



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF  
**HUMAN SERVICES**

**December 8, 2021**  
**Presentation on COVID Relief Distribution**

# Agency Overview

The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) is the State's primary social service provider, with a \$2.4 billion annual budget with 7,000 employees, serving over one million people annually. The Department, through its 24 local departments of social services, aggressively pursues opportunities to assist people in economic need, provide preventive services, and protect vulnerable children and adults in each of Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City.

## **SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**

- Foster Care Placement
- Adoption Placement
- Child Welfare Services
- Adult Services
- Legal Services

## **FAMILY INVESTMENT ADMINISTRATION**

- Cash Assistance
- SNAP
- Workforce Development
- MA Eligibility
- Refugee Assistance
- Energy Assistance

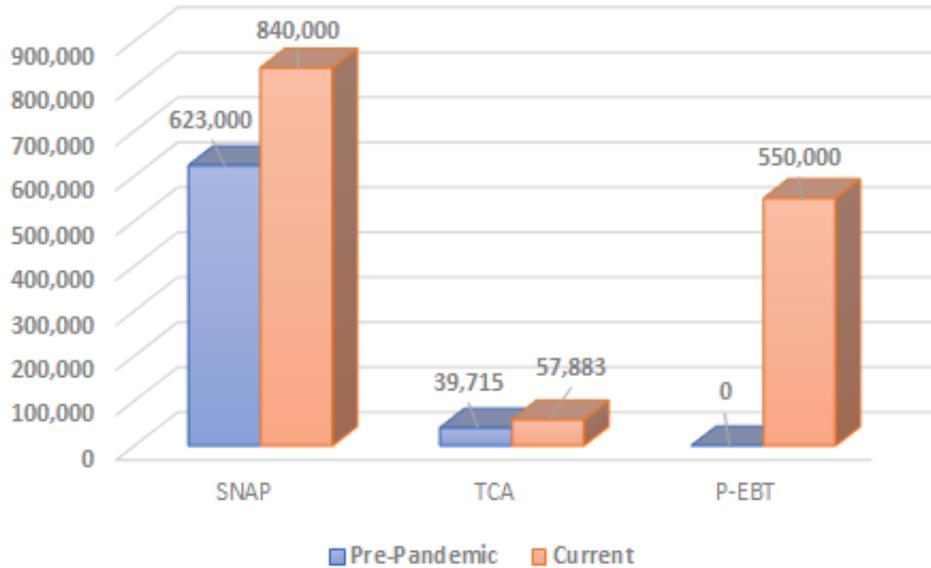
## **CHILD SUPPORT ADMINISTRATION**

- Child Support payment enforcement from noncustodial parents

# Distribution of COVID Relief Funds - Overview

- COVID Relief Funds distributed to the Department addressed a variety of needs of children, families, and individuals:
  - Public assistance programs
  - Ensuring the well-being of children in care
  - Ensuring the well-being of vulnerable adults
- **Monitors for abuse, fraud, and waste:** Office of the Inspector General

# Pandemic Impact On Maryland Public Assistance Programs



- Sharp increase in number of individuals seeing public assistance.
- 45% increase in SNAP and TCA caseloads combined.
- If you add P-EBT, the number of customers served nearly doubled.

# Family Investment Administration Pandemic Management Goals

- To help existing recipients keep benefits
- To provide timely and responsive services to new applicants
- To effectively implement new programs

## Helping existing customers keep benefits

- Suspended SNAP benefit renewal requirements.
- Sought and was approved for available waivers to suspend SNAP work requirements.
- Suspended TCA work requirements in alignment with SNAP.

## **Providing timely services to new applicants**

- Promoted our online consumer portal.
- Sought and was approved for available waivers of interview requirements.
- Partnered with non-profit organizations to provide application support to those not able to access services online.

# Pandemic Programs at a Glance

Program Name	Purpose	Impact	
		Number Served	Total Amount Issued
<b>P-EBT</b>	To support school children unable to access free school meals due to pandemic-related school closures.	550,000	\$1,024,639,001
<b>Emergency Food Assistance</b>	To provide emergency food assistance to low-income individuals. This included home meal deliveries to individuals who were unable to leave their homes due to COVID-19.	Over 34 million pounds of food distributed	\$10,000,000
<b>Enhanced TDAP Benefits</b>	An additional \$100 was issued to TDAP customers starting in February 2021. Recipients are cumulative unduplicated totals. Data on this chart is through October 31, 2021.	15,768	\$10,573,500
<b>Enhanced TCA Benefits</b>	An additional \$100 was issued to TCA customers starting in January 2021. Recipients are average number of recipients. Data on this chart is through October 31, 2021.	66,786	\$67,041,500

# Looking Ahead

- ***Top priority:*** helping customers return to work.
- Helping customers **leverage existing resources** such as advanced child credit, child care subsidies, and Emergency Rental Assistance.
- Winding down pandemic programs in ways that support **successful transition.**

# Major Highlights - Child Welfare

Funding Purpose	Recipient	Total Expended*
Isolation and quarantine of foster parents	Foster parents	\$1,316,000
Foster home stipends	Foster and kinship families	\$2,700,000
1st Supplemental Payment	Residential Child Care and Independent Living Providers	\$2,164,649
2nd Supplemental Payment	Residential Child Care and Independent Living Providers	\$2,308,316
Quarantine unit for youth exposed to COVID	Provider	\$1,431,930
Netbooks (for visitation)	Youth and families	\$495,000

# Child Welfare Highlights

- *Moratorium on Youth Aging Out*
- *Accelerated Provider Rate*
  - 2% increase to providers from Jan - June 2021.
  - In FY22, providers received up to a 4% increase over the rate that included the 2% increase.
- Provider challenges - recruiting and retaining essential staff.

# QUESTIONS