



AB 6509: YFS Emergency Assistance Program Update

Presentation Summary

- Emergency Assistance (EA) program overview
- Pandemic-era program changes
- Trial program adjustments post-pandemic
- Recommended changes and discussion



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EA Program Overview

- EA part of YFS “continuum of care” service model
- Supports basic needs of most vulnerable residents
- 1.0 FTE Social Work Professional Staff
- Services include:
 - Financial Assistance: Rent/Utilities/Crisis
 - Food Security: Food Pantry then Cash Cards
 - Employment Support
 - Targeted Supports: Back to School, Holiday Gifts/ Meals
 - Coordinated Care/Linkages to Services

Pandemic EA Programming

- Spike in needs—disproportionate impact on low income, marginalized, and underemployed individuals and families
- Closed YFS Food Pantry; adopted Food Card program
- Leveraged regional and federal financial supports
- Increased community donations and financial support from MIYFS Foundation
- Increased demand for rent and utility financial support

EA Program	# Households 2019	# Households 2020	# Households 2023
Food Security	126	148	173
Any EA Service	236	224	235
Rent Assistance	20	19	33
School/holiday Programs*	137	154	238

Pandemic Recovery Phase Adjustments

- Lower bar for EA program financial eligibility from 70% King County AMI to 80%
- Create EA Flexible Crisis Fund
- Sunset food cards, contract for Hopelink Mobile Market, augment with “Market Bucks”
- Increase annual EA financial support maximum from \$2,000 to \$3,000 per year



Programming Assessment

EA Support Category	2019 (pre-pandemic)	2023 (pandemic)	2024 (1 st Half) (trial adjustment)
Financial Stability	\$80K	\$120K	\$120K
Holiday/School Programs	\$35K	\$35K	\$35K
Food Security	\$40K (plus food donations)	\$250K (food cards only)	\$45K (Hopelink mobile market)
Farmers Market “bucks”	--	--	\$3K
Flexible Crisis Funding	--	--	\$20K
Courtesy Rides	--	--	\$5K
TOTAL:	\$155K	\$405K	\$228K

Considerations



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- EA eligibility tightening slightly to focus on emergent needs
- Food security program returns to fresh food model and saves money
- Services enhanced for senior EA users (rides, home delivery)
- The number EA utilizers relatively constant; demand returns to steady climb