

NASCSP Newsletter

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A Matter of Trust
by David Bradley

The FY 2007 Congressional Appropriations season is underway. Every year it starts about this time and, as increasingly is the norm, spending decisions for the next federal fiscal year are not finalized until shortly before the December holidays. Unfortunately, what is also becoming standard fare is the House Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee recommending drastic funding cuts to the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG).

Last year, as the reader should remember, President Bush proposed zeroing out CSBG funding. The House of Representatives approved nearly a fifty percent cut in the program. It was only through the unflinching efforts of Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) that CSBG funding was fully maintained. This year the pattern is nearly the same. The Bush Administration proposes no funding for CSBG, the House Appropriations Committee recommends a deep cut, 32% as opposed to last year's nearly 50%, and ranking Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee Member Harkin has announced CSBG funding as one of his top priorities.

Republican House Appropriators blame the CSBG cut on tight budget allocations to the Labor-HHS Subcommittees. They quickly point out that "at least the Appro-

Continued on Page 2

Perspectives from the National Association of State Energy Officials—NASEO

by Jeff Genzer, General Counsel

One of the positive developments in Washington, D.C. over the past few years has been the increasing level of cooperation between the state groups involved in energy matters. NASEO has been working closely with NASCSP, NEADA (representing the state LIHEAP directors) and NARUC (representing the state utility commissioners). One of the key areas of cooperation has been the effort to jointly support federal funding for the Weatherization Assistance Program, the State Energy Program and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. As I have said before, the state groups do much better supporting our respective programs than fighting among ourselves for funds.

In a curious turn of events this year, the Administration requested increased funding for SEP and a cut in Weatherization and LIHEAP. The state groups have worked hard on Capitol Hill to educate members of Congress on the importance of all the programs; we see it as three legs of a stool to support federal-state cooperation in the energy area. While Weatherization saw an increase in appropriations on the House side for FY'07 to over \$254 million from the \$242 million this year, the House Appropriations Committee actually eliminated SEP. Both Weatherization and SEP are contained within the Energy and Water Development Bill (H.R. 5427).

Continued on Page 2

A Matter of Trust, continued

priations Committee rejected the President's request". Some Democrats blame the Republicans and criticize not only the Labor-HHS bill but the Appropriations process as well. It may be a new fiscal year but it is the old funding story and the same justifications.

This year, however, there is a new, potentially significant, ingredient being added to the House CSBG Appropriations mix: more money is expected to be added to the Labor-HHS funding pool by the time the Appropriations process is all wrapped up. By inference, if Labor-HHS Appropriations receives additional dollars, more funding will be available for restoring or even increasing CSBG.

The fate of the House Labor-HHS spending bill is un-
Continued on page 13

Perspectives from NASEO, continued

We were able to win a floor amendment to restore \$25 million to SEP, with the offset coming from Department of Energy administrative funds. Meanwhile, the House of Representatives provided just over \$2.1 billion for LIHEAP in the FY'07 Labor-HHS-Education Bill (H.R. 5647), about the same as FY'06, before the \$1 billion supplemental appropriation.

On Tuesday, June 22 the Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee completed its mark up of their 2007 funding bill. State Energy Programs received \$49.5 million in 2007 funds. This figure is equal to the President's request for next year. This is very promising. As you may remember, the House Subcommittee zeroed out the SEP and it took a great effort by NASEO and its
Continued on page 13



LEGISLATIVE CORNER

By Jovita Tolbert



FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2007 BUDGET

On Monday, **February 7, 2006**, President Bush unveiled the FY 2007 Budget. The Department of Health and Human Services portion of the budget can be found at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2007/hhs.html>. Again this year, the President's proposed budget zeroed out the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG).

FY 2007 CSBG APPROPRIATIONS PROGRESS

On June 7, 2006, the House Labor-Health and Human Services (HHS)-Education Appropriations Subcommittee approved the FY 2007 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill by a party-line vote of 9 (Rep.), 7 (Dem.). The bill provides \$141.9 billion in discretionary (appropriated) funding for a variety of programs of concern to the Community Action Network. This amount represents a small increase over the \$141.8 billion provided in FY 2006; however the increase does not keep pace with inflation.

The House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee's FY 2007 bill proposes a cut in specific funding for CSBG by \$200 million from its FY 2006 level - a reduction to \$430,425 million from \$630,425 million. In addition, the House subcommittee's bill proposed a \$1 billion cut for the Low Income Energy Assistance Pro-

gram (LIHEAP), a \$550 million cut for the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), and a \$90 million cut for Head Start. Excluding CSBG, these cuts are due to temporary increases in FY 2006 that were allowed to expire. The bill also cuts the Even Start program by \$29 million, from \$99 million it received in 2006 to 70 million in FY 2007. The full House Appropriations Committee approved this bill on June 13, 2006 and it is expected to be considered on the House floor in late June. A detailed table of the proposed FY 2007 House appropriations subcommittee allocations may be found here: http://appropriations.house.gov/files/LH_Detail_SC_WEB.pdf.

Since Congress failed to adopt its annual budget blueprint, the fiscal 2006 war and hurricane relief bill contains a provision that would set an overall cap of \$873 billion for the Senate bills. This is the same as the House and the President's requests. Two Republicans, Senator DeWine (R-OH) and Senator Specter (R-PA), supported a Democratic amendment that would set an \$873 billion cap but allow an additional \$7 billion to be borrowed from fiscal 2008 funds to boost spending for health and education programs. However, House negotiators with White House backing opposed the conference report with this extra spending.

Therefore, while the aforementioned spending cap allowed Senate Appropriations Chairman Cochran (R-MS) to complete negotiations with subcommittee Chairmen over how much each of their bills will get (the 302[b]s may be found here: <http://appropriations.senate.gov/hearmarkups/06-09-05PRAllocations.htm>), it is uncertain if and how this cap may affect the Senate passed Spector-Harkin Amendment (which restores cuts to Labor, Health and Human Services and Education programs to the FY 2005 level*). The Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee is not likely to take up the Labor-HHS-Education measure until July or the early fall. And, due to expected differences between the House and Senate, final action on the bill is not expected before the November elections.

The fight is far from over. We all should continue to do our part to make the case for support of the CSBG. Please encourage your Senators to continue their support of the CSBG, and please make a special effort to reach out to those Senators that serve on the Senate Labor, HHS, and Education subcommittee (names found below**). On page 15 of this newsletter, you will find a sample Op/Ed (for placement by your Governor or an appropriate state or local official/community member) to assist you in raising awareness around the importance of the CSBG. On the following pages, you will find a National Governors Association policy piece and letter in support of CSBG. And, you will find a very supportive letter - signed by 10 Governors (Governors from IA, WI, AZ, DE, KS, MI, NJ, NM, PA, and PR) requesting that Congress restore CSBG to its FY 2005 funding level.

