



# MONTANA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

## Legislative Fiscal Division

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Legislative Fiscal Analyst  
CLAYTON SCHENCK

DATE: June 5, 2002

TO: Legislative Finance Committee

FROM: Pat Gervais, Senior Fiscal Analyst

RE: Operating Budget Change, Department of Public Health and Human Services

The Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) has submitted an operating plan change that transfers \$2.3 million federal appropriation authority from the Human and Community Services Division (HCSA) to the Operations and Technology Division (OTD). Excess federal authority exists in the HCSA because the 2003 Biennium budget includes a federal appropriation sufficient to fund Food Stamp benefit costs for the entire biennium. However, a full biennium costs for food stamps will not be incurred within the general appropriations act because electronic benefit transfer (EBT) was implemented during fiscal 2002. Prior to the implementation of EBT food stamp benefits were distributed through a contractor and not paid directly out of the state treasury and therefore were not included in the general appropriations act.

The OTD plans to use the federal appropriation authority being transferred for contracted services costs associated with achieving compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).