

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

ANNUAL REPORT



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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR STATE COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAMS

Our Mission



BUILDING CAPACITY IN STATES TO RESPOND TO POVERTY ISSUES

The National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSP) represents the States in their work to improve the lives of low-income families and strengthen local economies. NASCSP members administer the federally-funded Community Services Block Grant and the Weatherization Assistance Program that serve millions of American families in communities across the country.



Community Services Block Grant **ANNUAL REPORT**

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Executive Summary

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) is unique among federal grant programs in that it is the only comprehensive investment exclusively focused on reducing poverty. CSBG supports a state-administered, nationwide network of local agencies whose purpose is to reduce the causes of poverty in the low-income communities they serve. Funding from CSBG allows states and Community Action Agencies (CAAs) to leverage funding, strategically target the root causes of poverty at the local level, and impact health and economic security on a national scale. In 2015, every dollar invested in CSBG leveraged an average of \$20.80 of other federal, state, local, and private funds. CAAs receiving CSBG funds effectively use this powerful mix of federal, state, and local resources to address the barriers that lead to and perpetuate systemic poverty.

CAAs, also referred to as CSBG eligible entities, are local private nonprofit and public organizations which are governed by a tripartite board composed of representatives of the low-income neighborhoods being served, elected local officials, and key private partners. Each CAA focuses their efforts on a specific community and coordinates and collaborates with their state CSBG administrators and a wide range of community partners to reduce the causes and consequences of poverty in the low-income communities they serve. CSBG funding provides a vehicle for state CSBG administrators and local leaders to create planned and coordinated interventions to ensure economic opportunity for all Americans. Due to its flexible nature, CSBG funds result in innovative programs that address the leading causes of poverty, such as lack of affordable housing, inadequate access to health care, and too few job opportunities.

CAAs also reported on other sources and uses of other funding administered by the CSBG local network, program activities of the network, results of these activities, and number and demographics of participants served. This report summarizes key data from all parts of the survey. The 2016 CSBG Annual Report contains data from FY 2015. All 50 States and two territories provided information through the CSBG IS Survey on the funding level, allocations, and expenditures of CSBG funds that are compiled into this report.

The CSBG National Performance Indicators (NPIs) are a tool for setting priorities and monitoring progress toward the broader goal of ending poverty. Individuals and families aided by CAAs face poverty and economic insecurity in varying degrees, across family and community level domains, and ranging from health and housing to employment and education. In FY 2015, CAAs addressed 32.3 million conditions of poverty that created barriers to economic security among low-income individuals, families, and communities. The 15.6 million individuals served by CAAs represent nearly 33.4 percent of the 46.7 million Americans in poverty according to the most recent Census data.¹ According to 2014 and 2015 U.S. Census American Community Survey data, over 20 percent of the U.S. population had incomes below 125 percent of the federal poverty guidelines (FPG), and 6.5 percent had an income below 50 percent of the poverty threshold.² Out of the approximately 4.6 million families reporting their poverty status to CAAs, 70 percent were at or below the FPG for a family of four. More than 2.3 million families, nearly 50 percent, were “severely poor,” with incomes at or below 50 percent of the FPG.³ This indicates both the severity of need facing Americans served by the Network, and the importance of multiple services to move people towards self-sufficiency.

The NPIs track outcomes from emergency services as well as more comprehensive and coordinated services such as employment initiatives, early childhood programs, and education. While emergency services are an element of the big picture of helping people through crises toward stability, individuals who receive coordinated or “bundled” services are three to four times more likely to achieve a major

economic outcome such as staying employed, earning a vocational certification or associate's degree, or buying a car, than individuals receiving only one type of service.⁴ Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows the unemployment rate trending downward, from 5.7 percent in January 2015 to 5 percent by December of 2015.^{5,6} Reflecting this decreasing unemployment rate, the number of program participants gaining employment increased by 8 percent from FY 2014 outcomes and 7 percent more people achieved a living wage employment than in FY 2014.

