



# OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Office of Community Services (OCS) partners with states, communities, and agencies to reduce the causes of poverty, increase opportunity and economic security of individuals and families, and revitalize communities. Our social service and community development programs work in a variety of ways to improve the lives of many.

## MAJOR GOALS

OCS's main goals are to:

- Serve the economic and social needs of individuals and families with low-incomes;
- Provide employment and entrepreneurial opportunities;
- Promote individual economic opportunity and security through the creation of full-time, permanent jobs;
- Support asset building strategies for individuals and families with low-incomes, such as savings, increasing financial capability, and securing assets;
- Assist community development corporations in utilizing existing funding for neighborhood revitalization projects;
- Provide financial and technical resources to state, local, and public and private agencies for economic development and related social service activities; and
- Provide energy assistance to households with low-incomes.

## PROGRAMS

The Office of Community Services (OCS) administers 6 social service and community development programs. In 2016, this totaled more than \$5.7 billion in funding.

### Assets for Independence

The Assets for Independence (AFI) program is demonstrating and testing the effectiveness of matched savings accounts (Individual Development Accounts or IDAs) as a tool for enabling individuals and families with low-incomes and to become economically self-sufficient.

### Community Economic Development

Community Economic Development (CED) discretionary grants are awarded to nonprofit community development corporations in disinvested communities for purposes of creating new jobs for individuals with low-

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low income, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients. As part of the CED program, the Healthy Food Financing Initiative aims to eliminate food deserts in urban and rural areas in the United States with limited access to affordable and nutritious food.

### Community Services Block Grant

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) supports services designed to ameliorate the causes and conditions of poverty by assisting individuals and families with low-incomes and communities with services based on local needs (i.e. employment, education, and adequate housing).

### Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides funds to states, tribes and tribal organizations, and territories to assist households with low-incomes in meeting their home energy costs.

### Rural Community Development

The Rural Community Development (RCD) provides discretionary grants to assist low-income communities in developing affordable and safe water and wastewater treatment facilities.

### Social Services Block Grant

The Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) provides funding to states to increase economic self-sufficiency, prevent or ameliorate neglect, abuse, or the exploitation of children and adults, prevent or reduce inappropriate institutionalization, and secure referrals for institutional care.

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Program	2016 Funding (\$M)	2015 Funding (\$M)	2014 Funding (\$M)
LIHEAP	\$3390.30	\$3390.30	\$3390.30
Community Service Block Grant	715.00	674.00	667.96
Community Economic Development	29.80	29.83	29.59
Rural Community Facilities	6.50	6.50	5.91
Assets for Independence	18.90	18.95	18.95
Social Service Block Grant	1570.00	1575.90	1577.60
OCS Total	\$5700.00	\$5695.49	\$5690.31