

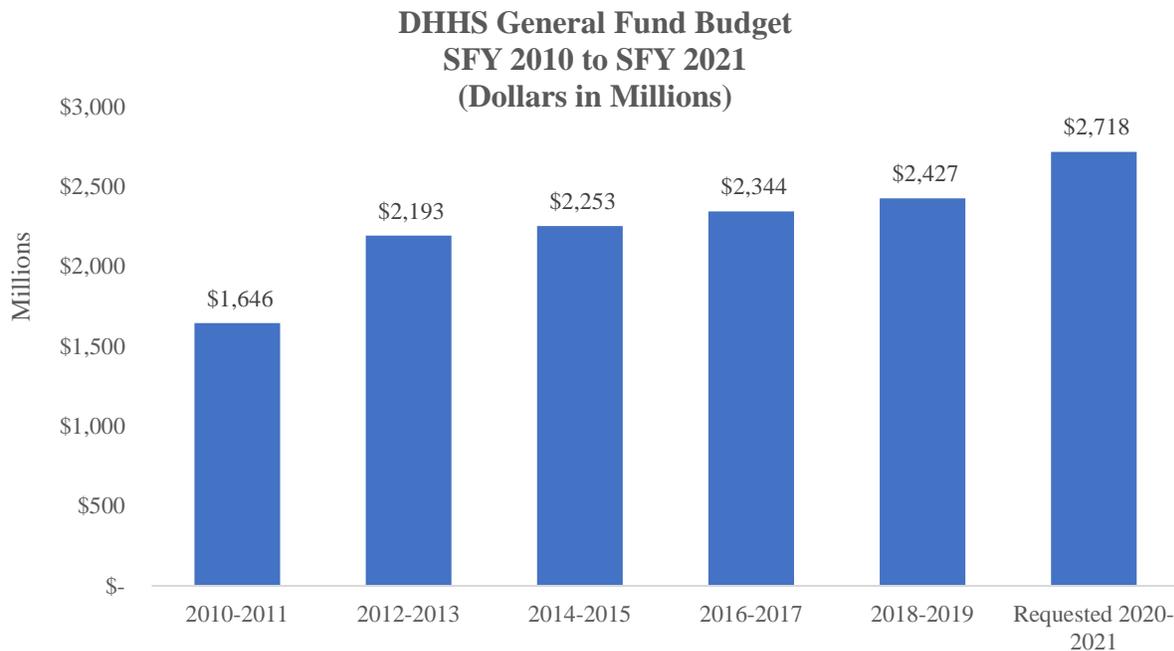
## Highlights of the Maine Department of Health and Human Services Biennial Budget Proposal for FY 2020 to 2021

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) budget is a central component in Governor Mills' overall proposal that is balanced, as the Constitution requires; makes responsible investments to tackle serious challenges facing our state; and honors the will of the people. Maine people want better health care, better schools, better jobs and economic opportunities, and do not want to pay higher taxes. As such, this budget is about HOPE: health, opportunity, prosperity, and education. It offers pragmatic initiatives within a common-sense budget that lives within our means.

DHHS provides health care and social services to approximately a third of the State's population, including children, families, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities, mental illness and substance use disorders.

**Overall Budget:** DHHS is the largest department in Maine State government. In this current biennium, DHHS has a total budget of \$8.2 billion, with \$2.4 billion coming from the General Fund.

