

## **What types of program activities are eligible for funding under CSBG?**

There are many different activities that can be supported with Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) funds. Sometimes, Tribes and other grantees will submit the same program year after year, and some Tribal Councils and/or staff are not aware that the Tribe may reprogram those CSBG funds into different activities each year, based on their analysis of the needs of their communities and members that they serve. The purpose of this handout is to illustrate some of the eligible activities available for use of CSBG funding.

### **Overview of some recent Tribal CSBG programs:**

Below, are summaries of some recently funded Tribal CSBG programs; we have provided examples of the type of supporting documentation required to complete the Client Services and Cost Reimbursement Report:

#### **Education – Tutoring Assistance**

The Northern California Indian Development Council (NCIDC) has approved MOA's for Tribes that have paid for tutors, using CSBG funds, to assist Indian Youth in maintaining or improving passing grades in K-12 (cost reimbursement documentation required would be a simple contract between the Tribe and tutor and the invoice(s) from the tutor, as well as a copy of check(s) used to pay tutor).

#### **Education - GED**

Some Tribes have utilized CSBG funding to create GED support programs purchasing. (Tribes have purchased software and hardware to allow Indian clients to do self-paced study; documentation required were receipts for purchases, and copy of check(s) paying for purchases).

#### **Language**

The NCIDC has funded elders and others as language teachers to teach community and/or school-based Indian Language programs (same sort of documentation as tutors).

#### **Exercise and Obesity Reduction**

Some Tribes have designed exercise and obesity reduction programs that have created walking clubs and other recreational activities for both youth and adults (Tribes have purchased pedometers and log books with CSBG funds to support this type of program, documentation required was receipts for purchases, and copy of check(s) paying for purchases).

#### **Food and Nutrition**

Create a community garden for tribal members and residents. Volunteers provide training to local residents in growing and harvesting nutritious food. (Documentation was receipts from the purchasing of garden seeds, starts, and

supplies, including a roto-tiller and other garden tools, as well as a copy of the check(s) paying for items.)

### **Employment and Training**

Some have used CSBG in combination with other funds to create job fairs and/or computer labs for job search and resume development (documentation required similar to exercise and obesity reduction programs, above).

These are only a few of the eligible activities that Tribes we serve have proposed under their CSBG contract. Although many Tribes continue to do food distribution with CSBG funds, There is no requirement that “emergency food” or other similar services be the activity under your CSBG contract. It is our hope that providing examples of other programs may help to inform your Tribal planning process so that you can make sure your CSBG program is addressing the highest priority need, not just the same activity as last year.

The following is a much more complete list of the universe of eligible activities that can be funded with CSBG. This is a list of actual CSBG program activities from 2004 as reported by all programs from throughout all fifty states to the US Congress.

#### **Employment Programs**

In FY 2004, States reported spending \$59.5 million in CSBG funding to support a range of services designed to assist low-income individuals in obtaining and maintaining employment. These services include:

- Support for TANF recipients who are preparing to transition to self-sufficiency or for former TANF recipients who need additional support to find or maintain employment;
- Support for job retention, including counseling, training, and supportive services, such as transportation, child care, and the purchase of uniforms or work clothing;
- Skills training, job application assistance, resume writing, and job placement;
- On-the-job training and opportunities for work;
- Job development, including finding employers willing to recruit through the agency, facilitating interviews, creating job banks and providing counseling to employees, and developing new employment opportunities in the community;
- Vocational training for high school students and the creation of internships and summer jobs; and
- Other specialized adult employment training.

#### **Education Programs**

In FY 2004, States reported spending \$65.9 million in CSBG funds to provide education services such as:

- Adult education, including courses in ESL and GED preparation with flexible scheduling for working students;
- Supplemental support to improve the educational quality of Head Start programs;
- Child care classes, providing both child development instruction and support for working parents or for home child care providers;
- Alternative opportunities for school dropouts and those at risk of dropping out;
- Scholarships for college or technical school;
- Guidance about adult education opportunities in the community;
- Programs to enhance academic achievement of students in grades K–12, while combating drug or alcohol use and preventing violence; and
- Computer-based courses to help train participants for the modern-day workforce.

### Housing Programs

In FY 2004, States reported spending \$49.7 million for CSBG-coordinated housing programs to improve living environment of low-income individuals and families. CSBG-funded activities may include:

- Homeownership counseling and loan assistance;
- Affordable housing development and construction;
- Counseling and advocacy about landlord/tenant relations and fair housing concerns;
- Assistance in locating affordable housing and applying for rent subsidies and other housing assistance;
- Transitional shelters and services for the homeless;
- Home repair and rehabilitation services;
- Support for management of group homes; and
- Rural housing and infrastructure development.

