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HOUSE BILL 2415

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State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Representative Cortes

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding economic assistance for individuals  
2 who are eligible for temporary assistance for needy families;  
3 amending RCW 74.08A.210; and providing an effective date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.08A.210 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 36 s 30 are each  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (1) In order to prevent some families from developing dependency  
8 on temporary assistance for needy families, the department shall make  
9 available to qualifying applicants a diversion program designed to  
10 provide brief, emergency assistance for families in crisis whose  
11 income and assets would otherwise qualify them for temporary  
12 assistance for needy families.

13 (2) Diversion assistance may include cash or vouchers in payment  
14 for the following needs:

15 (a) Child care;

16 (b) Housing assistance;

17 (c) Transportation-related expenses;

18 (d) Food;

19 (e) Medical costs for the recipient's immediate family;

20 (f) Employment-related expenses which are necessary to keep or  
21 obtain paid unsubsidized employment.

1 (3) Diversion assistance is available once in each (~~twelve-~~  
2 ~~month~~) 12-month period for each adult applicant. Recipients of  
3 diversion assistance are not included in the temporary assistance for  
4 needy families program.

5 (4) Diversion assistance may not exceed (~~one thousand five~~  
6 ~~hundred dollars~~) \$2,000 for each instance.

7 (5) To be eligible for diversion assistance, a family must  
8 otherwise be eligible for temporary assistance for needy families.

9 (6) Families ineligible for temporary assistance for needy  
10 families (~~or benefits under RCW 74.62.030~~) due to sanction,  
11 noncompliance, the lump sum income rule, or any other reason are not  
12 eligible for diversion assistance.

13 (7) Families must provide evidence showing that a bona fide need  
14 exists according to subsection (2) of this section in order to be  
15 eligible for diversion assistance.

16 An adult applicant may receive diversion assistance of any type  
17 no more than once per (~~twelve-month~~) 12-month period. If the  
18 recipient of diversion assistance is placed on the temporary  
19 assistance for needy families program within (~~twelve~~) 12 months of  
20 receiving diversion assistance, the prorated dollar value of the  
21 assistance shall be treated as a loan from the state, and recovered  
22 by deduction from the recipient's cash grant.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Section 1 of this act takes effect January  
24 1, 2025.

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