NASCSP staff continues to meet with Congressional staffers from the Appropriations Subcommittees on Labor-HHS. Congressional staff appear to be impressed with CSBG data, specifically the outcome data (ROMA).

CSBG REAUTHORIZATION- GAO REPORT

On Thursday, February 16, 2006, at the NASCSP Mid-Winter Training Conference, CSBG directors and staff were provided an opportunity to speak with officials

from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) regarding CSBG aspects of the GAO letter to the Assistant Secretary of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). The GAO letter can be found at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d06373r.pdf>.

The final GAO report will be **published in July**. For additional information on the site visits conducted by the GAO, please feel free to contact CSBG directors of the following states: Texas, Pennsylvania, Washington, Missouri, and Illinois. Information can be found under the "state contacts" page on the NASCSP website.

We shall keep you informed as we learn more.

**Spector-Harkin Amendment: restores cuts to Function 500 programs: education, health, community services (CSBG), and job training by providing an additional \$7 billion over the President's budget request to allow Congress to fund the FY 2007 Labor-HHS bill at the level enacted two years ago in FY 2005.*

** The members of the Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee are as follows:

Senator Arlen Specter (Chairman) (PA)
 Senator Thad Cochran (MS)
 Senator Judd Gregg (NH)
 Senator Larry Craig (ID)
 Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (TX)
 Senator Ted Stevens (AK)
 Senator Mike DeWine (OH)
 Senator Richard Shelby (AL)
 Senator Tom Harkin (Ranking Member) (IA)
 Senator Daniel Inouye (HI)
 Senator Harry Reid (NV)
 Senator Herb Kohl (WI)
 Senator Patty Murray (WA)
 Senator Mary Landrieu (LA)
 Senator Richard Durbin (IL)

**To be able to look back upon one's life in satisfaction
 is to live twice.**

—Kahlil Gibran

The National Governors Association (NGA) passed a policy supporting the full funding and authorization of CSBG on July 20, 2005. This policy, which is in effect until 2007, may be found below. Additionally, you will find a letter signed by Governor Haley Barbour (MS-R), Chair, and Governor Jon S. Corzine (NJ-D), Vice Chair, of NGA's Health and Human Services Committee to both the Senate and House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittees in support of funding CSBG at its FY 2006 appropriated level of \$636 million. A very supportive letter - signed by 10 Governors (Governors from IA, WI, AZ, DE, KS, MI, NJ, NM, PA, and PR) requesting that Congress restore CSBG to its FY 2005 funding level is also below.



Policy Position

07/20/2005

HHS-30. Community Services Block Grant Program

The Governors support continuation of the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program as an effective and flexible program uniquely suited to reduce dependency and promote the self-sufficiency for millions of low-income individuals. CSBG supports a broad range of federal, state, local, public, and private initiatives aimed at reducing the causes and effects of poverty. CSBG agencies have launched a series of self-sufficiency model programs that can be utilized for the implementation of welfare initiatives. Governors support maintaining the integrity of CSBG.

CSBG funds are an important tool to link and coordinate resources and empower communities. These funds represent a small but necessary percentage of the total funding available to local CSBG subgrantee agencies. Besides maintaining current services, these modest sums also create new initiatives, augment existing resources, and extend relatively scarce or restricted services available under other programs to poor people who otherwise would not be served. CSBG funds are essential to support the local agencies often responsible for administering other federal programs such as the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Head Start, and emergency homeless assistance. The planning and integration of CSBG services with state Temporary Assistance for Needy Families plans is therefore critical to efficient administration of the funding.

One of the most significant aspects of the CSBG program is the development of partnerships between states and Community Action Agencies. By working toward mutually defined goals in planning and performance outcomes, coordination is increased and private sector resources and volunteers are utilized to strengthen efforts that address poverty more effectively.

*Time limited (effective Annual Meeting 2005-Annual Meeting 2007).
Adopted Annual Meeting 2005.*





May 26, 2006

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ralph Regula
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Obey
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Specter, Senator Harkin, Chairman Regula and Congressman Obey:

As you begin negotiations on the fiscal (FY) 2007 Health and Human Services appropriations legislation, we are writing to share with you the Governors' views on funding for key state health and human services programs. We appreciate that you will provide level or increased funding for many critical programs and urge you to continue to uphold the strong federal-state partnership with respect to these services. As you continue your deliberations, however, we ask for your attention to the following programs.

The Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant

We urge you to preserve funding for the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant at or above the FY 06 appropriated level of \$131 million. This is one of the few grants that allow states to address their own unique health challenges in exciting and innovative ways. States have documented that investment of Block Grant dollars result in improved health outcomes and in many cases significant cost savings.

Bioterrorism Preparedness

Bioterrorism preparedness became a priority following September 11, 2001 and the subsequent anthrax attacks that killed several U.S. postal employees and others around the country. Following these incidents, the federal government provided funds to states for strengthening their public health systems and developing surge capacity at state and local public health facilities. The Administration's fiscal year 2007 budget proposal has reduced funding in this area. In previous years, the Health and Human Services Department has also sought to redirect funding for strengthening state public health systems to other departmental priorities. We urge you to continue funding for bioterrorism preparedness and to reject any future efforts by HHS to redirect or reprogram already appropriated federal funds for other priorities.

Social Services Block Grant

We are deeply concerned with potential reductions to the Social Services Block Grant, which provide a wide array of social services to individuals and families - primarily the elderly and disabled - in need. Governors believe that funding for SSBG is among the most valuable federal investments that can be made for the nation's most vulnerable citizens. We urge you to fund SSBG at or above the FY 2006 appropriated level of \$1.7 billion.

Community Services Block Grant

Governors are concerned with the effects that the proposed integration of the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) with 17 other federal programs into a new community development initiative will have on the funding of CSBG. We are strongly opposed to any cuts in the funding of CSBG, which supports a broad range of federal, state, local, public and private endeavors aimed at reducing the causes and effects of poverty. We urge you to fund CSBG at its FY 2006 appropriated level of \$636 million.

Thank you for your consideration and support of these important programs.

Sincerely,

Governor Haley Barbour
Chair, Health and Human Services Committee

Governor Jon S. Corzine
Vice Chair, Health and Human Services Committee

Printed from the NGA web site.

May 10, 2006



DELAWARE

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515



IOWA

The Honorable Jim Nussle
Chairman
House Budget Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Spratt Ranking
Member
House Budget Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515



KANSAS

Dear Mr. Speaker, Leader Pelosi, Chairman Nussle, and Ranking Member Spratt:

As Governors, we understand that budgets are powerful policymaking tools that reflect our governments' values and priorities. We also understand that while fiscal responsibility is of paramount importance, government must never lose sight of its fundamental mission to serve and improve the lives of its citizens. From this perspective, we write to express our grave concerns about funding shortfalls in the House version of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 budget resolution.



