



## Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

The Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) is administered by the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS). It provides funding to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in communities. The purpose of the CSBG award differs from most other grants because it does not focus on funding a particular service or function solely as a "stand alone" program (See: *OCS Information Memorandum (IM) 37 (1997)*).

As stated in the Act: PUBLIC LAW 105–285—OCT. 27, 1998:

The purposes of this subtitle are to provide assistance to States and local communities, working through a network of community action agencies and other neighborhood-based organizations, for the reduction of poverty, the revitalization of low-income communities, and the empowerment of low-income families and individuals in rural and urban areas to become fully self-sufficient (particularly families who are attempting to transition off a State program carried out under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.)

In Washington, Commerce provides CSBG grants to 30 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) across the state. Each CAA submits a work plan/application to Commerce that identifies their agency’s planned use of the CSBG funds. How funds are used and what services the funds support are decided at the local level based on the needs of the communities the CAAs serve. CSBG funding may be used to provide the following allowable services:

- Local housing
- Energy assistance
- Employment
- Asset development
- Emergency food, shelter, nutrition, and health care

Generally, CSBG funds may be used to support:

- The creation of new programs and services
- Augmentation of existing programs and services
- Organizational infrastructure required to coordinate and enhance multiple programs and resources that address poverty conditions in the community

Although employment services are an allowable use of CSBG funds, these services make up a small percentage of the overall use of the funding. In FFY 2014, 8.7% of the overall funding was used toward employment services.

(FFY 14 Employment Services: \$684,601; FFY 14 Total Allocation: approx. \$7.9 million)

