

Department of Workforce Services Assistance Programs

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This report was prepared for the Economic Development and Workforce Services Interim Committee to provide an overview of the assistance programs administered by the Department of Workforce Services (DWS).

DWS Assistance Programs

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Cash Benefit

The Family Employment Program (FEP), also known as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Includes single-parent families with children (FEP); two-parent families with children (FEP-TP); and relatives caring for children who do not live with their parents (specified relative).

The Family Employment Program offers financial assistance and help finding employment to low-income parents who are supporting children living in their home.

Eligibility and Requirements:

Assistance is available for the following people, based on income and assets:

- single parents with children under 18 living with them;
- pregnant women in their third trimester;
- two-parent families with children under 18 living with them; and
- children being cared for by relatives who are not the parents (under certain circumstances).

Income requirements vary based on household size. For example, gross income per month of:

\$843 or less for a household of two;

- \$1,050 or less for a household of three; and
- \$1,230 or less for a household of four.

Every participating parent works with an employment counselor to write an employment plan with activities that will assist the parent in reaching the goal of supporting the family without assistance.

A parent must perform the activities in the employment plan for 30 hours per week (or 20 hours a week if the parent has a child under age 6).

Amounts and Restrictions:

Cash assistance is based on household size. For example:

- \$399 per month for a household of two:
- \$498 per month for a household of three; and
- \$583 per month for a household of four.

The maximum lifetime duration of the benefit is 36 months.

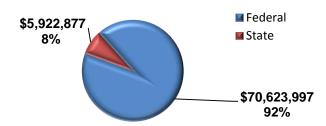
Benefits may not be accessed in an establishment that primarily sells intoxicating liquor, allows gambling, or provides adult-oriented entertainment.

Scope and Cost of Program:

For FY 2012, 30,285 individuals and 12,035 households were assisted by FEP. FEP benefits are funded by federal TANF grants.

For FY 2012, state and federal spending was \$76.5 million, of which 92% was federal funding. The \$5.9 million state-funded portion was federally required maintenance of effort (state's share of administrative and operating costs).

FY 2012 Funding



Notes/References:

Federal:

- Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) Public Law 104 193
- Title I Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Balanced Budget Act of 1997
- Federal Regulations: 45 CFR Parts 261-265
- Deficit Reconciliation Act of 2005

State:

- Utah Code Sections 35A-3-301, 313
- Utah Administrative Code R986-200, 243, 245

Contact:

Sisifo Taatiti — *Program Manager* 801-526-4370 staatiti@utah.gov

General Assistance (GA) Program

For individuals who are unable to work

The GA program provides time-limited services to single adults and married couples who have no dependent children residing with them 50% or more of the time.

Eligibility:

Assistance is based on income, assets, and disability.

General Assistance customers must:

 be at least 18 years old or no longer being supported by parents;

- provide "Verification of Impairment" that prevents basic work activities in any occupation;
- have a gross monthly income of \$608 or less for a one-person household;
- have a gross monthly income of \$843 or less for a two-person household; and
- have \$2,000 or less in household assets.

Amounts/Restrictions:

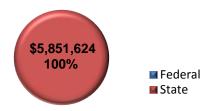
- \$287 per month cash assistance for one individual;
- \$398 per month for two-person household; and
- some participants required to apply for long-term disability benefits.

Scope and Cost of Program:

For 2012, 2,308 individuals and 2,293 households were assisted by the GA program.

General Assistance is a state-funded program. For 2012, the state budget for GA was \$5.8 million.

FY 2012 Funding



Notes/References:

http://jobs.utah.gov/customereducation/services/financialhelp/general/qualify.html

Contacts:

Karla Aguirre — *Director* Workforce Development 801-526-9724 kaguirre@utah.gov

Refugee Program

The Refugee program provides cash and medical assistance to:

- newly arriving refugees;
- new asylees; and
- · certified victims of human trafficking.

Eligibility:

Eligibility is need based and may only be used within the first 8 months of:

- arrival;
- being granted asylum; or
- certification as a trafficking victim.

Must not be receiving other federal public cash assistance, such as FEP or FEP-TP.