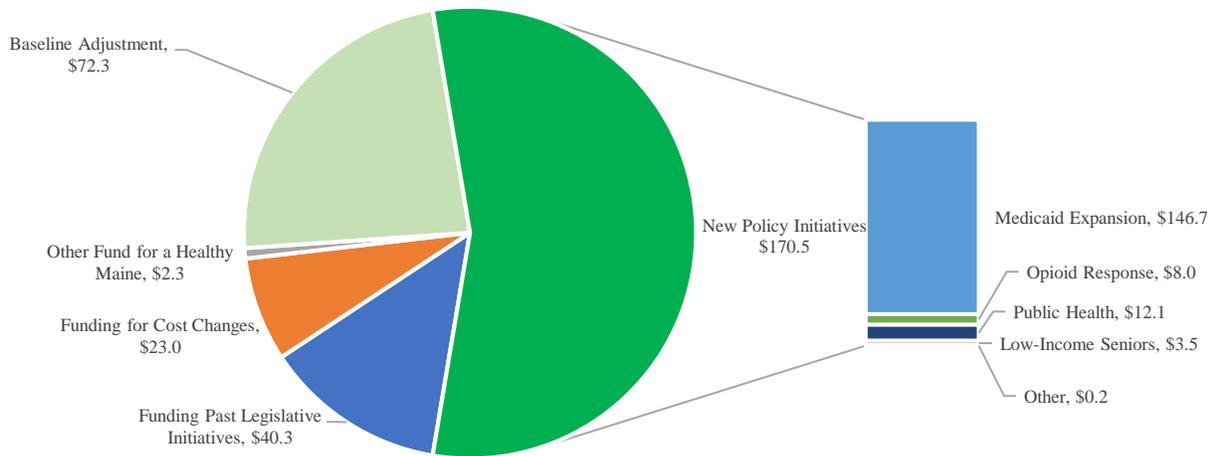
For the next biennium, DHHS requests \$2.7 billion from the General Fund, an increase of nearly 12 percent.



**Major Changes for FY 2020-2021:** While the proposal's General Fund increase is substantial, it includes funding increases that are unrelated to any policy change, such as funding for initiatives passed in the previous legislature whose implementation is underway; cost of living adjustments; and an increase of \$33.3 million from the General Fund due to an automatic reduction in the Federal Medicaid matching rate called FMAP that has resulted from changes in the State's per-capita income.

The increase in the Department’s budget associated with the five major new initiatives proposed by the Governor is significantly smaller – about \$171 million over two years – including spending from the Fund for a Healthy Maine.