### Emergency Services Programs

In FY 2004, States reported spending \$100.4 million for emergency services to combat many kinds of crisis. Crisis management services may include:

- Emergency temporary housing;
- Rental or mortgage assistance, intervention with landlords;
- Cash assistance/short term loans;
- Energy crisis assistance and utility shut-off prevention;
- Emergency food, clothing, and furniture;
- Crisis intervention in response to child or spousal abuse;
- Emergency heating system repair;
- Crisis intervention telephone hotlines;
- Linkages with other services and organizations to assemble a combination of short-term resources and longer-term support; and/or

- Natural disaster response and assistance.
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#### Nutrition Programs

States reported spending \$48.4 million in CSBG funds to support nutrition programs.

Services provided may include:

- Organizing and operating food banks;
- Supporting food banks of faith-based and civic organization partners with food supplies and/or management support;
- Counseling regarding family and children's nutrition and food preparation;
- Distributing surplus USDA commodities and other food supplies;
- Administering the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) nutrition program;
- Preparing and delivering meals, especially to the homebound elderly;
- Providing meals in group settings; and/or
- Initiating self-help projects, such as community gardens, community canneries, and food buying groups.

#### Self-Sufficiency Programs

States reported spending \$93 million in FY 2004 on self-sufficiency programs. Self-sufficiency programs offer a continuum of services to assist families in becoming more financially independent. Such programs generally include:

- An assessment of the issues facing the family or family members and the resources the family brings to address these issues;
- A written plan for becoming more financially independent and self-supporting; and
- Services that are selected to help the participant implement the plan (i.e. clothing, bus passes, emergency food assistance, career counseling, family guidance counseling, referrals to the Social Security Administration for disability benefits, assistance with locating possible jobs, assistance in finding long-term housing, etc.).

#### Health Programs

In FY 2004, States reported spending \$24.1 million on CSBG-funded health initiatives that are designed to identify and combat a variety of health problems in the community served. CSBG funds may be used to address gaps in the care and coverage available in the community. Eligible entities may use CSBG funds for health initiatives that include:

- Recruitment of uninsured children to a State insurance group or State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP);
- Recruitment of volunteer medical personnel to assist uninsured low-income families;
- Prenatal care, maternal health and infant health screening;
- Assistance with pharmaceutical donation programs;

- Health-related information for all ages, including Medicare/Medicaid enrollment and claims filing;
- Immunization;
- Periodic screening for serious health problems, such as tuberculosis, breast cancer, and HIV infection, and for mental health disorders;
- Health screening of all children;
- Treatment for substance abuse;
- Other health services including dental care, health insurance advocacy, CPR training, and education about wellness, obesity, and first-aid; and/or
- Transportation to health care facilities and medical appointments.

#### Income Management Programs

States reported spending \$28 million on income management programs in FY 2004 using CSBG grant funds. Services supported include:

- Development of household assets, including savings;
- Assistance with budgeting techniques;
- Consumer credit counseling;
- Business development support;
- Homeownership assistance;
- Energy conservation and energy consumer education programs, including weatherization;
- Tax counseling and tax preparation assistance; and
- Assistance for the elderly with claims for medical and other benefits.

#### Linkages:

In FY 2004, States reported spending \$93.5 million on Linkage initiatives. Linkage programs can involve any or all of a variety of local activities which CSBG supports because of the block grant's statutory mandate to mobilize and coordinate community responses to poverty. These include:

- Coordination among programs, facilities, and shared resources through information systems, communications systems, and shared procedures;
- Community needs assessments, followed by community planning, organization, and advocacy to meet these needs;
- Creation of coalitions for community changes, such as, reducing crime or partnering businesses into partnership with low-income neighborhoods in order to plan long-term development;
- Efforts to establish links between resources, such as transportation and medical care or other needed services, programs that bring services to the participants, such as mobile clinics or recreational programs, and management of continuum-of-care initiatives;
- The removal of the barriers such as transportation problems, that keep the poor from jobs or from vital everyday activities; and

- Finally, support for other groups of low-income community residents who are working for the same goals as the CAA.

#### Programs for Youth and Seniors

States and eligible entities reported spending \$41.8 million on programs serving seniors, and \$45.9 million on programs serving youth. Services noted under these categories were targeted exclusively to children and youth from ages 6–17 or persons over 55 years of age.

Seniors' programs help seniors to avoid or ameliorate illness, incapacity, or absence of a caretaker or relative, prevent abuse and neglect, and promote wellness. They include:

- Home-based services, including household or personal care activities that improve or maintain well-being;
- Assistance in locating or obtaining alternative living arrangements;
- In-home emergency services or day care;
- Group meals and recreational activities;
- Special arrangements for transportation and coordination with other resources;
- Case management and family support coordination; and
- Home delivery of meals to insure adequate nutrition.

Youth programs in many cases include such services as:

- Recreational facilities and programs;
- Educational services;
- Health services and prevention of risky behavior;
- Delinquency prevention; and
- Employment and mentoring projects.