Must meet with an employment counselor to develop an employment plan and participate in the plan activities, which may include job skills training, working, English language training, or applying for Social Security Disability (if disabled and appropriate).

Amounts/Restrictions:

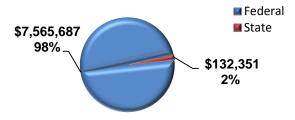
Amount varies, depending on circumstances. Maximum 8-month benefit, then may apply for other state benefits.

Scope and Cost of Program:

For FY 2012, 394 individuals and 207 households were assisted by the Refugee Program.

For FY 2012, state and federal spending was \$7.7 million, of which 98% was federal funding.

FY 2012 Funding



Notes/References:

Ongoing federal grant program.

Contacts:

Gerald Brown — Assistant Director Refugee Services 801-526-9787 geraldbrown@utah.gov

Food Benefit

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly food stamps)

Provides assistance to buy food.

SNAP benefits are provided on an electronic card that is used like a debit card to buy food at grocery stores.

Eligibility:

Eligibility is income and asset based.

For example, gross monthly family income for a family of four must be less than \$2,498 (\$29,976 annually), and the family must have less than \$2,000 in assets.

SNAP benefits are available to legal immigrants and to all children under 18. However, most legal immigrants must wait five years before getting SNAP benefits.

There is no wait for children under 18, for some elderly and disabled, or for refugees.

Amounts/Restrictions:

Monthly benefits range from \$16 to \$668 monthly for a family of four.

The allotment is based on the number of people in the household and the amount of money the household earns each month.

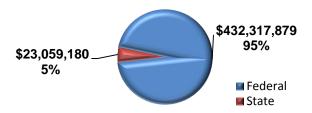
Scope and Cost of Program:

For FY 2012, 404,378 individuals and 168,767 households were assisted by SNAP.

For FY 2012, state and federal spending was \$455 million, of which 95% was federal

funding. The \$23 million state-funded portion was a state-paid 50% share of administrative and operating costs.

FY 2012 Funding



Notes/References:

http://jobs.utah.gov/customereducation/services/foodstamps/whatfs.html

Contact:

Kathy Link — *Program Manager* 801-526-9230 klink@utah.gov

Medical Benefit

DWS determines eligibility for the following medical benefits but does not administer the programs.

Medicaid Eligibility

Provides individual medical coverage. Basic Medicaid benefits include doctor visits, prescriptions, hospital, and dental coverage. Not all benefits are available to every Medicaid customer.

The Medicaid health plan chosen has a list of doctors who will accept the Medicaid card.

Benefits are administered by the Department of Health.

Eligibility:

Eligibility is available for the following people, based on income and assets (and may include disability):

- children (age 0-18);
- pregnant women;

- families who lack one parent's support because of death, absence, inability to work, or the primary wage earner's unemployment/ underemployment;
- women with breast/cervical cancer;
- individuals with disabilities;
- individuals age 65 and older;
- individuals in a nursing home; and
- refugees.

Amounts/Restrictions:

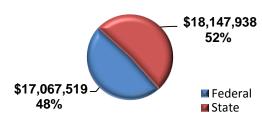
Depending on the individual's situation, the individual may have to pay a small copayment for certain services, such as prescriptions.

Certain Medicaid programs allow the individual to pay cash or use medical bills to "spend down" the difference between the individual's income and the program's income limit, so the individual may still receive a Medicaid card.

Scope and Cost of Program:

For FY 2012, state and federal spending for eligibility services was \$35 million, of which 48% was federal funding. The \$18 million state-funded portion includes a state-paid 50% share of administrative and operating costs plus \$2 million in credit for third-party contracted administrative and operating costs.

FY 2012 Funding



Notes/References:

http://jobs.utah.gov/customereducation/faqs/faqmed.html

http://health.utah.gov/umb/

Contact:

Kevin Burt — Associate Director Eligibility Services 801-526-9831 kburt@utah.gov (eligibility only)

Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

Provides medical coverage for children who do not have access to affordable health insurance.

Based on the individual's plan, CHIP covers doctor visits; prescriptions; immunizations; dental, hospital, mental health services; etc.

Eligibility:

Eligibility is income-based and is available for working families who need medical coverage for their children and do not have access to other health insurance.

