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Georgia Budget and Policy Institute

DHS BUDGET FACTS

MORE DRASTIC CUTS ENDANGER THOSE HURT WORST BY THE RECESSION

MORE BAD NEWS FOR POOR FAMILIES, FOSTER CHILDREN, AND THE ELDERLY

Governor Perdue recently ordered three percent *more* in cuts to the Department of Human Services (DHS), which is charged with protecting the most vulnerable Georgians, such as abused children and the elderly.

The proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year (begins July 1) cuts 22.1 percent of DHS' budget, after many years of severe cuts. Fiscal year 2012 looks even bleaker, as federal Recovery Act funds will have expired.

Lawmakers have options other than these proposed cuts:

- Cut investments in Child Welfare Services by \$10.2 million, including:
 - o \$2 million in personnel cuts through layoffs, furloughs, and attrition.
 - o \$1.4 million from the Independent Living Program that serves youth aging out of foster care. This 19 percent cut jeopardizes part of the \$5.4 million federal match, therefore DHS proposes replacing \$783,128 in state funds with county funds.
- Cut Elderly Community Living Services contracts by \$2.7 million, thereby eliminating or reducing services to older Georgians living in their communities. Less community supports will force more seniors into nursing homes and cost the state more money.
- Eliminate 137 eligibility workers (\$3.2 million) and further cut personnel costs by \$3.4 million through layoffs, furloughs, and attrition.

Cutting eligibility workers, the links to necessities

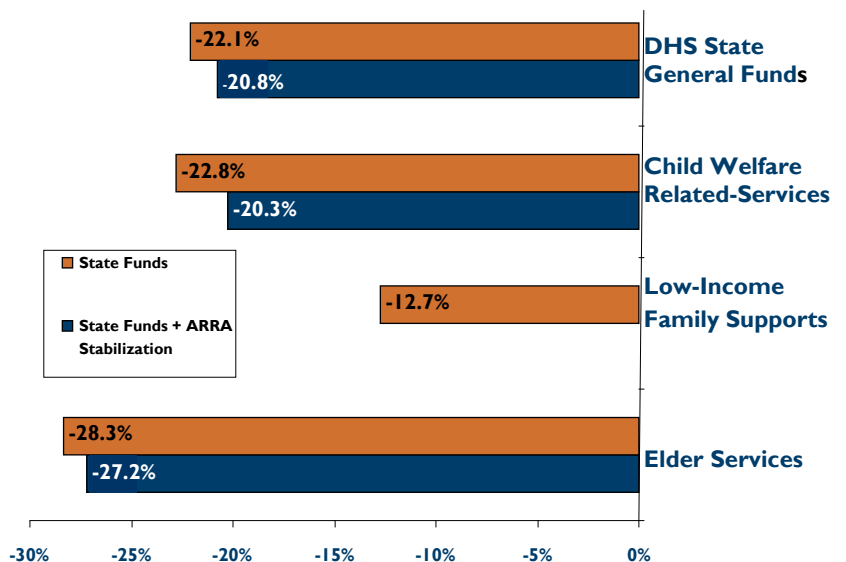
R E C O M M E N D A T I O N

LAWMAKERS DO NOT HAVE TO CUT VITAL SERVICES TO THOSE HURT MOST BY THE RECESSION, THEY HAVE OTHER OPTIONS.

A balanced approach to budgeting could include more revenues by increasing the cigarette tax; enacting a new income tax rate on those earning more than \$400,000 per year; suspending or ending special interest tax breaks; updating the sales tax base; and closing corporate loopholes.

such as food stamps, Medicaid, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), makes it more difficult for suffering families to get help to take care of their children.

GOVERNOR PROPOSES 22% CUTS TO HUMAN SERVICES



THOUGHTFUL ANALYSIS...RESPONSIBLE POLICY