NEW JERSEY

As you know, in passing its budget resolution, the Senate overwhelmingly approved the Specter-Harkin amendment by a 73-27 margin. This amendment brought FY 2007 Labor-HHS-Education spending back up to FY 2005 levels by adding \$7 billion to the budget. As the House moves forward to adopt a budget resolution and complete its appropriations process, we urge you to allocate a comparable level of funding for the Labor-HHS-Education bill, which funds critical programs such as:



NEW MEXICO

The Community Services Block Grant, which funds efforts to reduce poverty and move families toward self-sufficiency;

Workforce investment programs, which provide job placement services to 1.2 million workers and training services to an additional 124,000 workers;

Over 40 educational programs, including Perkins Vocational and Technical Education State Grants, Educational Technology State Grants, and Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities State Grants; and



PENNSYLVANIA

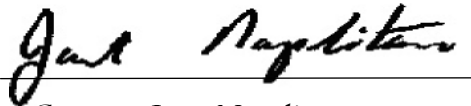


PUERTO RICO

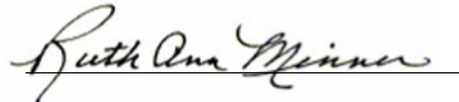
The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which helps low-income families meet their home heating and cooling needs.

These programs represent the traditional federal-state partnership that has for years delivered critical services to our citizens. Without adequate support from the federal government, we will be unable to continue to meet these needs. We therefore urge you to take action on the House floor to restore \$7 billion in critical Labor-HHS-Education funding, which will enable states to continue to deliver the health, education and workforce services on which so many Americans rely.

Respectfully,



Governor Janet Napolitano
Arizona



Governor Ruth Ann Minner
Delaware



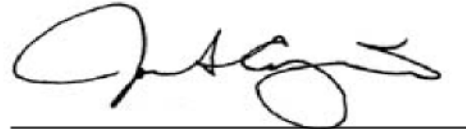
Governor Tom Vilsack
Iowa



Governor Kathleen Sebelius
Kansas



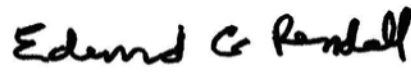
Governor Jennifer Granholm
Michigan



Governor Jon S. Corzine
New Jersey



Governor Bill Richardson
New Mexico



Governor Ed Rendell
Pennsylvania

(Signature on original)

Governor Anibal Acevedo-Vila
Puerto Rico



Governor Jim Doyle
Wisconsin

cc: Senator Arlen Specter, Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor, Health, Human Services and Education

Senator Tom Harkin, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor, Health, Human Services and Education

CSBG SPOTLIGHT: California Establishes a Management Curriculum for Community Action Agencies

by Jovita Tolbert

Notably, the California Department of Community Services and Development (CSD), in collaboration with the California Association and members of the California Community Action Network, has designed a curriculum for an annual Management Seminar. The goal of the seminar is to provide California Community Action Agencies (CAAs) with a foundation that would assist them in directing their agency operations toward a higher degree of excellence. CSD awarded the Associated Community Action Partnership (ACAP) of Hayward, California, a \$22,000 grant from the state's allotted Community Services Block Grant discretionary funding to develop and facilitate the Management Seminar curriculum.

In January, the CSD successfully convened its annual Management Seminar and Program Training Workshops. The curriculum for the Seminar and Workshops, entitled *The Seven Practices of Highly Effective Organizations*, is a derivative of the Franklyn-Covey book entitled *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. As such, it focused on seven standards:

- Board Governance;
- Leadership;
- Linkages and Capacity Building;
- Financial Accountability and Stability;

- Planning and Evaluation;
- Administrative Systems and Processes; and
- Program Delivery.

The curriculum provided the CAAs in attendance with a framework they could utilize in order to achieve a higher level of effectiveness in the management of their programs. In addition, the training allowed agency directors and management staff to take part in self-assessments, identify work/product areas in need of improvement, and examine their processes. Moreover, they left with seven simple ideas which, if initiated, would bring about significant results. These ideas were:

- Check your vital signs;
- Walk the talk;
- Strengthen your muscles;
- Follow your money;
- Show integrity;
- Work your body; and
- Friend raising.

For more information on California's Management Seminar contact Wendy Wohl, CSD Chief Director, by email at, wwohl@csd.ca.gov.

CSBG/IS Research Corner: Strategies for Improving Employment Outcomes

by Gretchen Knowlton

Since the enactment of higher TANF work participation regulations last year in the Deficit Reduction Act, low-income service providers are facing new pressures to move TANF recipients into the workforce. From everything we've learned to date about employment outcomes for low-income individuals, we know that just getting a job, any job, doesn't provide a solution to poverty. But how can Community Action Agencies

(CAAs) best help program participants achieve better employment outcomes and truly move toward self-sufficiency?

A recent audio conference and an accompanying guidebook entitled, *Improving Employment Outcomes for TANF Recipients: Win-Win Solutions for Families and States*, a joint project of the Center for Budget and Policy

Priorities (CBPP) and Center for Law and Social Policies (CLASP), provides some suggested policies and best practices for improving outcomes for families leaving TANF.

THE CASE FOR WHY GOOD JOBS ARE IMPORTANT

There are plenty of bad, low-wage jobs in the market currently. In fact, the most job growth in the past two years has been from jobs that pay poverty-level wages. This makes it relatively easy for people leaving Welfare for work to find low-wage employment. However, these jobs can't support a family trying to become self-sufficient and are generally unstable and don't provide benefits.

A recent research study conducted in Wisconsin found that in the first year of leaving Welfare, only 1/3 of former recipients worked all year. After six years, only 16 % of former TANF recipients had earnings above the poverty level. In fact, 60% actually showed earnings below 25% of the poverty level.

Earlier Welfare policies embraced the notion that any job, even a low-wage job, was better than no job for former Welfare recipients. Now, however, research proves this thinking may have been short-sighted. Research by the Urban Institute found that low-wage workers' ability to rise above poverty is strongly linked with the kind of employment they get upon leaving TANF, including their occupation and the type of company they work for. Large companies tend to pay more. They also provide more benefits and opportunities for growth and advancement. Certain occupations also tend to pay better wages. The researchers concluded that it's important for employment programs to connect low-income workers with good, quality jobs across skill-levels and occupations.

A TAILORED JOB SEARCH APPROACH

Participants in employment initiatives must be part of the process of designing their career track and setting goals. To do this they need to know what level of income they must have to support themselves and their family. Self-sufficiency calculators such as those developed by Wider Opportunity for Women (www.wowonline.org) can be helpful with this.

