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# **In-Home Supportive Services: Background on Budget, Providers, and Registries**

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LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE

Presented To:

Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on  
Health and Human Services

Hon. Patty Berg, Chair





## Program Overview

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- ☑ **Purpose.** The In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program provides various services to eligible aged, blind, and disabled persons who are unable to remain safely in their own homes without such assistance. An individual is eligible for IHSS if he or she lives in his or her own home—or is capable of safely doing so if IHSS is provided—and meets specific criteria related to eligibility for Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Program (SSI/SSP).
  
- ☑ **Federal Participation.** In 2004, California received a federal waiver that made about 98 percent of IHSS recipients eligible for federal funding. Prior to the waiver, only about 75 percent of the caseload were eligible for federal funding. Those federally ineligible were served in the state-only program, known as the “residual.”



## IHSS Caseload and Funding Sources

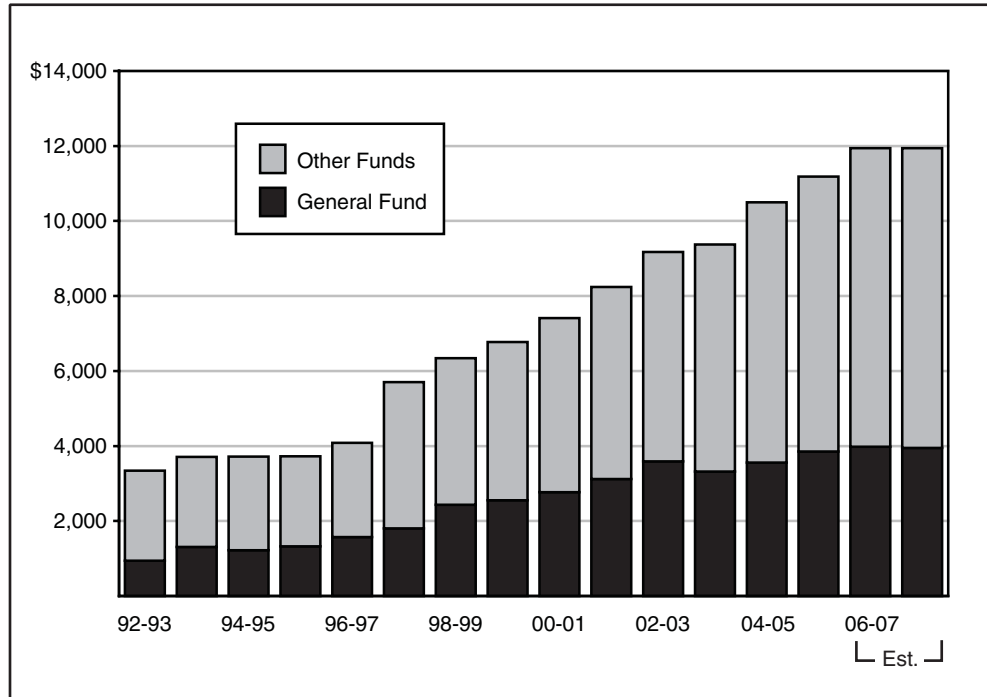
- Monthly Caseload.** For 2007-08, the IHSS average monthly caseload is estimated to be 389,000. This is a projected 5.1 percent increase over 2006-07.
  
- Budget.** The 2007-08 budget includes over \$4.6 billion (\$1.5 billion General Fund) for the support of IHSS. This is an increase of \$224 million (5 percent) compared to the estimated expenditures in 2006-07.

<b>IHSS Funding 2007-08</b>		
<i>(Dollars in Billions)</i>		
<b>Fund Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Percent of Total</b>
Federal funds	\$2.3	49%
State General Fund	1.5	33
County funds	0.8	18
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$4.6</b>	<b>100%</b>



## IHSS Caseload and Funding Sources *(Continued)*

**IHSS Cost Per Case.** The IHSS cost per case is shown on the chart below:



- From 1995-96 through 2005-06, IHSS costs rose rapidly from less than \$4,000 per person to over \$10,000 per person.
- For 2007-08 the cost per case is projected to remain flat.



## Wages, Providers, and Public Authorities

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### IHSS Wages

- **Current Wages.** During 2007-08, the state participates in wages of \$11.50 per hour plus 60 cents for health benefits, for a total of \$12.10 per hour.
- **County Wage Range.** Although the state participates in wages and benefits up to \$12.10 per hour, county wages and benefits as of March 2007 ranged from \$7.50 to \$13.30 per hour.



### IHSS Providers

- **Consumer Control.** The IHSS recipient is considered to be the employer and has the responsibility to hire, supervise, and fire his/her provider.
- **Provider Eligibility.** Current law places few eligibility requirements on IHSS providers. Specifically, only those who, in the last ten years have been convicted of MediCal fraud, child abuse, or elder abuse are ineligible to be IHSS providers.
- **Consumer-Provider Relationship.** An estimated 58 percent of IHSS providers are relatives of the recipient.



### IHSS Public Authorities

- **Collective Bargaining.** Current law requires counties to establish an entity for purposes of collective bargaining over IHSS wages and other terms of employment. Most counties have established public authorities to comply with this requirement.
- **Responsibilities.** Current law requires public authorities to (1) establish a provider registry, (2) investigate the qualifications and background of potential providers, (3) establish a system to refer IHSS providers to recipients, and (4) provide training for providers and recipients.



## IHSS Registries and Local Requirements

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### IHSS Provider Registries

- **Registry Usage.** Each public authority must maintain an IHSS registry of providers who have met various background and qualification requirements. The names of providers listed on the registry are distributed to consumers to assist them in the hiring process.
- **Registry Listing Is Optional.** Failure to meet the IHSS registry qualifications specified by the public authority prevents an individual from appearing on the registry, but does not prevent an individual from being a provider.



### IHSS Registry Requirements

- **Broad Local Discretion.** With the exception of the requirement noted below, current law grants public authorities broad discretion to set registry requirements.
- **Photographic Identification.** The only statutory requirement is that, in order to be placed on the registry, prospective providers must present government issued photographic identification.
- **County Registry Requirements Vary.** Counties have implemented various criteria to qualify for IHSS registry placement. These include: passing a criminal background check, attending provider training, providing references, attending an orientation, providing employment history, participating in an interview with the public authority, and passing drug tests.
- **Recent Legislation on Background Checks.** Chapter 447, Statutes of 2007 (SB 868, Ridley-Thomas) provides for state participation in the cost of performing Department of Justice criminal background investigations (CBI) on registry and non-registry IHSS providers. If over 50 percent of those listed on a public authority's registry have received a CBI, the county is eligible for reimbursement of 65 percent of the nonfederal cost.