Aside from direct employment, education is another major factor in becoming economically secure. The CSBG Network has always been instrumental in helping people with low-incomes obtain college degrees. This assistance is particularly crucial at a time when 40 percent of undergraduate students in the U.S. have total family incomes below 200 percent FPG.⁷

As poverty often affects several generations, the CSBG Network uses not only “bundled” services but a two-generation approach to addressing poverty. This two-generation approach works to alleviate the burden of poverty for both children and adults receiving services.⁸ This focus on multiple generations is especially critical as research has shown that growing up in poverty has substantial impacts on the development and function of the brain.^{9,10,11,12} A large body of research underscores the effectiveness of early childhood education interventions on success later in life.¹³ Nationwide, child poverty rates remained high, at 19.7% in 2015.¹⁴ The CSBG Network responded to the high child poverty levels and provided services to over 4 million children in FY 2014, representing over 15% of all children in poverty.

The CSBG Network continues to face communities with too few resources to address existing needs, creating a demand for services and strategies. But this anti-poverty network of over 1,000 state-administered local agencies remains committed to ensuring economic security for vulnerable populations and creating employment opportunities for low-wage workers. CSBG helps Americans with low-incomes obtain employment, increase their education, access vital early childhood programs, and maintain their independence. The coordinated services provided by CSBG go beyond short-term interventions and strengthen long-term economic security for individuals, communities, and the nation. The statistics outlined in this report demonstrate the strength and value of CSBG as the national anti-poverty strategy that coordinates local, state, and federal efforts to secure a promising future for our nation.

Introduction to the CSBG Network

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) supports a state-administered, nationwide network of local organizations whose mission is to reduce the causes and effects of poverty in the low-income communities which they serve. The Office of Community Services (OCS) within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) administers CSBG funding to state grantees, the State CSBG Offices. State administrators allocate CSBG funding to local CSBG eligible entities, also known as Community Action Agencies (CAAs), and state Community Action Agency Associations. This unique collaborative relationship between federal, state, and local leaders sets the CSBG Network apart from other federal grant programs. The network also works closely with national associations and related organizations that collaborate and participate with CSBG eligible entities in their efforts on behalf of people with low-incomes.

CSBG's mission is to provide assistance to states and local communities, working through a network of CAAs and other neighborhood-based organizations, for the reduction of poverty, the revitalization of communities where people with low-incomes live, and the empowerment of families and individuals with low-incomes in rural and urban areas to become fully self-sufficient. CSBG is administered at the state level and distributed to eligible entities including local private nonprofit and public CAAs, migrant and seasonal farmworker organizations, or other organizations as designated by the states.

To be eligible for CSBG funding, local entities must meet the following statutory requirements:

- Be governed by a three-part community board consisting of one-third elected public officials and at least one-third representatives of the low-income community, with the balance drawn from leaders in the private sector including businesses, faith-based groups, and civic organizations.
- Periodically assess their communities' needs and serve as a principal source of information about, and advocacy for, poverty-reduction actions.
- Develop strategies for increasing economic opportunity and security for their communities' residents with low-incomes.
- Mobilize and coordinate resources and partnerships to achieve these goals.

Eligible entities, which are primarily private CAAs and public entities, usually housed in government agencies, carry out their missions by creating, coordinating, and delivering a broad array of programs and services to their communities. In FY 2015, 1,026 CSBG eligible entities provided services to low-income families, individuals, and vulnerable communities in 99 percent of U.S. counties.

This collaborative relationship between state and local administrators allows organizations to tailor their anti-poverty efforts to address specific local conditions and capitalize on the unique resources in their states. States and CAAs work together “to stimulate a better focusing of all available local, state, private, and federal resources upon the goal of enabling low-income families, and low-income individuals of all ages, in rural and urban areas, to attain the skills, knowledge, and motivation to secure the opportunities needed for them to become self-sufficient”.¹⁵ Each CAA focuses their poverty reduction efforts on a specific community, under the oversight of their board and the state administrator of the CSBG funding.

State CSBG administrators coordinate with other federal, state, and local programs to improve efficiency, access, and results for low-income individuals and communities. Administration at the state level also

provides robust accountability and oversight of CSBG, and the tracking of metrics and performance indicators around outcomes such as employment, education, housing, and health, which in turn inform this Annual Report.

CSBG represents a federal investment and a national commitment to reducing poverty in our nation. This commitment has created a local delivery infrastructure that responds to the national challenges that contribute to poverty in locally appropriate ways. CSBG's results-driven approach allows States and CAAs to strategically target the root causes of poverty at the local level and measure progress toward the broad goal of ending poverty. CSBG gives local leaders the tools they need to address today's economic concerns. Additionally, CSBG is a key resource for many CAAs and often funds cross-cutting programmatic and administrative needs. An important added benefit of receiving CSBG funding is that agencies across the nation share an institutional framework, overarching goals, and a common mission and vision.