In the initial job search phase, a tiered approach to the job search process helps former Welfare recipients find the best job for their unique skills and abilities. Initially, the goal for every participant should be to find a living

wage job. When that's not possible due to job shortages or inadequate employment skills, etc, the next tier of the job search should expand to explore job options with potential for promotion to living wage. Finally, if the first two options aren't possible, low-wage jobs that at a minimum carry the advantage of providing some valuable, marketable skills-building opportunities can be explored, with the intent to help the employee move into a better job later.

When the job search strategy is framed as an ongoing, tiered process with a goal of financial stability, it helps participants see the bigger picture and keeps them on track to make progress and advance in the workforce. The focus must be on looking for a job that pays more and matches the needs and interests of the employee instead of just meeting the requirement of obtaining a job.

MOVING BEYOND LOW-WAGE JOBS

Research by Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation (MDRC) proved what many service providers already knew, that once former TANF recipients are working in low-skill, low-wage jobs, their ability to participate in employment training and services that could move them into better jobs is reduced due to busy schedules. Therefore, to be successful, services to low-income workers must be tailored to meet the needs of people trying to juggle work, family, and other obligations.

One of the most successful ways of ensuring that those individuals already in the work-force benefit from services to improve their employment options is to offer on-the-job training rather than separate employment training. Thus, the employer is a critical partner in any strategy to provide the training and skill-building needed to advance workers in the workplace. Employees need career planning services at various stages of the employment process to assess their strengths and weaknesses, skills and interests. This is something that employers can and should provide. Employment initiatives that offer match incentives to help augment employers' costs in providing this ongoing training have proven successful.

HOW TO TARGET GOOD EMPLOYERS

Studies reveal several best practices for linking former TANF recipients with the types of employers who provide good jobs:

- Consider and value the employer's needs equally to those of the job seeker's;

- Look for employers who offer training, a living wage, and health benefits;
- Have an indepth knowledge of the industry and employers with whom participants are being placed to ensure a good fit between workers and employers;
- Combine placement services that meet the needs of employers and their everyday workplace activity, with an emphasis on employee advancement;
- Provide employers with information, ideas, and resources to develop new human resource approaches.

CHARACTERISTICS OF GOOD EMPLOYERS

Research has also found that long-term, positive employment outcomes are correlated with certain characteristics of employers. The best employers for former welfare recipients include those that:

- Contribute to workers success through benefits and training;
- Are committed to civic values and the health of the

- local community;
- Approach working with former TANF recipients with some flexibility;
- Value working with low-income employees as a means to improve their bottom line; and
- Provide soft-skills training.

CONCLUSION

As Community Action Agencies work to assist low-income workers in becoming self-sufficient, the research and best practices outlined in the guidebook, *Improving Employment Outcomes for TANF Recipients: Win-Win Solutions for Families and States* (www.clasp.org), is an excellent resource. Given the findings on the importance of job placement in good jobs with benefits, CAAs are uniquely positioned to offer services that partner with local employers in order to improve outcomes for program participants.

**CSBG/IS Data Corner:
The History of CSBG Data Collection**
by Jenae Bjelland

It's hard to believe that 2006 will mark the twenty-third year in which there has been a survey of state uses of federal CSBG funds. The Office of Community Services (OCS) first funded the data collection grant in 1983. These grant responsibilities included collecting the data, writing the report, and staffing a data collection taskforce. The first comprehensive survey was conducted on 1983 operations in a cooperative venture between the National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSP) and the National Governors' Association, with outside assistance from the Center for Community Futures. This led to the development of the National Voluntary Reporting System, or NVRS. Surveys on FY 1984, 1985, and 1986 activities were conducted by the Center for Community Futures with guidance from the Data Collection Committee of NASCSP. The FY 1987 through 2006 surveys were conducted by NASCSP.

In FY 2001, reporting on the Information System Survey became a federal requirement. As such, the surveys and the reports generated were amended to focus on information of special interest to state and federal policymakers, such as the relationship of CSBG to other funding sources and the development of innovative pro-

grams. The FY 2006 survey incorporates the lessons learned from earlier data collection practices and the analysis of this information.

Changes to the CSBG IS survey and report are always discussed and agreed upon by the Information System Task Force (ISTF). Formed in 1983, the ISTF is a group of stakeholders (CAAs, State CSBG offices, and national partners) who felt it was important to design a mechanism to collect statistical data to tell the story of Community Action. The ISTF, which is staffed by NASCSP, is responsible for designing the data collection tool in a manner that meets the political and management needs of the Community Action Network. The role of the task force has been important for a number of reasons. The first is that the manner in which this task force was developed allows for the collection of non-statutory data requirements that is helpful to the Network, that legally, OCS cannot ask for as OCS can only ask for data that is required by the statute. In addition, the structure of the ISTF has played a significant role in maintaining data credibility and network buy in.

ISTF Membership consists of one representative from each of the 10 Regions, broken down by five members

from CAAs, five members from State CSBG Administrators, two at large members from CAA Associations, and previous NASCSP Board Chairs. Members are expected to represent the concerns of his/her region and provide input on all aspects of the CSBG/IS data collection survey and report. Members serve for the longer of two meeting cycles or two years, during which time, the ISTF meets either annually or bi-annually depending on needs of the network.

It is important to note that the CSBG network has had a rich history of collecting, analyzing and producing reports based on data collected through the CSBG IS. The information collected through this system is vetted by representative stakeholders in the network and reflects the most current needs of the network. NASCSP, with the assistance of Economic Opportunity Studies, Inc., carefully analyzes the data for accuracy in order to ensure that the data published and distributed in our reports is as precise as possible. Like raw data in any field, the data submitted by states and agencies often requires some revisions and corrections in order to be ready for publication. Although agency-level data is collected, and is critical for more detailed background analysis, agency-level data is never published directly or shared by NASCSP. In light of the nature of the block grant, state-level data has proven to be the most appropriate data to share given the requirements of the CSBG statute and needs of funders and policymakers. In the current climate which is focused on performance-based accountability, data is power. As such, it has proven extremely beneficial to this network to maintain control of its own data collection system.

The numerous reports published by NASCSP each year are distributed widely throughout the network and be-

yond and are the premier sources of information on the CSBG network. Our CSBG data publications include:

- The *CSBG Statistical Report*, which details all of the information submitted in the CSBG/IS survey, including state-by-state tables;
- The *Executive Summary of the CSBG Statistical Report* which is a condensed version of the full-report;
- CSBG/IS Highlights featuring some of the most critical statistics about the CSBG;
- *The Community Services Block Grant in Action* – a reader-friendly synopsis of the most recent statistical data on CSBG; and
- *Annual Report of Performance Outcomes from the Community Services Block Grant Program* which details the national performance outcomes, or Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) data of the network.

