

### Fiscal Estimate - 2023 Session

Original       Updated       Corrected       Supplemental

**LRB Number** 23-4469/1      **Introduction Number** SB-0557

**Description**  
 housing and homelessness; emergency rental assistance program; indigent civil legal services; workforce development; community action agencies; poverty reports; mental health; economic security; reimbursement for nonemergency medical transportation services; urban mass transit aid; lead exposure and abatement services; lead service line replacement; providing an exemption from emergency rule procedures; granting rule-making authority; and making an appropriation

**Fiscal Effect**

**State:**

No State Fiscal Effect  
 Indeterminate

Increase Existing Appropriations       Increase Existing Revenues       Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget  
 Decrease Existing Appropriations       Decrease Existing Revenues       Yes       No  
 Create New Appropriations       Decrease Costs

**Local:**

No Local Government Costs  
 Indeterminate

1.  Increase Costs      3.  Increase Revenue  
 Permissive  Mandatory       Permissive  Mandatory  
 2.  Decrease Costs      4.  Decrease Revenue  
 Permissive  Mandatory       Permissive  Mandatory

5. Types of Local Government Units Affected  
 Towns       Village       Cities  
 Counties       Others  
 School Districts       WTCS Districts

**Fund Sources Affected**      **Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations**

GPR     FED     PRO     PRS     SEG     SEGS ss. 20.437(2)(fr) and (md)

Agency/Prepared By	Authorized Signature	Date
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## Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DCF 11/9/2023

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### Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Senate Bill 557 makes various changes to services for housing and homelessness, workforce development, health issues, and transportation. Programs administered by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) impacted by the bill include: creation of an Internet assistance program; additional funding and increased financial eligibility for skills enhancement services; increased funding and income eligibility for services from community action agencies under the federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program; grants to the Wisconsin Trust Account Foundation (WisTAF) for civil legal services; and additional funding for the Transitional Jobs program.

Senate Bill 557 provides \$10,000,000 GPR in a new appropriation and \$10,000,000 TANF to create an Internet assistance program. The program would make payments to Internet service providers on behalf of low-income families to assist with paying for Internet services. To be eligible, a family must have income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level and have exhausted other assistance program options. The department may contract for administration of the program and could promulgate emergency rules to implement it. It is unknown at this time exactly how many families could be served under the program, as each case could have varying Internet costs and access to other Internet assistance programs. No additional funding is provided under the bill for the department to administer the program, so additional analysis would be required to determine whether current funding could be used to contract with local agencies for administration and whether existing TANF administrative funding could cover the expected need for 1.0 FTE additional position for state administration and oversight of the program.

Relating to community action agencies, the bill provides an additional \$1,000,000 GPR annual funding for the state's skills enhancement program and creates a GPR, sum sufficient appropriation to provide matching state funds equaling 25 percent of the state's Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) award. State match funds provided for CSBG would be used for the same purposes and under the same allocation percentages for community action agencies and state administration as federal CSBG funds. The bill also increases income eligibility by amending the definition of a "poor person" under s. 49.265(1)(b) as an individual served by a community action agency whose income is at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. This eligibility change would allow for greater participation in the skills enhancement program, as individuals with income at or above 150 percent of the federal poverty level currently cannot be served by the program. In addition, Wisconsin would be able to expand CSBG-funded services to the full income eligibility threshold currently allowed under federal law, according to the Office of Community Services' 2024-02 Dear Colleague Letter.

The bill also increases TANF funding for two programs. The total grant provided annually to WisTAF for civil legal services would increase by \$500,000, to \$1,000,000 federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) annually. The bill also amends current law to allow use of grant funds from DCF to be used to provide civil legal services in eviction matters and removes unused provisions in the statutes relating to DCF providing matching funds up to \$500,000 to WisTAF. The bill also provides an additional \$1,000,000 federal TANF funds for the Transitional Jobs program. The department estimates a per-participant cost of \$10,000 for Transitional Jobs, so additional funding under the bill would expand the program to serve an additional 100 participants. Additional analysis would be needed to determine areas of the state to which the program could expand or serve unmet demand for services in existing Transitional Jobs regions.

## **Long-Range Fiscal Implications**

The TANF increases provided under the bill would increase the existing structural deficit. Currently, ongoing TANF expenditures exceed available ongoing TANF revenues. In order to resolve this deficit, additional state GPR or ongoing expenditure reduction is needed.