

Community Services Block Grant

Funding from ARRA

For More Information

Lynn Adams, Program Coordinator

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Program Overview

Nationally, the Community Services Block Grant program (CSBG) provides states and Indian tribes with funds to lessen the causes and effects of poverty in communities. The funds provide a range of services and activities to assist the needs of low-income individuals and families including the homeless, migrants and the elderly.

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' ability to achieve results;
- Help low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening families and other supportive environments

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

ARRA Funding

Nationally, \$1 billion was awarded for CSBG through ARRA. Oregon's allocation through OHCS is \$7.99 million for supporting employment, food, housing and healthcare.

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 200 percent of the national poverty level).

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Other Requirements/Criteria

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

States and local entities that provide services with CSBG funds are encouraged to focus their efforts on creating sustainable economic resources in communities. States should help to ensure that eligible entities use ARRA funds to:

1. provide a wide range of innovative employment-related services and activities tailored to the needs of the community.
2. use funds in a manner that meets the short-term and long-term economic and employment needs of individuals, families and communities; and
3. make meaningful and measurable progress toward the reform goals of the Recovery Act with special attention to creating and sustaining economic growth and employment opportunities.

Implementation Process/Steps

Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) is seeking public comment relating to a proposed Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 State Plan.

On May 27th OHCS will be submitting the CSBG American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 State Plan (for FFY 2009-2010) in the amount of \$7,989,158. States will receive the CSBG Recovery Act Funds as a separate allocation under the same formula used for funds allocated under regular annual allocations. The Recovery Act mandates that States pass through no less than 99% of their Recovery Act allocations for grants to “eligible entities” under the CSBG Act, commonly referred to as Community Action Agencies (CAAs). The focus is on creating sustainable economic resources in communities.

Eligible entities are encouraged to: 1) provide a wide range of innovative employment-related services and activities tailored to the specific needs of their communities; 2) use funds in a manner that meets short-term and long-term economic and employment needs of individuals, families, and communities; 3) make meaningful and measurable progress toward the reform goals of the Recovery Act with special attention to creating and sustaining economic growth and employment opportunities.



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The proposed plan is available on the OHCS website, <http://www.ohcs.oregon.gov/> or by contacting Lynn Adams at the address below. Written, faxed, or e-mailed comments can be submitted to the address below at any time prior to 5 PM on May 22, 2009. Hearing-impaired individuals may use a TTY by calling 1-800-735-2900.

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Persons needing copies in other languages should request them at their earliest convenience. Questions, concerns, or requests for information in alternative formats from individuals with disabilities must be submitted before the end of the comment period.

OHCS programs are administered in a nondiscriminatory manner, consistent with Equal Opportunity Employment Opportunities, Affirmative Action and Fair Housing requirements.

Other Information

Allocation amounts, timing, and requirements will be posted on this website when more program details are known.

Requirements on providing ARRA CSBG services and drawing funds:

- ARRA CSBG services must be provided on or before September 30, 2010.
- ARRA CSBG funds must be drawn on or before December 29, 2010.

Last updated 5/11/09

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.



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