In addition to these annual publications, NASCSP produces additional documents featuring CSBG/IS statistical data to address pertinent subjects and pressing issues each year. The other sources of IS data include issue briefs, press releases, special reports, and individualized state reports. The IS data is a highly sought after resource for partner organizations, federal funders, policymakers, other research organizations and think tanks and is shared widely with such groups. For example, IS data was recently included in a briefing book published by The Workforce Alliance (TWA) highlighting the contributions of the CSBG network to workforce initiatives.

For more information on CSBG Information System statistical data resources, please visit NASCSP’s website at www.nascsp.org

WAP Corner: Appropriations - Not Just a Bill

by Allison Spector

Each year, Congress, through various House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees, considers measures which provide funding for activities including defense, education, transportation, and of course, energy conservation. While we are not always aware of the intimate details about how the level of funding is determined, the question still arises, “How does the system actually work?” We hope this short outline provides a clearer

understanding of this often complex and confusing process:

PHASE ONE: THE PRESIDENT’S BUDGET

According to the Constitution, “No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in the Consequence of Appropriations made by Law.” And Congress sets those Appropriations. However, Congress is provided a blue-

print for government operations each year by the President. The annual Appropriations cycle begins on or before the first Monday in February, when the President submits his budget to Congress for the upcoming fiscal year. The President recommends spending levels for various government programs and agencies via a “budget authority” or BA via the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). This represents the legal authority for federal agencies to make obligations for either immediate or future expenditures. In response to the President’s budget, Congress then adopts guidelines in the form of an annual budget resolution that covers outlay levels for the upcoming fiscal year and four subsequent years. Technically, this resolution is supposed to occur on April 15, but seldom does. No budget resolution was passed this year.

PHASE TWO: MARK UP AND PASSAGE

After the House and Senate receive their subcommittee spending ceilings from the budget resolution (or 302B levels), the Appropriation Subcommittees “mark up” the spending bills under their jurisdiction and report them to their full committees. There are 11 such committees including Homeland Security, Defense, and Transportation, Military Construction, among others. The Weatherization Assistance Program is included in the Energy and Water subcommittee portfolio. The full House or Senate Appropriations Committees considers each subcommittee recommended funding bill separately and must vote to approve the bill before sending it to the floor of the Chamber for a vote. The Committee may choose to change funding levels for some initiatives set by the subcommittee by accepting amendments to the bill from the Appropriations Committee members. After the Appropriations Committee reports a bill to the House or Senate floor, it is scheduled for a yea/nay vote from the entire Chamber membership. Congressman and Senators have the opportunity to propose floor amendments to the bill in their respective chambers. The bill and all its approved amendments are then voted on by the full Chamber and passed or rejected.

PHASE THREE: THE JOINT CONFERENCE

Once both Chambers pass its version of the spending bill, the Appropriations Committee members must resolve the differences between the two versions of the same bill. This is done through negotiations between the Chair and Ranking Minority members of the full committees of the House and Senate and selected members of the respective subcommittees governing the bill being negotiated.

These selected members become the Joint Conference Committee for that spending bill. The Joint Conference Committee Members can change funding for initiatives within the bill. Under both House and Senate rules, negotiated sums are generally required to remain within the range established by the House and Senate’s passed versions of the bill. Once resolved, the amended versions of the bill must be returned to the House and Senate for a final vote of passage.

AND FINALLY: THE PRESIDENT SIGNS

After Congress sends the bill to the President, he has 10 days to sign or veto the measure. If he takes no action, the bill automatically becomes law at the end of those 10 days. If he takes no action when Congress has adjourned, this is considered a “pocket veto”. If the President vetoes a bill and sends it back to Congress, Congress may override the veto by a 2/3 vote in both Chambers. If the override is successful, the bill becomes law. If not, the budget measure dies and we start all over again.

PERSPECTIVE

If some or all of the spending bills are not passed and signed by the President by September 30th, Congress must adopt a Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund the government’s operations contained in the bill(s) yet to be resolved. The CR funds each program or initiative at one of three levels beginning on October 1 – the approved funding level of the House, the approved funding level of the Senate, or last year’s approved funding level - whichever is *lower!* This funding level remains in effect until the actual spending bill can be enacted. Departments can and will use these “adjusted” figures to distribute funds to states and other organizations,

As of the time of this article, we are currently in “Phase Two” of the FY07 Budget process. While the House has determined its spending figures for programs like Weatherization (\$254.2 million) and State Energy Programs (\$25 million), the Senate is only now preparing to enter its mark-up process. The Senate Energy and Water Subcommittee is scheduled to mark-up its spending bill on or about June 27th. The full Appropriations Committee could consider the bill a few days later. What may not happen very quickly is a Senate floor vote on the bill or a Joint Conference Committee resolution before the September 30 deadline. We may see a CR for some period of time in the next federal fiscal year since elections loom large in the horizon.

