

Program Overview

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) is a national program that provides states and Indian tribes with funds to lessen the causes and effects of poverty. The funds provide a range of services and activities to assist the needs of low-income individuals and families including people experiencing homelessness, migrant workers and seniors.

Federal grant amounts are determined by a formula based on each state's and Indian tribe's poverty population and unemployment rates. Grantees receiving funds under the CSBG program are required to provide services and activities addressing employment, education, better use of available income, housing, nutrition, emergency services and/or health.

CSBG goals nationally include:

- Help low-income people become more self sufficient;
- Improve conditions for low-income households;
- Help low-income people own a stake in their communities;
- Coordinate local services and providers assisting low-income households;
- Help increase Community Action Agencies' (CAA) ability to achieve results;
- Help low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening families and creating supportive environments

The CSBG Program in Oregon funds the central management and core activities for Community Action Agencies. These organizations typically coordinate and administer a variety of services to assist low-income Oregonians within their own communities, and serve as key partners to Oregon Housing and Community Services.

CSBG Funding

Oregon's allocation for FY 2011 is \$5,394,506. Oregon allots 90 percent of its funding to local eligible entities (17 Community Action Agencies and one statewide farmworker organization) that meet the requirements of Section 675 c (2)(A)(I) of the Community Services Block Grant Act. Five (5) percent of the grant covers State administrative expenses, including monitoring activities. The remaining five percent is set aside for discretionary activities.

Eligibility

CSBG supports activities that are designed to assist low-income families and individuals, homeless families and individuals, migrant or seasonal farmworkers, and elderly low-income individuals and families.

Beneficiaries are low-income individuals and families (at or below 125 percent of the federal poverty level).

Other Requirements/Criteria

Grants and awards to Community Action Agencies are governed by the OHCS CAA Master Grant Agreement.

OHCS submits an application for the Community Services Block Grant bi-annually to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, and Office of Community Services (based on availability of funds).

OHCS is the state housing finance agency, providing financial and program support to create and preserve opportunities for quality, affordable housing for lower income Oregonians. The agency also administers federal and state antipoverty, homeless and energy assistance community service programs.