The CHIP health plan the individual chooses provides a list of doctors who accept CHIP.

Amounts/Restrictions:

With some exceptions, the individual pays a quarterly premium of either \$30 or \$75 (depending on income) and a small copayment for certain services.

Scope and Cost of Program:

For FY 2012, state and federal spending was \$3.3 million, of which 73% was federal funding.

FY 2012 Funding



Notes and References:

http://jobs.utah.gov/customereducation/faqs/faqchip.html
http://health.utah.gov/umb/

Contact:

Kevin Burt — Associate Director Eligibility Services 801-526-9831 kburt@utah.gov (eligibility only)

Primary Care Network (PCN)

Health coverage for adults who do not have access to affordable health insurance.

Eligibility:

Eligibility is income-based and is available for adults age 19-64 who are not eligible for Medicaid and who cannot get other health insurance.

An applicant must apply during an open enrollment period as advertised by the Department of Health and DWS.

Amounts/Restrictions:

The annual enrollment fee is \$50 or less (depending on income or if the individual receives GA), and there are small copayments for certain services.

PCN covers visits to a primary doctor, four prescriptions a month, dental exams, (teeth cleaning, fillings and x rays), eye exams, etc.

Scope and Cost of Program:

This program is funded under Medicaid.

Notes/References:

http://jobs.utah.gov/customereducation/faqs/faqpcn.html

http://health.utah.gov/umb/

Contact:

Kevin Burt — Associate Director Eligibility Services 801-526-9831 kburt@utah.gov (eligibility only)

Utah's Premium Partnership (UPP)

Assistance for working families who want to sign up for their employer's health insurance, but need assistance in paying the monthly premium.

Eligibility:

Eligibility is income-based.

A person must apply for UPP:

- during the employer's open enrollment period;
- before the date that health insurance coverage begins; and
- as soon as the person begins a new job.

If a person qualifies and if employer's health insurance meets the basic UPP guidelines, a person may switch from PCN to UPP.

Amounts/Restrictions:

UPP will reimburse up to \$150 a month per adult and up to \$120 a month per child to assist in covering the premium for employer-provided health insurance.

Must pay the monthly premium before reimbursement and must pay for any copayments the insurance requires.

Scope and Cost of Program:

This program is funded under Medicaid and CHIP.

Notes/References:

http://jobs.utah.gov/customereducation/faqs/faqupp.html

Contact:

Kevin Burt — Associate Director Eligibility Services 801-526-9831 kburt@utah.gov (eligibility only)

Unemployment/ Job Training Benefit

Unemployment Insurance (UI)

Provides a temporary living allowance while an unemployed worker looks for new employment

Eligibility:

Eligibility is not need-based.

Qualified individuals who are unemployed through no fault of their own may receive benefits if the individual earned at least \$3,300 in the previous year and is:

- looking for full time work;
- in approved training; or
- awaiting recall to employment.

The individual must be able and willing to work.

Once approved, the applicant must file an on-line weekly claim showing at least four new job contacts a week and provide information regarding whether the applicant worked in the last week or went to school. A recipient must report part-time or temporary work as part of the weekly claim. The benefit ends when full-time employment is secured or the benefit is exhausted.

Amounts/Restrictions:

Benefit ranges from \$26 to \$479 per week (average is \$336), based on wages earned during the first four of the last five completed quarters or the last four completed quarters.

The state pays up to 26 weeks maximum.

The federal government provides for Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) up to an additional 14 weeks after state benefits are exhausted.

Scope and Cost of Program:

For FY 2012, 108,930 individuals were assisted by UI.

For FY 2012, state and federal spending was \$473 million, of which 93% was state funding from the Utah Unemployment Trust Fund. The \$33.5 million in federal funding was for administrative and operating costs.

FY 2012 Funding



Notes/References:

The Social Security Act of 1935 authorizes a federal-state UI system.

Section 35A-4-102 of the Utah Code authorizes the establishment of UI in Utah.

Sections 35A-4-201 through 313 provide the framework of determining what employers and workers are subject to coverage, the contribution rates assessed, and collection provisions.

