



WHAT IF  
SOMEONE HAD AN



AN IDEA THAT WOULD GROW INTO A  
NATIONWIDE  
EFFORT TO LEND  
A HELPING  HAND



? WHAT IF  
LAWMAKERS CREATED AN  
AGENCY TO  
HELP FAMILIES LIFT  
THEMSELVES UP AGAIN?



WE ARE THAT AGENCY

- The Oklahoma Department of Human Services (DHS) was created by the state legislature in **1936** to help families struggling during the Great Depression.
- Almost one million Oklahomans – about **one in four** of us – received help from DHS in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2017.
- **850,855** Oklahomans received food benefits in SFY 2017 through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). SNAP benefits are **100-percent federally funded**.
- The average SNAP benefit is **\$4.02** per person per day.
- The monthly average income for SNAP households is **\$1,127**.
- SNAP recipients purchased **\$887,878,740** worth of food from Oklahoma grocery stores and farmers' markets in SFY 2017.

- In SFY 2017, **19,215** Oklahoma children received benefits through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cash assistance program.
- In SFY 2017, **5,574** adults participated in TANF. Those adults are required by law to meet strict work, education or job training requirements in order to receive TANF. Adults cannot receive TANF benefits for more than 60 months during their lifetime.
- **Sixty-four percent** of the adults served by DDS were employed in SFY 2017 – **one of the highest percentages in the nation.**
- The *ADvantage* Waiver Program, administered by DHS, helped **20,932** medically fragile Oklahomans stay in their homes and delay nursing home care in SFY 2017.

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- **1,355,850** congregate meals were served to seniors at nutrition sites statewide in SFY 2017 and **1,315,232** home-delivered meals were provided.
- **5,700** children in state custody were successfully reunited with their biological families, adopted or placed in guardianship.
- **133,055** Oklahoma children were reported as possible victims of child abuse, neglect or both in 2017. After investigation, **15,289** children were confirmed to have been victims.
- **884** new foster families were recruited in Oklahoma in SFY 2017.
- **8,186** Oklahomans with disabilities – from age two to 89 – were helped by Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) in 2017.
- Adult Protective Services (APS) received **22,709** calls of possible abuse, neglect or exploitation of a vulnerable adult in SFY 2017. **8,499** cases were investigated and **4,798** cases were substantiated.