The 2016 CSBG Annual Report contains data from FY 2015. All 50 States and two territories provided information through the CSBG IS Survey on the funding level, allocations, and expenditures of CSBG funds that are compiled into this report. CAAs also reported on other sources and uses of other funding administered by the CSBG local network, program activities of the network, results of these activities, and number and demographics of participants served. This report summarizes key data from all parts of the survey.

For the purposes of this report, the designation "CAA" will refer to all local organizations within the CSBG Network. Table 1 shows the number of CSBG-funded eligible entities, by type, in the nation. State-specific details can be found in the Appendix.

TABLE 1: LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS BY TYPE

CATEGORY OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY	NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES	NUMBER OF STATES
Private Community Action Agencies	907	52
Limited Purpose Agencies	16	8
Migrant and/or Seasonal Farm Worker Organizations	6	10
Local Government Agencies	79	29
Tribes and Tribal Organizations	16	4
Other	2	2
TOTAL	1026	

History of the CSBG Information System Survey (CSBG IS Survey)

NASCSP and the National Governors Association conducted the first comprehensive survey of state and local uses of federal CSBG funds in a 1983 cooperative venture with outside assistance from the Center for Community Futures. This led to the development of the National Voluntary Reporting System.

The Center for Community Futures conducted the surveys of FY 1984, 1985, and 1986 with guidance from NASCSP's Data Collection Committee. NASCSP solely has conducted the surveys since FY 1987.

In FY 2005, reporting on the CSBG IS Survey became a federal requirement. The CSBG IS Survey was amended to focus on information of interest to state and federal policymakers, such as the relationship of CSBG to other funding sources and the development of innovative programs.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS SURVEY

A group of stakeholders (State CSBG offices, CAAs, State CAA Associations, and national partners) who felt it important to design a mechanism to collect statistical data to tell the story of the CSBG Network created the ISTF in 1983. When NASCSP secured the data collection grant to administer the IS Survey in 1987, it was given the responsibility to staff the ISTF.

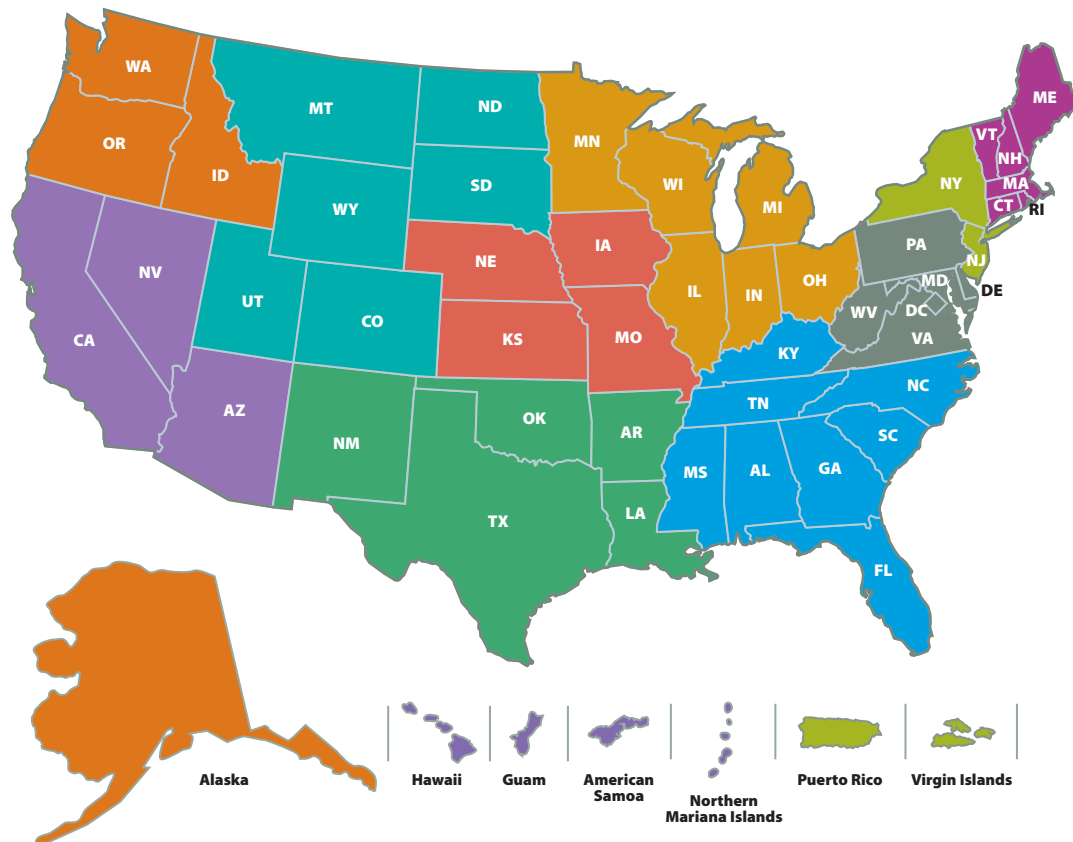
The ISTF has always been an independent committee responsible for designing the data collection tool in a manner that meets the political and management needs of the CSBG Network. The independence of the task force has been important for a number of reasons. The first is that it allows for the collection of non-statutory data that may be helpful to the CSBG Network. In addition, the ISTF has also played a significant role in maintaining data credibility. The ISTF is comprised of one representative from each of the 10 HHS regions, with five representatives from CAAs or State CAA Associations, and five representatives from State CSBG offices, as well as national partners (the National Community Action Foundation, the Community Action Partnership, OCS, and the National Peer-to-Peer Results Oriented Management and Accountability Network).

