

**ECONOMIC SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
TANF PRISM**



**2015-17 BIENNIAL BUDGET**

Request	FY16	FY17	15-17
FTE			
GF-State	\$204,000	\$204,000	\$408,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$340,000</b>	<b>\$340,000</b>	<b>\$680,000</b>

**DECISION PACKAGE SUMMARY**

The Economic Services Administration (ESA) requests funding in order to maintain the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Predictive Risk Intelligence System (PRISM). Developed by the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) Research and Data Analysis Division (RDA), this tool will be piloted in September 2014, with statewide implementation planned to start in spring 2015. By funding this request, ESA is expected to support the ongoing maintenance and operations of the TANF PRISM application.

**PROBLEM STATEMENT**

For many WorkFirst Program Specialists and Social Service Specialists who work directly with TANF clients, information about a client’s past work experience and potential barriers to sustained employment is difficult to quickly determine. Information on clients is tracked in a variety of systems that are not easily accessible to frontline staff as they make decisions about the client’s placement within available TANF programs.

**PROPOSED SOLUTION**

By funding this request, ESA staff will be able to access a system that leverages client data from multiple sources to identify risk factors impacting a TANF client’s employability and identify potential barriers to work. The tool will help identify a TANF client’s strengths and challenges related to successful, sustained employment. This will include information such as education and recent work experience. This information, combined with information from a strengthened Comprehensive Evaluation tool (implemented in July 2014), will be used by frontline workers to place TANF parents and caregivers into the most appropriate WorkFirst activities and services.

TANF PRISM leverages data from the DSHS Integrated Client Database (ICDB). The ICDB has information from over 30 data systems within and outside of DSHS, including data on employment history, use of chemical dependency and mental health treatment, and use of other social services. As this information is often of a highly sensitive nature, some clients may be reluctant to disclose the information to ESA staff. Access to this information will assist ESA staff in determining a person’s employability and flag potential barriers to work. Access to TANF PRISM will give caseworkers a powerful tool to obtain supplemental information needed to provide tailored case management and engage TANF clients in the right activities at the right time.



**DSHS VISION**

People are healthy • People are safe • People are supported • Taxpayer resources are guarded

**DSHS MISSION**

To transform lives

**DSHS VALUES**

Honesty and Integrity • Pursuit of Excellence • Open Communication • Diversity and Inclusion • Commitment to Service

## ECONOMIC SERVICES ADMINISTRATION TANF PRISM



### 2015-17 BIENNIAL BUDGET

TANF PRISM presents employability factors in a strength-based format (strengths listed first), followed by the most significant factors that are preventing the client from attaining sustained employment. Strengths and barriers are identified based on a statistically valid predictive model. This information can help guide the WorkFirst Program Specialists and Social Service Specialists in critical conversations with TANF clients and result in more effective Individual Responsibility Plans and case management plans.

Costs are all on-going and include: RDA costs for system architecture, system maintenance, change management and testing support, project oversight, user management, user training support, testing, and maintenance of production SAS processes interfacing data into the secure online application.

An indeterminate impact to the workload of ESA Community Services Division staff is expected from the implementation of TANF PRISM. It is anticipated that new components will be added to the client screening process in order to obtain information for the TANF PRISM program. Development of the TANF PRISM tool is not yet complete so the extent of the additional staff effort that will be required to collect and input new client information cannot yet be determined. Once the program is fully developed, ESA will be able to complete a comprehensive analysis of the impact to staff effort from the implementation of this new tool.

#### EXPECTED RESULTS

The budget request supports DSHS Goal 4: Quality of Life – Each individual in need will be supported to attain the highest possible quality of life. The decision package is essential to implementing ESA's Strategic Objective 4.2: Percentage of people who leave TANF due to self-sufficiency or at their request will increase.

This request supports the Results Washington goal to help keep Washingtonians healthy, safe and supported in their homes and communities.

TANF PRISM is designed to provide valuable information to WorkFirst Program Specialists and Social Service Specialists that they can use to make informed decisions about the services and engagement tracks that are most appropriate for a given client. The more quickly these frontline workers can address issues and barriers to employment, the more quickly the ESA staff can appropriately assist parents in their efforts toward self-sufficiency.

#### STAKEHOLDER IMPACT

We do not expect any stakeholders to oppose this budget request.



**DSHS VISION**  
People are healthy • People are safe • People are supported • Taxpayer resources are guarded  
**DSHS MISSION**  
To transform lives  
**DSHS VALUES**  
Honesty and Integrity • Pursuit of Excellence • Open Communication • Diversity and Inclusion • Commitment to Service