**DHHS General Fund & Fund for a Healthy Maine  
Request by Type of Change  
(Dollars in Millions, FY 2020-2021)**

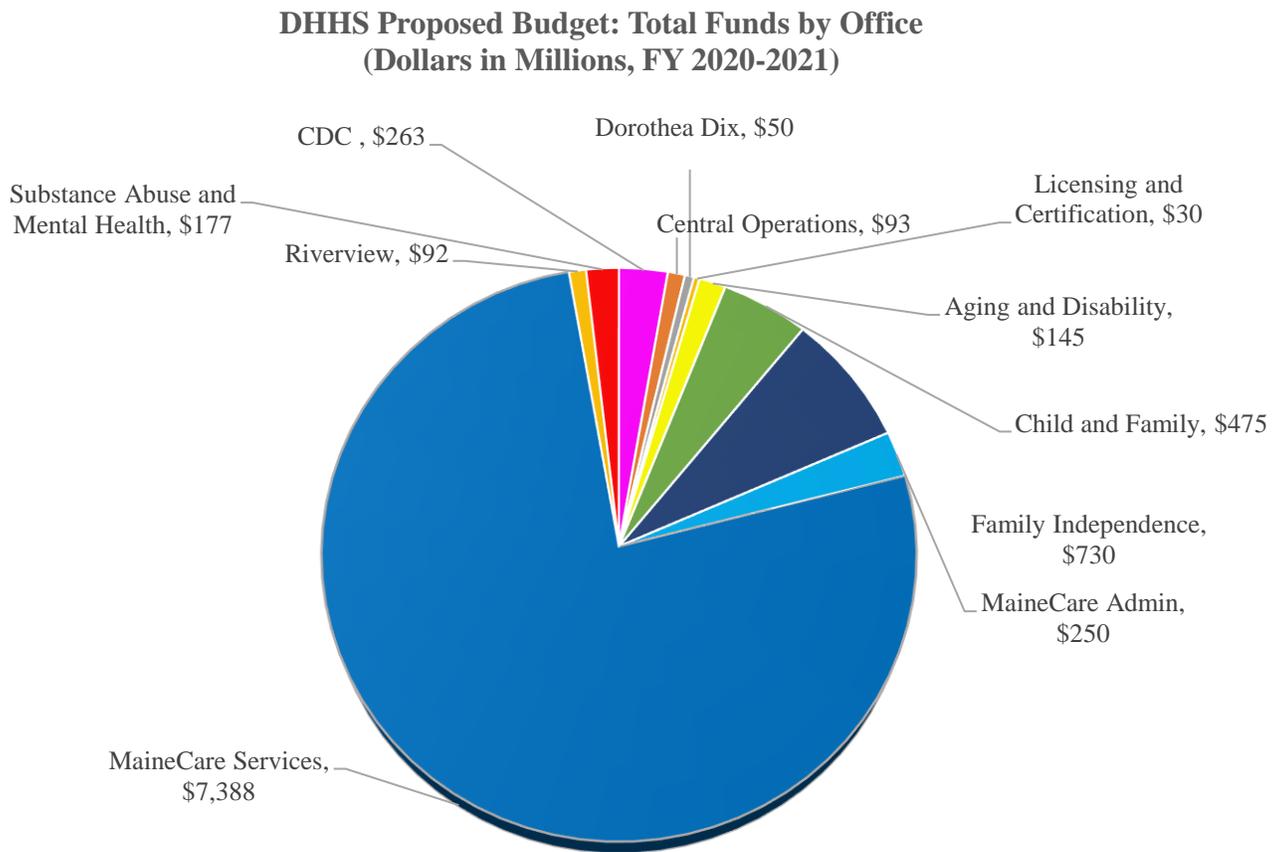


The major policy initiatives include:

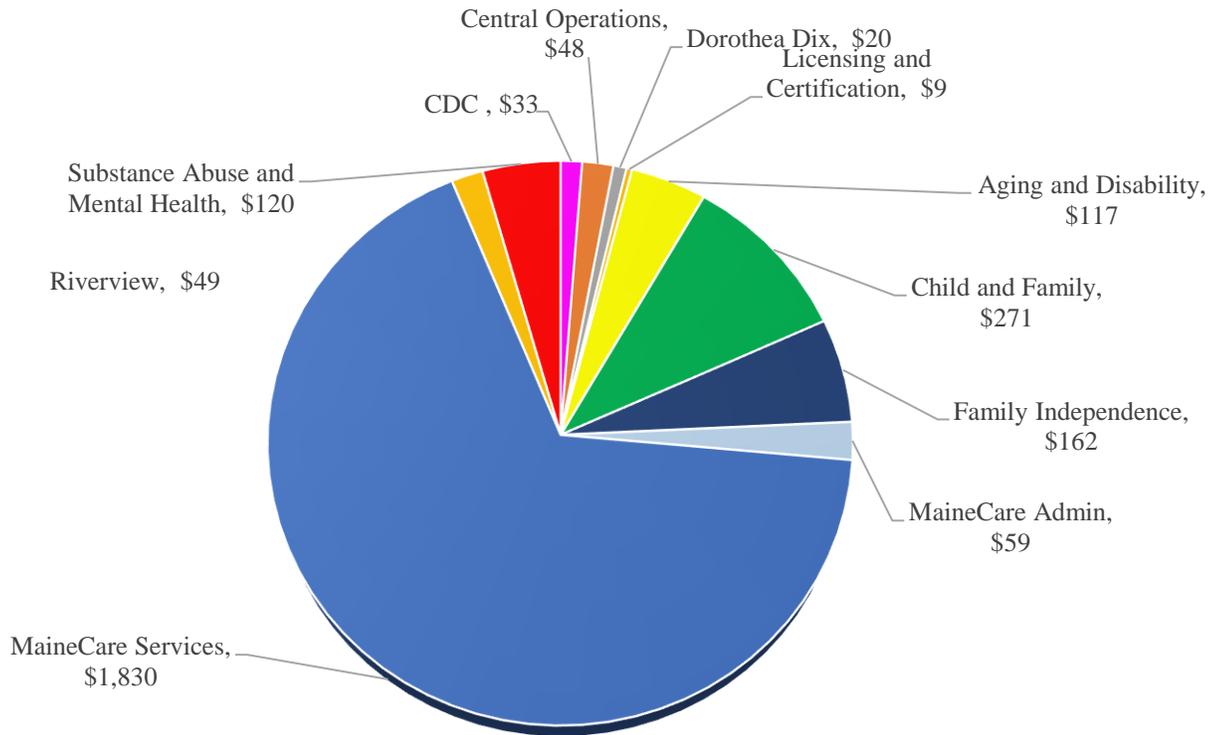
- **MaineCare expansion:** We estimate that an additional \$146.7 million is needed in the MaineCare account for expenditures related to expanding eligibility for approximately 70,000 individuals with income up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), as voted on by the citizens of Maine in November 2017. With an additional \$2 million in funding, we also propose to streamline the eligibility process to improve its efficiency and timeliness.
- **Opioid crisis response:** The budget proposal includes about \$8 million to combat the opioid crisis in conjunction with the Governor’s Office of Policy Innovation and the Future. We will work with the Legislature on the specific initiatives, which may include supportive housing, proven prevention activities, and increases in payments for medication-assisted treatment, ultimately expanding access to treatment for Mainers on their path to recovery.
- **Advancing public health:** We would dedicate \$10 million over two years from the Fund for a Healthy Maine toward increased tobacco prevention and cessation interventions to tackle high smoking rates in both adults and youth in Maine. Additionally, we would allocate \$2.1 million from the Fund to support efforts aimed at keeping Maine children safe from lead poisoning, including increasing the number of lead inspections.

