



SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (SSBG)

Purpose:

To support social services directed towards achieving economic self-sufficiency; preventing or remedying neglect, abuse, or the exploitation of children and adults; preventing or reducing inappropriate institutionalization; and securing referrals for institutional care, where appropriate.

Legislative Authority:

Title XX of the Social Security Act, as amended in 1981.

Appropriations:

In FY 2016, Block Grant: \$1.6 billion.

In FY 2015, Block Grant: \$1.6 billion.

Eligible Applicants:

States, District of Columbia, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and U.S. territories (Guam, Virgin Islands, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa).

Target Population:

Households with low income.

Uses:

Services and eligibility requirements vary by state. The Uniform Definitions of Services, which include 29 service categories, provide guidelines to states for reporting purposes. Service categories most frequently supported by SSBG include child care, child welfare, services for persons with disabilities, case management services, and protective services for adults.

Type of Grant:

Block Grant

Program Requirements:

States and territories must submit a plan specifying how grant funds will be used. An annual post-expenditure report is also required. States may provide services directly, or sub-allocate funds to local qualified providers. States may transfer up to 10% of their TANF funds to SSBG.



Program Highlights:

In FY 2014, the latest year for which data are available, approximately 30 million individuals received services supported at least partially by SSBG funds. In FY 2014, states reported a total of \$2.7 billion in SSBG expenditures. Top services funded with SSBG included:

- Foster Care Services – Children (\$427 million in 33 States)
- Protective Services – Children (\$329 million in 39 States)
- Day Care – Children (\$300 million in 31 States)
- Special Services – Disabled (\$277 million in 21 States)
- Prevention and Intervention (\$206 million in 26 States)
- Protective Services – Adults (\$191 million in 37 States)
- Case Management (\$189 million in 27 States)
- Other Services (\$150 million in 28 States)
- Home-Based Services (\$149 million in 31 States)

Of the \$2.7 billion in SSBG expenditures reported in FY 2014, about \$1.6 billion was awarded from the SSBG, and an additional \$1.2 billion was transferred via TANF. Forty states transferred TANF funds into the SSBG.

SSBG Sandy Supplemental

In the fall of 2013, Hurricane Sandy hit the East Coast flooding homes, business, child care facilities, and wreaking havoc on families. Congress provided Disaster Relief Appropriations that included \$474 million for SSBG to administer. These supplemental funds supported state efforts to address social services, health, and mental health services needs of survivors; and the repair, renovation and rebuilding of health care facilities (including mental health facilities), damaged by the storm. States that received SSBG supplemental funding include: New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Maryland, and Rhode Island. Top services funded using the supplemental SSBG included:

- Housing services (\$33 million in all five States)
- Health services (\$28 million in New York)
- Repair, renovation, rebuilding – Health Care Facilities (\$26 million: New Jersey and New York)
- Counseling services (\$8 million in Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York)

Program Contact:

Social Services Block Grant
Office of Community Services

Phone: (202) 401-5281

ssbg@acf.hhs.gov

www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/programs/ssbg