,000)

REDUCTION OPTION SUMMARY

As required by 2015-17 Biennial Budget Instructions, the Economic Services Administration (ESA) is submitting the following reduction option that would reduce the Limited English Proficient (LEP) Pathway Program. By implementing this reduction, 2,723 clients per year will not receive English as Second Language (ESL) training, job search support, and critical services that all support early self-sufficiency for immigrants and refugees.

REDUCTION OPTION DETAIL

The LEP Pathway Program provides specialized and culturally appropriate services to LEP clients to increase their employability. LEP adults who receive cash assistance through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), State Family Assistance (SFA), or Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) programs are eligible for LEP Pathway services. Refugees who are not receiving cash assistance are also eligible for LEP Pathway services during their first five years residing in the United States. LEP Pathway services include employability assessments, pre-employment preparation services, ESL training, job search assistance, skills training, employment placement assistance, job retention, and support services. Additionally, Work Experience (WEX) or Community Services (CS) placements are available to TANF recipients.

The LEP Pathway Program is administered by the Office of Refugee & Immigrant Assistance (ORIA) within the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Economic Services Administration, Community Services Division. LEP Pathway services are provided through contracts with community-based organizations (CBOs), voluntary refugee resettlement agencies (VOLAGs), Employment Security Department, and other employment agencies. Most ESL training is provided through contracts with local community and technical colleges.

LEP Pathway services are provided with funding from three sources. Funds from two of these sources can only be used for specific clients in the LEP Pathway, as follows:

- Federal TANF funds can only be used for individuals receiving TANF cash assistance (\$3,600,000 in Fiscal Year 2013).



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- Funds from the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) include Refugee Social Services (RSS) and Targeted Assistance Grant funds (\$2,907,619 in Fiscal Year 2013). Refugee Social Services funds can only be used to serve refugees who have resided in the United States for five years or less. The Targeted Assistance Grant (TAG) provides additional funds for the three counties that comprise high refugee impact areas: King, Snohomish, and Spokane counties.
- GF-State funds may be used to serve SFA recipients and anyone eligible for LEP Pathway services (\$2,366,000 in Fiscal Year 2013). ORIA allocates approximately \$430,000 a year of GF-State to support the Basic Food and Employment Training (BFET) programs.

This proposal will reduce services provided through the LEP Pathway Program, including BFET, by eliminating the GF-State funds from the program. ESA will reduce the funding provided to the contractors, thus, reducing the service level provided to the clients. With this reduction, ORIA will serve 1,523 fewer clients through the general LEP Pathway Program and 1,200 fewer clients through BEFT for a total of 2,723 fewer clients served each budget year. Once the reduction is implemented, LEP Pathway services would only be available to TANF recipients and to refugees who have resided in the United States for five or fewer years.

TANF and ORR funding do not require state matching funds. Eliminating GF-State funds will not impact the funding level from these grants. The BFET program requires a match for GF-State funds allocated for these services. Eliminating GF-State funds may therefore result in a loss of federal BFET funds.

No changes in the RCW are required to implement this proposal.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACT

Advocates and service providers will oppose this reduction option. LEP Pathway participants will be put on waiting lists due to a reduction in service levels by all providers statewide. This means reduced access to ESL training, job search support, and critical services that all support early self-sufficiency for immigrants and refugees.



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