United States Code Title 23, Subtitle C, Chapter 23 of the Federal Unemployment Tax Act establishes a federal payroll tax on employers.

http://jobs.utah.gov/jobseeker/index.html

Contact:

Bill Starks — *Director* Unemployment Insurance 801-526-9575 billstarks@utah.gov

Training for Adults — Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

Provides assistance with job training by arranging for an employment counselor to meet with an applicant and develop and complete an employment plan.

Eligibility:

Eligibility is situational and not based on income or assets.

The applicant must:

- meet with an employment counselor to develop an employment plan;
- follow the plan and make progress towards the plan goals; and
- stay in touch with employment counselor.

When post-secondary training has been negotiated, the applicant must:

- select a demand occupation and
- complete it as quickly as is reasonable.

If approved, an applicant may be able to get a bachelor's or master's degree, if it can be obtained within 24 months.

Amounts/Restrictions:

Up to \$4,000 per exposure (exposure is up to 24 months).

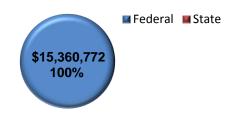
Under certain circumstances, amount may be increased up to \$8,000 with a supervisor waiver.

Scope and Cost of Program:

For FY 2012, 7,712 individuals were assisted by WIA training for adults, youth, and dislocated workers.

The budget for this 100% federal-funded program for FY 2012 was \$15.4 million. Funding includes training for adults, youth, and dislocated workers.

FY 2012 Funding



Notes/References:

Federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA)

Contact:

Karla Aguirre — *Director* Workforce Development 801-526-9724 kaguirre@utah.gov

Training for Youth — WIA

Provides assistance to young people with preparing for and finding employment, as well as getting a high school diploma/GED, by working with an employment counselor.

Includes assisting young people to:

- stay in school;
- learn better study skills;
- receive tutoring;
- get into alternative education programs;
- obtain summer employment;
- obtain work experience;
- pay for post-secondary education and vocational education;
- obtain leadership development opportunities;
- · receive mentoring; and
- receive guidance counseling with substance abuse prevention.

Eligibility:

Eligibility is situational and not based on income or assets.

Program is provided to youth (age 14-21) who are typically low-income and have one

or more circumstances that interfere with their ability to complete an educational program or obtain and keep employment.

An applicant must:

- apply for services and meet with an employment counselor;
- take a test to determine academic levels in reading, math, and language;
- write an employment plan;
- follow the plan and make progress towards goals; and
- · complete activities on the plan.

Amounts/Restrictions:

Up to \$4,000 per exposure (exposure is up to 24 months).

Under certain circumstances, amount may be increased up to \$8,000 with a supervisor waiver.

Scope and Cost of Program:

This program is funded under the Workforce Investment Act (see Training for Adults Program).

Notes/References:

federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA)

Contact:

Karla Aguirre — *Director* Workforce Development 801-526-9724 kaguirre@utah.gov

WorkKeys/ KeyTrain

WorkKeys is an assessment system which measures "real-world" foundational skills that are critical to job success. These skills are valuable for all occupations and education levels.

WorkKeys assessments evaluate skills that are identified by employers as required for all jobs in the economy.

KeyTrain assists DWS staff in analyzing the current foundational skill level of a job seeker and offer employment strategies based on the job seeker's needs and current labor market information.

Eligibility:

All DWS job-seeking customers are eligible to participate in WorkKeys and KeyTrain.

Scope and Cost of Program:

This program is funded under the Employment Services Program.

Notes/References:

Internal program funded through the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) training program.

Contact:

Karla Aguirre — *Director*Workforce Development
801-526-9724
kaguirre@utah.gov

Dislocated Worker — WIA

Provides assistance with training for and obtaining employment by working with an employment counselor to develop an employment plan.

Eligibility:

An applicant must meet the dislocated worker definition in the last 24 months, which includes:

- an individual who has been laid off from work;
- a self-employed person who is unemployed because of economic conditions of a natural disaster;
- a displaced homemaker; or
- a military spouse who leaves a job to follow a spouse to a permanent change of military station or military spouse discharge.

A U.S. citizen or an employment-eligible non-citizen:

- meets with an employment counselor to develop an employment plan;
- follows the plan and makes progress towards the plan's goals; and
- stays in touch with an employment counselor.

