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Georgia Budget and Policy Institute

DHS BUDGET FACTS

DEEP CUTS IN THE FRONTLINE

PROPOSED CUTS TO HUMAN SERVICES

The governor's proposed state budget cuts for fiscal year 2011 total \$116.5 million, or 18.2 percent, of the Department of Human Services' (DHS) budget. However, the budget includes federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds; without them, the proposed budget cuts would total \$124.8 million, or 19.5 percent. (Figures compare the FY 2011 budget to the pre-recession FY 2009 budget.)

PROPOSED DIRECT SERVICE CUTS

- Eliminating 137 eligibility workers who assist applicants for Food Stamps, Medicaid, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).
- Cutting Elder Community Living Service contracts by \$2.7 million, thereby eliminating or reducing services to older Georgians living in their communities, such as respite care and kinship care for grandparents raising their grandchildren.
- Cutting investment in Child Welfare Services by \$7 million, including shifting in-home case management from private providers to the Department of Family and Children's Services without increasing the number of caseworkers.

Stay up-to-date with Senate and House 2011 budget proposals for DHS with GBPI's Weekly Legislative Update. Sign up for the bulletin on www.GBPI.org.

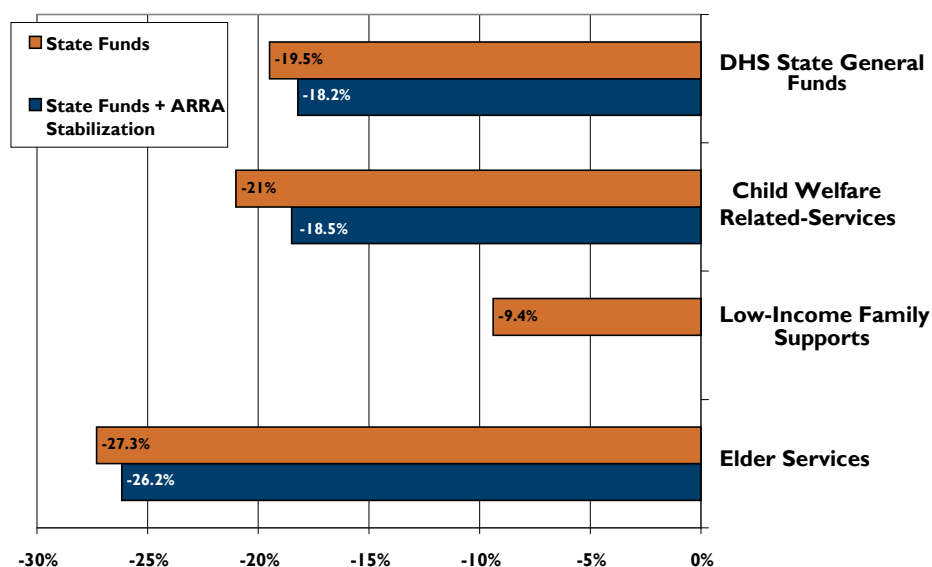
R E C O M M E N D A T I O N

LAWMAKERS SHOULD KNOW THEIR OPTIONS

BEYOND CUTS: New federal money for food stamp administration is available through September 2011. Georgia should use the \$14.9 million in new funds available to increase the number of eligibility workers and to expand outreach to newly eligible families.

Using a balanced approach to budgeting would also reduce the cuts, such as including 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; increasing fees; and closing corporate loopholes. Visit www.GBPI.org for the complete report.

DHS CUTS, ORIGINAL FY 2009 TO PROPOSED FY 2011



THOUGHTFUL ANALYSIS...RESPONSIBLE POLICY

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