

Protect Washington's Lifeline for Disabled and Elderly Adults



FULLY FUND LIFE-SAVING SERVICES THAT PREVENT HOMELESSNESS

Services that allow people to weather a short or long-term disability can mean the difference between a living in a safe and healthy home, or homelessness.

The state's **Housing and Essential Needs** (HEN) program ensures that extremely low-income people diagnosed with significant, temporary mental illnesses or physical disabilities can meet their basic needs while unable to work. The program provides rent and utility assistance, as well as access to health and hygiene items.

The **Aged, Blind, and Disabled** (ABD) program helps extremely low-income adults with permanent mental health illnesses or physical disabilities by providing modest cash assistance of up to \$197 per month while they apply to the federal

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. When people transition to SSI, the federal government reimburses the state for the full cost of the ABD cash grant. ABD also provides support to low-income elderly and disabled documented immigrants who are not yet eligible for federal medical and income support benefits.

Medical Care Services provide health care coverage for elderly or disabled immigrants who have legally verified immigration status.

SSI Facilitation Services assists disabled individuals through the lengthy and complicated process of applying for SSI benefits. This process can take several years, but results in \$733 per month for recipients, allowing them to meet their most basic needs.

"The Housing and Essential Needs program saved my life."

For years I cycled in and out of homelessness, until finally I was connected with the HEN program. My caseworkers with HEN found me a home, gave me rental assistance, helped with transportation, and hygiene articles. For the first time in my adult life I had the stability, the dignity, and the security of my own place to live. It allowed me to focus on my health, my employment, my education, and to ultimately get my life going in a direction I am proud of.

I am now completing a degree, serve on non-profit boards, and work to help others like me. If it weren't for the HEN program, I don't know if I'd be alive



DID YOU KNOW?

- HEN prevents homelessness by providing assistance for people unable to work because of temporary mental illness or disability
- ABD provides extremely low-income adults diagnosed with a permanent disability with cash assistance of \$197 per month while they apply for federal benefits
- Medical Care Services provides temporary health care coverage for elderly or disabled immigrants who are living on very low incomes
- SSI Facilitation Services assists disabled individuals through the process of applying for SSI benefits, which can be a lengthy and complicated process
- SSI Facilitation Services are a win-win: people with disabilities gain access to greater stability, and the state receives a federal reimbursement for the interim Aged, Blind, and Disabled cash support

Track our advocacy on social media using the hashtag #WAhomes