When postsecondary training has been negotiated, the applicant must:

- select a demand occupation; and
- complete training as quickly as is reasonable.

Amounts/Restrictions:

Up to \$4,000 per exposure (exposure is up to 24 months).

Amount may be increased up to \$8,000 with a supervisor waiver, under certain circumstances.

Scope and Cost of Program:

This program is funded under the WIA Act (see Training for Adults Program).

Notes/References:

Federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA).

Contacts:

Karla Aguirre — *Director* Workforce Development 801-526-9724 kaguirre@utah.gov

Trade Act

Jobs being moved to foreign countries

Provides assistance to individuals who have lost their jobs because of the jobs being moved to foreign countries.

Eligibility:

An applicant must file a petition with and be found eligible by the Department of Labor to receive Trade Act services.

In addition, an applicant must:

- meet with an employment counselor and ask for training services, job search assistance, relocation, wage subsidies for older workers, and/or available trade services to assist with returning to work;
- write an employment plan; and
- follow the plan and make progress towards the plan.

An applicant may receive:

- money to raise incomes to a livable level:
- money to assist with moving expenses;
- money to assist with expenses of looking for a job;
- retraining, if needed, to obtain a job; and
- a tax credit to assist with paying for health care.

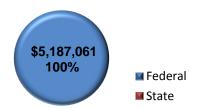
Amounts/Restrictions:

There is no funding limit, but extraordinarily high amounts are staffed with state program employees and a supervisor.

Scope and Cost of Program:

The budget for this 100% federal-funded program for FY 2012 was \$5.2 million.

FY 2012 Funding



Notes/References:

http://jobs.utah.gov/customereducation/faqs/faqtrade.html

http://jobs.utah.gov/jobseeker/DislocatedWorker/Webhelp/Petitioning_TA_cert.htm

Contact:

Karla Aguirre — *Director* Workforce Development 801-526-9724 kaguirre@utah.gov

Employment Support Child Care

Provides child care for parents who work or who are doing the approved activities for financial assistance, including attending school.

Parents may choose their child-care provider from licensed child-care centers/providers, residential certificate providers, license-exempt centers (such as after-school programs), and approved relatives.

Child-care providers receive reimbursement for serving low-income families and can draw on networks of training and technical resources to assist them in providing highquality child-care services.

Parents in low-income families with children up to age 12 are eligible.

Eliaibility:

Parents in eligible low-income families with children up to age 12.

Amounts/Restrictions:

Parents receive a voucher to pay or partially pay for child care.

Quality grants are available for licensed or legally licensed exempt child-care providers and afterschool providers. Grants are awarded based on a competitive procurement process.

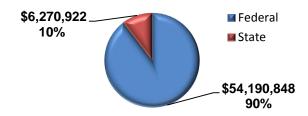
Scope and Cost of Program:

For FY 2012, 42,424 individuals and 13,277 households were assisted.

For FY 2012, state and federal spending was \$60.5 million, of which 90% was federal funding.

The \$6.3 million state-funded portion was a state-paid match and includes "maintenance of effort" money used for administrative and operating costs.

FY 2012 Funding



Notes/References:

http://jobs.utah.gov/customereducation/faqs/faqcc.html

Code of Federal Regulations at 45 CFR Parts 98 and 99

Utah Code Section 35A-3-202

Utah Administrative Rules R986-700

Contact:

Karla Aguirre – *Director*Workforce Development
801-526-9724
kaguirre@utah.gov

Utah Adoption Assistance Program

A parent who places a child for adoption

The Utah Adoption Assistance Program provides cash payments to and assistance in obtaining employment for a parent who has given birth to a child who has been placed for adoption.

Eligibility:

The program is available to any birth parent who was (or would have been) the one to

take care of the child if the child had not been relinquished for adoption. The child must have been legally placed through a public or private adoption agency or licensed attorney.

The applicant must meet with an employment counselor to develop an employment plan and participate in the activities in the plan.

Amounts/Restrictions:

Adoption assistance payments are provided up to a maximum of 12 consecutive months from the date the child was relinquished, with the month of relinquishment counted as the first month.

Scope and Cost of Program:

This program is funded under the Family Employment Program.