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| <p>So whether you're sitting on Capitol Hill, or Cherry Hill there is still time to call or write your Senator and share the best of what Weatherization offers in your state and local communities. We've had a great beginning to the 2007 Appropriations season but it is still up to us to</p> | <p>spread the word about the WAP and keep our momentum going. With a little bit of luck, and a clear voice, the Senate will get the message that Weatherization Works! and is worthy of the highest funding possible.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: right;"><i>A Matter of Trust, continued</i></p> <p>clear. Democrats think that enough Republicans will join with them to defeat its passage when the bill reaches the House floor later this month. Republicans indicate that the promise of additional Labor-HHS resources in conference with the Senate should garner enough Republican votes to ensure passage. In either case, both parties are saying in effect, "this is only the beginning of the Labor-HHS Appropriations process, the ultimate outcome will be much different".</p> <p>The promise of gold or at least additional CSBG funding at the end of the Appropriations rainbow in a way allows both Democrats and Republicans the opportunity to avoid having to make any current effort to restore CSBG funding.</p> <p>Members of Congress are essentially saying to the Community Action network, "Trust us—CSBG funding will eventually be restored". That is a big ask. What if, for some unexpected reason, the Senate is not able to protect CSBG funding, will the House Appropriators still fight as hard to return CSBG to FY 2006 funding? What if the final negotiations, as expected, occur after the November Congressional elections?</p> | <p>If Republicans lose control of the House are they still committed to CSBG funding restoration? Or if the Democrats do not take over control of the House will they still be willing to fight hard on behalf of CSBG; will they even be able to?</p> <p>I know that in hundreds of communities across the country, cutting CSBG by nearly 1/3 will do serious harm to many essential programs impacting hundreds of thousands of lives.</p> <p>I doubt if any of the residents or elected officials in those communities asked for, or even expected, CSBG funding to be cut. The natural and immediate response to the House cuts normally would be to let Congress feel the outrage and concern over these cuts. Members would be held accountable and would also be expected to be active in helping restore CSBG funding.</p> <p>This year, however, communities are being asked to hold off, give the process time, trust the Members, and trust in the outcome. Let us hope the outcome is as forecast and CSBG funding is secure. Then the trust asked for as well as the trust given will have been worth it. For low-income communities all across the nation, as well as the Congress, the stakes couldn't be higher.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Perspectives from NASEO, continued</i></p> <p>partners to get a successful floor amendment to restore \$25 million in the House bill. This higher Senate level will provide leverage during the Joint Conference Committee debates taking place later this year. Congratulations to all who worked on this issue. Meanwhile, the Weatherization Assistance Program received \$204.5 million in appropriations (\$200 million for WAP and \$4.5 million for T&TA set-aside). While this is \$36 million above the President's request (\$168 million), it is far short of the House level set a few weeks ago of \$254.2 million. As of this article, the full Appropriations Committee had not yet met on this bill. NASEO will continue to support the higher funding levels for both WAP and SEP.</p> <p>There is some speculation that many of the Senate appropriations bills will not be sent to the full Senate until af-</p> | <p>ter the elections. We have no idea at this time what the fate of the Energy and Water bill will be. We will keep you informed as we learn more.</p> <p>Congress is also in the midst of considering a whole new range of energy legislation, despite the passage of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which was signed by the President on August 8, 2005. As of this writing, 267 energy-related bills have been introduced in the House and 210 bills introduced in the Senate. Some of the bills would expand authority for both the state energy agencies and the weatherization offices, though the likelihood is that any energy legislation eventually passing this year will be difficult. Congress is reacting to the \$3 price for gasoline in an election year.</p> |

This month, the House of Representatives found itself in the midst of the so-called "Energy Week." The primary focus is the proposed passage of HR 4761 which would open offshore areas to oil and natural gas drilling. The Senate may act on S. 2253 to open the eastern Gulf of Mexico to drilling (so-called Lease Sale 181). A number of minor bills might also be addressed in the House this week, including: 1) H.R. 5534, to put funds from violations of Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards (CAFÉ) standards into alternative fuels; 2) H.R. 5632, to create a rating system and education program on rating tires; 3) H.R. 2730, to create a joint research program with Israel on energy efficiency and renewable energy; 4) a new research program on energy-efficient computers; and 5) H.R. 5611, to create a new partnership between the automobile industry and the Department of Energy to conserve fuel. The House is also pushing the Senate to pass a bill to speed up permitting for oil refineries (H.R. 5254). There is an effort to modify CAFÉ standards (H.R. 5359), but probably not to increase the level, just to change the program to divide vehicles by weight. An effort to reduce the number of so-called "boutique fuels" (the number and type of alternative fuels on the market) is probably losing steam since a recent EPA task force report revealed that their impact on price and supply was minimal. In addition, there may be an effort later this year to extend tax credits and tax benefits contained in the Energy Policy Act of 2005, including for new and existing energy efficient homes, renewable energy, energy efficient commercial buildings, etc. The House Science Committee is pushing H.R. 5656, to expand research and development of alternative energy sources, clean coal, nuclear power, plug-in hybrid vehicles, hydrogen storage, solar and wind power, and "green buildings." Other legislation may move to encourage greater use of ethanol fuel and hybrid and plug-in hybrid vehicles. It is simply not clear that there is enough time or sufficient votes to pass any energy legislation this year.

We have suggested that the focus of attention should be on funding the key authorizations contained in the Energy Policy Act of 2005, including especially: 1) Section

123, State Energy Program, authorized at \$100 million for FY'07; 2) Section 122, Weatherization Assistance, authorized at \$600 million for FY'07; and 3) Section 121, LIHEAP, authorized at \$5.1 billion for FY'07. In fact, last fall NASCSP, NASEO, NEADA and NARUC all wrote to the President and the Congressional leadership suggesting that full funding of the relevant EPACT provisions could help address the short-term problems caused by the hurricanes. These groups also held a series of Congressional briefings and press events over the past several months.

Other priorities for the state energy offices include federal funding for upgrading and training associated with state building codes, funding energy efficient public buildings, creating an energy efficient appliance rebate program, funding the state and low-income community energy efficiency pilot programs, expanding the Energy Star program, promoting energy efficient buildings and alternative transportation fuels and hybrid vehicles, etc. In short, our priority is funding the existing authorizations.

NASCSP and NASEO will also be working together on the transition from the now-eliminated six DOE regional offices to the new arrangement with the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) and the Golden Field Office. While both groups opposed the elimination, we must cooperate to ensure that the Weatherization and State Energy Program do not suffer.

NASCSP, NASEO and NEADA are also partners in the Energy Programs Consortium, which is promoting public benefits programs at the state level and coordinating with the Ford Foundation and others on establishing new programs for low-income neighborhood housing affordability.

We look forward to continued cooperation with NASCSP, and hope that we will have another opportunity for a "summit" meeting among the state groups delivering energy services.



Summer Fun



SAMPLE OP/ED

Critical to Emergency and Disaster Relief: The Community Services Block Grant Is a First Line of Defense

With hurricane season rapidly approaching, the National Hurricane Center expects 10 hurricanes during the 2006 Atlantic hurricane season. Of those, as many as six could reach Category 3 strength, the same strength as Hurricane Katrina, or higher. So, are America's service providers ready for another impending Katrina?

On the morning of August 29, 2005 Hurricane Katrina, the costliest and one of the most deadly hurricanes in United States history, battered the Gulf Coast rendering thousands of Americans homeless, jobless and devastated. In the midst of the chaos many government programs failed to deliver the relief and support the effected communities desperately needed. Unlike many of these programs, the state administered Community Services Block Grant Network (CSBG) was ready. In fact, it was commended by the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions as a vital partner in addressing the on-going Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. Despite the integral role it has played in past Hurricane relief efforts and could play this year, CSBG has been proposed for elimination.

With this record of achievement, it is disappointing that the Community Services Block Grant Program may be eliminated in fiscal year 2007. Hundreds of low-income communities will lose crucial program funding, and thousands of individuals in poverty will lose basic necessities and suffer setbacks on the road to self-sufficiency.

Since its origin, the state administered CSBG Network has been a primary means of delivering essential services to the poor. Federal funds are administered through the states to community action agencies, which then provide essential services to those in need. Today, the network is comprised of nearly 1,100 local, private, non-profit and public agencies that annually provide employment, housing, nutrition, utility, healthcare, and transportation assistance to over 15 million low-income people across the nation.

