

Social Services Block Grant Dear Colleague Letter	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families Office of Community Services Division of State Assistance 330 C Street, SW, 5th Floor Mail Room 5425 Washington, DC 20201 www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/programs/ssbg
Re: Office of Community Services Restructure	Date: September 28, 2016

Dear Colleague:

The Office of Community Services (OCS) is responsible for administering programs that provide essential services and support to individuals and families with low-incomes and the communities in which they live. To meet this responsibility and provide high quality services to states, territories, tribes, and discretionary grantees, it is critical that the management and administration of OCS programs are always improving. The expectations and work load of OCS programs have changed over time and a different structure is needed to maintain the integrity and impact of our programs. More specifically, both the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) have undergone significant changes in volume of oversight and complexity in the last several years. Additionally, since 2009, the Director of the Division of Community Discretionary Programs (DCDP) has served as the Acting Director of the Division of Community Demonstration Programs (DCDEP).

To ensure efficient and effective management of OCS programs, the Office of the Director (OD) requested and received approval from the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to restructure OCS Divisions. Per this approval, OCS will separate the Division of State Assistance (DSA) into two divisions, the Division of Community Assistance (DCA) and the Division of Social Services (DSS). Under this structure, DCA will be responsible for CSBG and DSS will be responsible for SSBG. OCS also received approval to consolidate DCDP and DCDEP into one division, the Division of Community Discretionary and Demonstration Programs (DCDDP). Under this structure, DCDDP will be responsible for the Assets for Independence (AFI), Community Economic Development (CED), and Rural Community Development (RCD) programs.

The above noted change in structure to create the Division of Social Services under which SSBG sits, will effect no significant changes to the structure and supportive services offered to you as recipient agencies. The Office of Community Services remains committed to providing a seamless transition in service delivery to grantees during the transition. The effective date for the transition to the Division of Social Services will be October 1, 2016.

Until a Division of Social Services Director is hired, Seth Hassett will serve as the acting Division Director. In addition to the notification of amended office structure, please also join the Office of Community Services (OCS) in welcoming two new staff members to the SSBG team: Ms. Maxine M. Maloney and Ms. Theresa Taylor.

Maxine M. Maloney

Ms. Maloney joins us as the new SSBG Program Operations Branch Chief. She has over 20 years of experience administering programs at the local and state levels. She has previous Federal experience working with the Department of Defense's Army Child & Youth Services and was a State Administrator for the Child Care and Development Fund. Maxine was a Head Start Fellow with the Office of Head Start

2009-2010. She graduated from Howard University with a BS in Early Childhood Education, has an MPA focusing on policy analysis and program evaluation from George Mason University and will be completing her Ed.S. with a focus on leadership and preschool special education at The George Washington University.

Theresa E. Taylor, LMSW

Ms. Taylor joins us as a new Social Services Program Specialist with SSBG. Prior to joining OCS, Theresa was the Assistant Director for Foster Care at Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, where she oversaw a portfolio of more than 20 foster care programs across the nation serving unaccompanied migrant and refugee children. Theresa is a licensed master social worker with 10 years of experience in advocacy, program development, and grants management in both international and domestic social service contexts. Theresa earned Master's degrees in Social Work and Criminal Justice at the State University of New York at Albany, and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Anthropology from Hartwick College, in Oneonta, New York.

In addition to celebrating the arrival of new staff members, we'd like to take the time to recognize the immense contributions of our colleague Marsha Werner to the field of Social Services. After forty years of dedicated work committed to serving the American public, Marsha will be retiring from the Office of Community Services on January 3, 2017. Please join us in recognizing Marsha for all that she has contributed to our work and in wishing her well in all of her future endeavors. During this transition, she will continue in her role as Lead Social Services Program Specialist supporting SSBG Sandy Supplemental.

Finally, we take this opportunity to communicate with you, a number of updates to the main points of contact for each region. A list of Program Specialists assigned to each state is available on the following website: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/resource/ssbg-staff-assignments-by-region>.

Thank you for your continued partnership and cooperation with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Administration for Children and Families (ACF) as we work together to continue providing quality service to vulnerable individuals, children, and families.

Sincerely,

_____/s/
Jeannie L. Chaffin
Director
Office of Community Services
Administration for Children and Families
Department of Health and Human Services
Services

_____/s/
Seth Hassett
Director, Division of State Assistance
Office of Community Services
Administration for Children and Families
Department of Health and Human
Services