Notes/References:

http://jobs.utah.gov/customereducation/services/financialhelp/adoption/program.html

Contact:

Karla Aguirre — *Director* Workforce Development 801-526-9724 kaguirre@utah.gov

Veterans

Assistance with:

- applying for Veterans benefits;
- matching job skills;
- obtaining earned credit and certifications;
- · finding work; and
- obtaining training.

Veterans representatives assist in exploring options.

Eligibility:

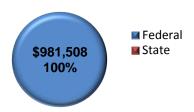
A veteran, including National Guard members who were activated for federal

service during war or domestic emergency, and reservists who served on active duty.

Scope and Cost of Program:

The budget for this 100% federal-funded program for FY 2012 was \$981,508.

FY 2012 Funding



Notes/References:

http://jobs.utah.gov/customereducation/faqs/faqva.html

https://hirevetsfirst.gov

http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/index.asp

Contact:

Karla Aguirre — *Director* Workforce Development 801-526-9724 kaguirre@utah.gov

Foreign Labor Certification (FLC)

The FLC program is designed to meet the labor force needs of state employers through the use of foreign laborers when U.S. workers cannot be found to fill positions.

A secondary purpose is to ensure that all federal rules and regulations governing the recruitment of foreign laborers are met.

Eligibility:

The FLC works directly with Utah employers to process recruitment applications for three types of worker programs:

• The H-2A temporary agricultural program allows agricultural

- employers who anticipate a shortage of domestic workers to bring non-immigrant foreign workers to the U.S. to perform agricultural labor or services of a temporary or seasonal nature.
- The H-2B non-immigrant program permits employers to hire foreign workers to come temporarily to the U.S. and perform temporary nonagricultural services or labor on a one-time, seasonal, peak-load, or intermittent basis.
- The Permanent Labor Certification Program permits employers to hire foreign workers to come to the U.S. and perform agriculture, nonagricultural, or labor services on a permanent basis.

Scope and Cost of Program:

This program is funded under the Employment Services Program.

Amounts/Restrictions:

The current grant amount is about \$100,000 and is distributed annually to state workforce agencies derived from a funding formula based on the number of job order requests cleared for placement and the number of resume referrals sent to the employers in the state.

Notes/References:

Code of Federal Regulations, Title 20, Part 655, Subparts A and B, and Part 656, Subparts A and C.

Contact:

Karla Aguirre — *Director* Workforce Development 801-526-9724 kaguirre@utah.gov

Employment Services (Wagner-Peyser)

Wagner-Peyser (Employment Exchange) is a U.S. Department of Labor program that

provides a variety of employment services tools, instruments, information, and employment-related services to employers and job seekers to assist them in identifying and making appropriate and informed employment and employment-related decisions.

Employment Services:

- Assists employers in finding and hiring the most qualified employees.
- Assists job seekers in identifying their skills and abilities to make the most appropriate job and career choices.
- Improves the economic condition of communities by assisting individuals to find employment.

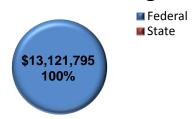
Eligibility:

There is no formal eligibility determination process. Those who seek jobs and employers seeking employees may use these services.

Scope and Cost of Program:

The budget for this 100% federal-funded program for FY 2012 was \$13.1 million. This includes \$6.6 million in Wagner-Peyser funding and \$5.6 million in Reed Act funding.

FY 2012 Funding



Amounts/Restrictions:

These funds are used for employment services activities only. No benefits are paid directly to customers.

Notes/References:

Public Law 105-220, as amended by WIA Act of 1998

Utah Code Section 35A-3-115

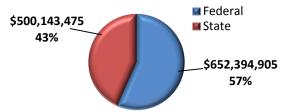
Contact:

Karla Aguirre — *Director*Workforce
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801-526-9724
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Total — DWS Assistance Program Funding

For FY 2012, the total funding for the programs included in this report is \$1.15 billion, of which 57% was federally funded, and 43% was state funded.

FY 2012 Funding



For FY 2012, of the \$500 million in state funding, \$439.9 million or 88% was for Unemployment Insurance. Without Unemployment Insurance, the state funding was only 9% of the total funding for the programs included in this report.

FY 2012 Funding without Unemployment