- Security for seniors:** The budget proposes to improve access to care and financial security for seniors and people with disabilities by restoring eligibility for the Maine Low Cost Drugs for the Elderly and Disabled and Part B premium payment program. This would help 1,800 Mainers with income up to 185% of the federal poverty limit, at a General Fund cost of \$3.5 million over two years.
- Strengthening capacity:** The budget would establish a position within the Commissioner’s office to oversee Department-wide efforts to secure Federal and private-sector grants. The Department is already actively filling vacancies, including for public health nurses and caseworkers, and conducting an overall assessment of the needs to further our mission of improving the health, safety, wellbeing, and opportunity of Maine residents.

**Funding Request by Office:** Funding requests by Offices and Divisions are as follows:



**DHHS Proposed Budget: General Fund by Office  
(Dollars in Millions, FY 2020-2021)**



- The Office of MaineCare Services, in collaboration with other Offices, provides health care coverage to approximately 300,000 people – and counting – as the expansion of the program takes hold. It works closely with the Office for Family Independence, which complements health benefits with food supplemental payments, work supports, and general assistance for low-income families. Both Offices partner closely with the federal government to provide benefits and services. They account for about 85 percent of the total budget request, including federal funds.
- Both the Office of Aging and Disability Services and the Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services work closely with OMS. The General Fund request for each of these Offices is about \$120 million. SAMHS provides prevention, community-based, and residential services, complementing the work of our two State-run psychiatric centers, Riverview and Dorothea Dix, whose General Fund requests are \$49 million and \$20 million respectively.
- Prevention is the core mission of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, which has the additional goal of limiting the spread of acute and chronic illness. While the General Fund request is \$33 million, that represents only 12 percent of the total CDC budget given other sources of funding. It, along with the Division of Licensing and Certification (General Fund request of \$9 million), enforces standards for safety, quality, and public health.

- Last but not least, the Office of Child and Family Services oversees programs for early childhood development, child behavioral health services, and critical child protective services. The General Fund request for 2020-2021 is \$271 million.

We hope this high-level overview helps guide your work in the coming weeks as we collaborate to pass the DHHS Biennial Budget.