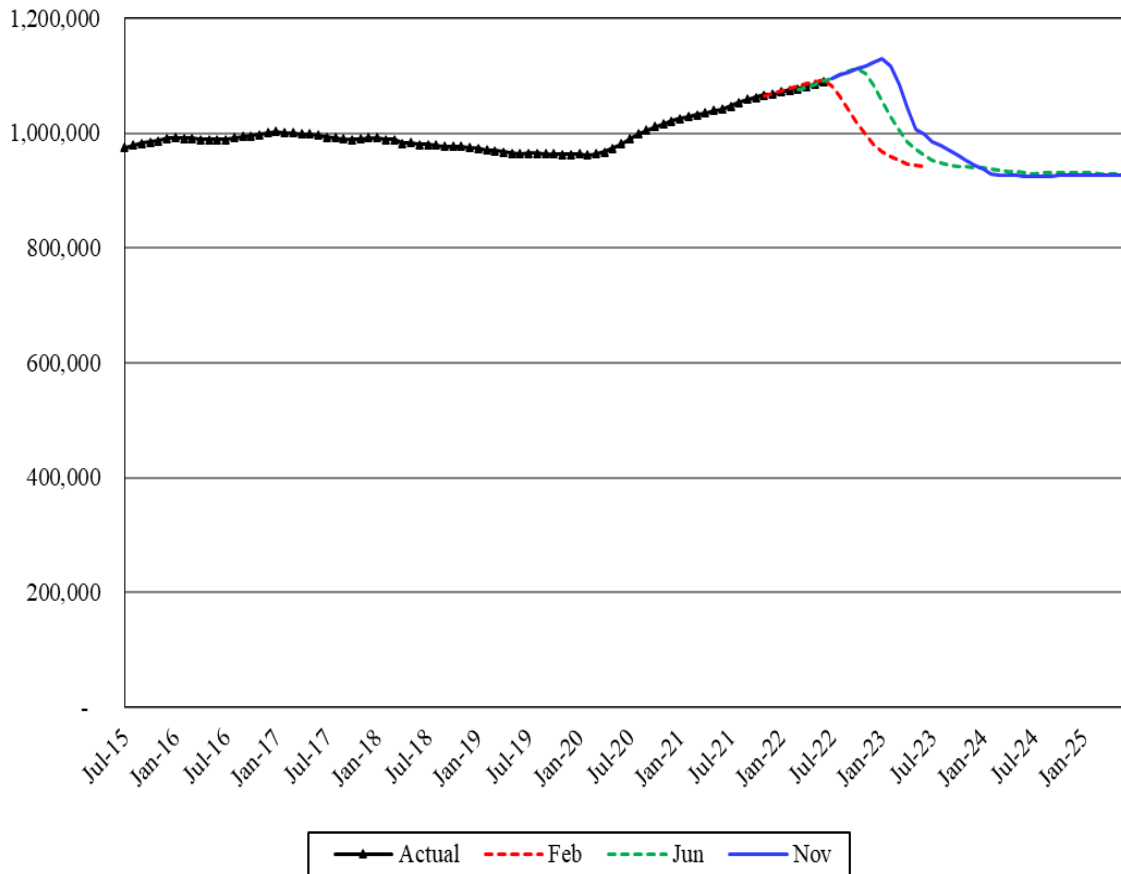


Medical Assistance Adult Caretakers and Children

Caseload Forecast Council
November 9, 2022

Medical Assistance for Adult Caretakers and Children



The Medical Assistance for Adult Caretakers and Children category is composed of seven caseloads for parents/caretakers, pregnant clients, and children by citizenship and income level.

Forecast Comparisons (Fiscal Year Averages)

Fiscal Year	Feb-22 Forecast	Jun-22 Forecast	Nov-22 Forecast	Feb to Nov Difference	Percent Difference	Jun to Nov Difference	Percent Difference
2023	991,229	1,051,003	1,085,900	94,671	9.6%	34,897	3.3%
2024		939,360	946,839			7,479	0.8%
2025		930,262	926,126			-4,136	-0.4%

The November 2022 forecast is 94,691 cases or 9.6 percent higher than the February 2022 forecast for FY 2023 and, on average, 1,672 cases or 0.2 percent higher than the June 2022 forecast for the 2023-25 Biennium.

Forecast Contact:
Shidong Zhang
360-664-9370
shidong.zhang@cfc.wa.gov

Tracking the Current Forecast

	Jun-22 Forecast	Actual	Variance	Percent Variance
Mar-22	1,076,164	1,077,390	1,226	0.1%
Apr-22	1,080,813	1,081,589	776	0.1%
May-22	1,084,543	1,085,194	651	0.1%
Jun-22	1,090,150	1,089,342	-808	-0.1%

Actuals are tracking, on average, 461 cases or a negligible percent above the June forecast.

The November forecast updated the critical assumption of the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) end date from October 13, 2022 to January 11, 2023. In the PHE period, the Health Care Authority (HCA) cannot terminate a client's eligibility except for a few exemptions according to the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), resulting in a continuous accumulation of this caseload. On the other hand, it also reduced new enrollments and the potential client pool. The change of the PHE end date assumption is the primary reason for forecast changes in the pandemic period.

After the PHE, we expect large caseload drops in the following months when HCA starts to re-determine the postponed cases according to federal requirements. The November forecast updates the unwinding assumptions based on federal policies.

Fiscal Year Caseload Change

	Fiscal Year	Caseload	Change from Prior Year	Percent Change
Actual	2016	986,432		
	2017	996,884	10,451	1.1%
	2018	988,455	-8,429	-0.8%
	2019	972,678	-15,776	-1.6%
	2020	966,067	-6,611	-0.7%
	2021	1,020,315	54,248	5.6%
	2022	1,069,687	49,372	4.8%
<i>Forecast</i>	2023	1,085,900	16,213	1.5%
	2024	946,839	-139,061	-12.8%
	2025	926,126	-20,713	-2.2%

Risks to the Forecast

Risks to this forecast are high because of the uncertainties of the COVID-19 impact and corresponding economic and policy impacts, especially the possibility of more PHE extensions and uncertainty of the post-PHE eligibility unwinding process.