



SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG)

ACTION NEEDED: Urge your Members of Congress, especially those who serve on the House and Senate Appropriations committees, to maintain funding for the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services' Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program at the FY 2012 level of \$677 million in the FY 2016 appropriations process. CSBG is funded through the Labor, Health and Human Services/Education appropriations bill.

BACKGROUND: CSBG is administered by the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families and supports activities that reduce the causes of poverty. CSBG-eligible activities vary depending on local needs, but often include services related to educational attainment, obtaining and maintaining employment and self-sufficiency, budget planning, obtaining adequate housing and greater community participation. Most CSBG funding is distributed to states, which must pass through 95 percent of the funds to eligible local entities.

Counties play an integral role in administering CSBG. The program operates in 90 percent of the nation's counties, through a network of more than 1,100 eligible public or private entities. Eligible entities are primarily community action agencies (CAAs) designated under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-482). Local elected officials or their representatives must by law make up one-third of the CAA board of directors; these boards are responsible for assuring that agencies continue to assess and respond to the causes and conditions of poverty in their community, achieve anticipated family and community outcomes, and remain administratively and fiscally sound.

According to the latest CSBG Annual Report, administered by the National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSPP), the CSBG network served over 20 million individuals in over eight million families in FY 2010, 37 percent of whom were under the age of 17 and 17 percent of whom were age 55 or over. Additionally, 36 percent had no health insurance, 17 percent were disabled, and 35 percent of served adults older than 24 had no high school diploma or equivalence certificate.

Annual CSBG funding has fluctuated between \$600 million and \$700 million since FY 2001, but it received a one-time boost of \$1 billion as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-5). In recent years, the President's Budget Request has proposed reducing CSBG funding by roughly 50 percent, but the administration's FY 2016 proposal includes a request of \$674 million for the program, equal to the level of funding enacted in FY 2015.

QUICK FACTS

- CSBG operates in 90 percent of the nation's counties, through a network of entities known as Community Action Agencies (CAAs) which are often county government agencies
- Local elected officials or their representatives must by law comprise one-third of the CAA board
- In 2010 CSBG served 20 million individuals, including 27 percent under age 17 and 17 percent over age 55.

KEY ISSUES:

- The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) is distributed to states to fund activities that have a measurable and potentially major impact on the causes of poverty. States by law must pass 95 percent of the funds to local agencies.
- Counties participate in CSBG both as grant recipients and members of the local agency boards.
- CSBG allows counties and our Community Action Agencies (CAAs) to design and implement anti-poverty programs tailored to the individual community's needs.
- Turning CSBG into competitive grants would disadvantage smaller communities that don't have the capacity to hire grant writers. Additionally, CSBG already has a competitive component. States are allowed to use a percentage of their allocation for discretionary grants.
- Many CAAs also serve as the local Head Start agency and the local energy assistance agency and have often played a key role in helping individuals who were displaced as a result of natural disasters.
- CAAs also provide adult English as a second language and civics classes and will be a valuable partner in implementing comprehensive immigration reform. In FY 2010, 14 percent of CSBG funds were used for educational activities.

For further information, contact: Hadi Sedigh at 202.942.4213 or hsedigh@naco.org

COMMITTEES OF JURISDICTION:

U.S. House Appropriations Committee	U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee
<p>Majority: Harold Rogers (R-KY), Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ) Robert B. Aderholt (R-AL) Kay Granger (R-TX) Michael Simpson (R-ID)* John Abney Culberson, (R-TX) Ander Crenshaw, (R-FL) John R. Carter (R-TX) Ken Calvert (R-CA) Tom Cole (R-OK)* Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL) Charles Dent (R-PA)* Tom Graves (R-GA) Kevin Yoder (R-KS) Steve Womack (R-AR)*</p>	<p>Majority: Thad Cochran (R-MS), Chairman Mitch McConnell (R-KY) Richard Shelby (R-AL)* Lamar Alexander (R-TN)* Susan Collins (R-ME) Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) Lindsey Graham (R-SC)* Mark Kirk (R-IL)* Roy Blunt (R-MO)* Jerry Moran (R-KS)* John Hoeven (R-ND) John Boozman (R-AR) Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)* Bill Cassidy (R-LA)* James Lankford (R-OK)* Steve Daines (R-MT)</p>
<p>Minority: Nita Lowey (D-NY), Ranking Member Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) Peter Visclosky (D-IN) José Serrano (D-NY) Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)* David Price (D-NC) Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA)* Sam Farr (D-CA) Chaka Fattah (D-PA)* Sanford Bishop (D-GA) Barbara Lee (D-CA)*</p>	<p>Minority: Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), Ranking Member* Patrick Leahy (D-VT) Patty Murray (D-WA)* Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) Richard Durbin (D-IL)* Jack Reed (D-RI)* Jon Tester (D-MT) Tom Udall (D-NM) Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)* Jeff Merkley (D-OR)* Chris Coons (D-DE) Brian Schatz (D-HI)* Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)* Christopher Murphy (D-CT)</p>
<p><i>*Members who serve on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee</i></p>	