The proposed funding cut comes at a time when federal anti-poverty programs should be strengthened, not weakened, in light of the humanitarian crisis in the aftermath

of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Because of their unique position in the afflicted areas, the CSBG Network was positioned to respond immediately to the needs of evacuees, often before national aid groups could be deployed to the area, providing transportation, food, clothing, hygiene kits, medical checkups, housing, utility deposits, and job placement. Helping in times of crisis and assisting with subsequent recovery are key elements of the community action tradition, and the CSBG Network must stay the course as the Gulf Coast region heals and rebuilds.

The proposed cuts are also counterproductive in sheer terms of dollars and cents. The CSBG Network funds the central management and core activities of so many local agencies serving the poor, it is able to mobilize private sector resources from churches, businesses, civic, nonprofit and other community-based organizations. In fiscal year 2004, \$594 million in taxpayer dollars leveraged \$9.1 billion dollars, of which 2.7 billion were from non-federal sources. These funds are a critical addition to public sector outreach to low-income Americans.

More than just leveraging large sums of money, the CSBG Network is about creating opportunity and eliminating poverty. In response to media coverage of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the American public was shocked to learn the extent of the poverty that exists in this nation. The CSBG Network is unique in that it mobilizes low-income individuals to assist in providing innovative solutions to the causes of poverty in their communities. Moreover, it encourages partnerships among local, state, private and federal agencies which more effectively target resources at immediate needs, while promoting the capacity of low-income people to participate fully in the economy and escape poverty.

By any measure, the CSBG Network delivers. Can it do better? Of course. The state administered CSBG Network can be strengthened by continuing to ensure quality and accountability mechanisms which already exist, without dramatically altering the existing structure which works so well.

At the end of the day, the CSBG Network represents our abiding national commitment to care for individuals in poverty and recognize that we are stronger when we do so. Additionally, it represents a tested and proven first line of defense and recovery during national emergencies. Restoring funding for the CSBG Network to its FY 2004 level of 650 million is one of the best ways to en-

sure that if America experiences another Katrina, the lives of potentially thousands of Americans who are affected receive the services they need to survive, re-establish, and thrive.

First Name Last Name, Governor of State X

2006 CAPLAW Conference

by Jovita A. Tolbert and Jenae Bjelland

To ensure the Community Action Network was updated on the most pressing legal issues it and other nonprofits face, the Community Action Program Legal Services, Inc. (CAPLAW) convened its annual conference in San Francisco, California June 7-9. The conference featured expert led workshops and panels as well as the opportunities for participants to learn from their colleagues. Topics of the conference workshops and panel discussions ranged from employment and immigration law to Head Start and Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) updates to the regulation and accountability of tax-exempt organizations. While the plethora of information participants received cannot be shared in full, the following are some of the conference highlights.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 2006:

During CAPLAW's *Opening Session* participants had an opportunity to hear from Josephine Bias Robinson, Director of the Office of Community Services (OCS), who commended the Network on its efforts to help low-income individuals achieve self-sufficiency. Additionally, she commented on OCS' response to the recent GAO letter noting that OCS will be creating new tools to monitor states and will be requesting input on these tools from the Network. Also, since OCS has experienced the retirement of several key employees, they are looking to hire 3-5 new personnel with fiscal auditing expertise to fill the gap in expertise which currently exists. During her speech Mrs. Robinson also expressed concern over an unavailability of the data that she needs to tell the story of the CSBG Network.

Later that day, an *Emerging Principles of Nonprofit Governance* workshop focused on the current climate of increased scrutiny nonprofits are facing from federal and state regulators and funding sources. During this session panelists encouraged the voluntary establishment of

norms of good behavior as well as disclosure and transparency from the nonprofit sector. This is in order to preempt attempts by the government to place more restrictions on the nonprofit sector as a whole. Additionally, they noted that the grouping of all types and sizes of nonprofits for unified standards of government reform is impractical as the nonprofit sector is dominated by large private foundations. Therefore, reforms aimed at this audience would leave small community and faith-based nonprofits with mandates they would not be able to meet.

THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2006:

During the *Head Start Update*, Sarah M. Greene, CEO of the National Head Start Association (NHSA), informed conference participants that the NHSA is now working closely with the Head Start Bureau on behalf of the Head Start Network. In addition, she noted that the newly passed Head Start (HS) transportation regulations are causing a hardship for the many agencies that do not have the capacity and funding to comply. As such, NHSA has been meeting with congressional officials to bring this concern to their attention and to let them know that many agencies have had to scale back or cease their transportation programs as a result of the regulations. The NHSA believes Congress is listening and will make revisions to the current regulations. Ms. Greene also provided participants with a HS legislative update in which she informed attendees about the status of HS and Early HS in the appropriations process; \$90 million in HS funding has been appropriated for the provision of services to hurricane Katrina evacuees; and while the House passed its HS reauthorization bill last year, the Senate has not finished its work on the HS bill.

Notably, Paul B. Johnson, DHHS Assistant Regional Attorney for Region IX, alerted participants that HS

Program Review Instrument for Systems Review (PRISM) monitors are now being trained to adopt the mindset of a lawyer collecting evidence in a trial. They are being taught “effective evidence gathering techniques” to make sure they get every pertinent fact involved in the review of grantees. Therefore, grantees can expect a more detailed and thorough review. Next, Robert E. Sasser of the law firm Sasser, Bolton Stidham & Sefton, remarked that due to the comprehensive information available to HS grantees on the PRISM, no grantee should fail the review. He also left grantees with several tips for a successful review. These tips included:

- As soon as you receive notice of the review begin to prepare;
- Create checklists of to-do’s broken into three parts: pre-review, review, post-review;
- Use a video camera during the review process;
- Make corrections while the reviewers are there;
- Establish a relationship with the review team leader;
- After each day of review, discuss with your staff how the review went and write it down;
- Write a letter to the review team leader after the review is completed noting that the reviewer received all documents he/she requested and detailing any corrections which were made while the reviewers were on-site;
- Ask the review team leader to make the aforementioned letter a part of their official report;
- Create a complete summary of the review once the reviewers leave; and

For complaints about your review, call the HS Bureau PRISM Review Complaint Hotline at (866) 471-2325 or email hsbhelp@hhs.gov.

FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2006:

The conference concluded with an informative CSBG monitoring update in which Jeannie Chaffin, CSBG Program Manager for the Missouri Department of Social Ser-

vices and a NASCSP Board Vice Chairperson, provided a comprehensive overview of the *Standard Monitoring for CSBG*. Also, Wendy Wohl, Acting Chief Deputy Director of the California Department of Community Services & Development and NASCSP’s Region IX Board Representative, shared the innovative efforts California is making to implement the *Standard Monitoring for CSBG*. In addition, James Gray, an OCS Program Specialist, provided an update on what OCS has been working on as it pertains to monitoring. He discussed that part of OCS’s response to the GAO report is to revise their State monitoring tool, and that during this process OCS will be working with NASCSP and the Network to gather feedback on this tool. Mr. Gray also shared that next year CSBG will be re-evaluated through the Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB) Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART). The last time that CSBG was evaluated by PART was in 2003, when the program received a zero in results demonstrated. Since that evaluation the Network has developed, and begun reporting on, program performance targets through the National Performance Indicators in the Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) Report. If CSBG were to be re-evaluated by PART, results now would be demonstrated, which should raise the PART score. In closing, Mr. Gray thanked attendees for being present at this worthwhile conference and stated that he appreciated the chance to speak to the Network.

Throughout the CAPLAW conference, attendees heard from an array of experts on a wide range of legal issues. CAPLAW combined the legal expertise of nationally-recognized attorneys and nonprofit professionals with the practical expertise of the Network’s community action leaders and top officials from government agencies. To view the conference agenda and materials, please visit www.caplaw.org.

Board Elections

by Joan Harris

Elections for a new NASCSP Board of Directors will occur during the fall conference in Providence. The Ways and Means Committee of the NASCSP board will soon be accepting nominations for board officers. Is there someone you know with strong leadership qualities that

you’d like to nominate to serve; how about you?!

BOARD DUTIES

The NASCSP board is a volunteer group of committed members who establish major administrative policies gov-

erning the affairs of the association. It meets twice a year during NASCSP's biannual conferences, with summer meetings in the interim to accommodate strategic planning, board training needs and other association business, and also via conference call as needed. Directors may additionally work in standing or ad-hoc committees of the board.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Board officers, including the chairperson, vice chairpersons, secretary and treasurer, together comprise the NASCSP board executive committee. Their duties include the following:

Board Chairperson - The chairperson of the board of Directors is the association's chief executive officer and policy leader, who represents NASCSP as spokesperson on matters of policy and presides at all meetings of the board, executive committee, annual meeting, and all other meetings having general association functions. The chair presides over the annual meeting and conducts other duties as are customarily assumed by the chief executive officer of an association.

Vice Chairpersons - The Vice-Chairpersons serve as the respective geographical and programmatic lead contacts organizationally for the purpose of carrying out association functions. There are two CSBG Directors (one from Regions 1 through 5 and the other from Regions 6 through 10) and two Weatherization Directors (one from Regions 1 through 5 and the other from Regions 6 through 10).

Secretary - The Secretary maintains the official record of the membership and association proceedings and policies and coordinates with staff to keep and distribute the minutes of all meetings of the membership, board of directors and executive committees. In the absence of the chairperson and vice chairpersons, the Secretary acts as Chairperson.

Treasurer - The Treasurer has oversight over the finances of the organization and makes financial reports to the Board of Directors at its regular meetings; provides an annual report to the membership at the annual meeting; and assures the timeliness and accuracy of such other financial reports as may be required by association funding sources.

THE ELECTION

During the conference, one designated member per state per program will cast ballots to select board officers – the executive committee. Next, each region will convene to select its own representative and an alternate to serve on the board. The new NASCSP board of 17 members formed will begin a two year tour of duty at the conclusion of the Providence conference.

Here is an opportunity to get involved. Submit your nomination or choose to serve. You can make a difference!

Per the organization's by-laws, only designees from states whose program dues are paid will be eligible to vote in the general election. You may check your state's status by contacting Joan Harris, jharris@nascsp.org.

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR STATE COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAMS
NASCSP Board of Directors' Executive Committee
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominated as candidate for position of _____

Nominee _____ Job Title _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Comments:

Submitted by _____ Date _____

UPCOMING EVENTS

NARUC SUMMER COMMITTEE MEETINGS

July 30 - August 2, 2006
 San Francisco Marriott
 San Francisco, CA
<http://www.naruc.org>

MIDWEST REGIONAL WEATHERIZATION CONFERENCE - SUCCESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

August 15-17, 2006
 Columbus, Ohio
<http://www.affordablecomfort.org/events.php?EventID=20>

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES' ANNUAL MEETING & EXHIBITION

August 15-18, 2006
 Nashville, TN
 303/364-7700

CAP ANNUAL CONFERENCE

September 5-8, 2006
 Orlando World Center Marriott - Orlando, Florida
<http://www.communityactionpartnership.com/events/default.asp>

MID-ATLANTIC NETWORK OF YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES NETWORKING 2006

October 22-25, 2006
 Rocky Gap Spa & Golf Resort
 Pittsburgh, PA
 412/366-6562

2006 ENERGY PROGRAMS LEVERAGING CONFERENCE

October 23-26, 2006
 Renaissance Vinoy Hotel
 St. Petersburg, FL
<http://www.ncaf.org>

NASCS SP ANNUAL CONFERENCE

October 31 - November 3, 2006
 Marriott Providence - Providence, Rhode Island
 For further questions, please email the Gove Group at:
chomol@gove.org

2006 WEATHERIZATION STATE PROGRAM MANAGERS' MEETING

October 31 - November 3, 2006
 Marriott Providence - Providence, Rhode Island
 For further questions, please email
kvarley@drintl.com

118TH NARUC ANNUAL CONVENTION

November 12-15, 2006
 Loews South Beach
 Miami, FL
mamalloy@naruc.org

HAC NATIONAL RURAL HOUSING CONFERENCE 2006

December 6-8, 2006
 Hyatt Regency Hotel
 Washington, DC
<http://www.ruralhome.org/Conf2006/index.htm>

NASCS SP NEW MEMBERS ORIENTATION AND MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

February 12-16, 2007
 Washington Marriott Hotel
 Washington, DC
 For further questions, please email the Gove Group at:
chomol@gove.org

NARUC 2007 WINTER COMMITTEE MEETINGS

February 18-21, 2007
 Renaissance Washington Hotel
 Washington, DC
mamalloy@naruc.org

NASCSP IN PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND



IT'S **TIME**...MAKE YOUR PLANS TO ATTEND
THE 2006 NASCSP ANNUAL CONFERENCE
MARRIOTT PROVIDENCE HOTEL—PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND
OCTOBER 31—NOVEMBER 3, 2006
PLAN TO BE THERE!!!!

Community Services Network News Now!

NASCSP NEWSLETTER

12 ISSUES

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- Please send 12 issues of the NASCSP Newsletter. Enclosed, my check for \$100.00.
- Please send 12 issues of the NASCSP Newsletter and invoice me for \$100.00.
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Address: _____

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Washington, DC 20001
Fax: 202/624-8472
Email: tjoyner@nascsp.org



NASCSP



NASCSP Mission:

to assist states in responding to poverty issues.