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR STATE COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAMS (NASCSP)

As the membership association for State administrators of both the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's (HHS) CSBG and the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), NASCSP coordinates semi-annual training conferences for State and local CSBG and WAP staff. NASCSP is the sole provider of orientation training for new State CSBG and WAP administrators and staff, as well as the only collector of national data to reflect the work of the CSBG Network. NASCSP also provides training and technical assistance to States and local agencies upon request in such areas as the basics of CSBG, CAA roles and responsibilities, State roles and responsibilities, various trainings on communication trends and techniques, data collection and performance management and measurement. NASCSP also informs the CSBG Network of best practices, innovative program resources, and anti-poverty tools.

CSBG Network Region Map

As designated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



	Region 1	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont
	Region 2	New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands
	Region 3	Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia
	Region 4	Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee
	Region 5	Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin
	Region 6	Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas
	Region 7	Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska
	Region 8	Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming
	Region 9	Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam
	Region 10	Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington

Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA)

The Monitoring and Assessment Task Force (MATF), a task force of federal, state and local CSBG Network officials, created ROMA in 1994. Based upon principles contained in the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, ROMA provides a framework for continuous growth and improvement among local CAAs and a basis for State leadership and assistance.

In 1998, the CSBG Reauthorization Act made ROMA implementation a requirement for receiving federal CSBG funds, and established October 1, 2001 as the start date for reporting CSBG Network outcomes in the context of ROMA performance-based management principles. This statutory mandate changed both the nature and pace of ROMA implementation throughout the CSBG Network.

Local CAAs have been encouraged to undertake a number of ROMA implementation actions that focus on results oriented management and accountability.

RESULTS ORIENTED MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

- Assess poverty needs and conditions within the community.
- Define a clear agency anti-poverty mission for the individual agency, based around the overarching mission of the CSBG Network to eliminate the causes and conditions of poverty.
- Develop a strategy to address those needs, both immediate and longer term, in the context of existing resources and opportunities in the community.
- Identify specific improvements, or results, to be achieved among low-income people and the community.
- Organize and implement programs, services, and activities, such as advocacy, within the agency and among partnering organizations, to achieve anticipated results.

RESULTS ORIENTED ACCOUNTABILITY PRINCIPLES

- Develop and implement strategies to measure and record improvements in the condition of people with low-incomes and the communities in which they live that result from CSBG Network intervention.
- Use information about outcomes, or results, among agency tripartite boards and staff to determine overall effectiveness, inform annual and long-range planning, and support agency advocacy, funding, and community partnership activities.
- Encourage State CSBG Offices and State CAA Associations to work as a team to advance ROMA performance-based concepts among local agencies through ongoing training and technical assistance.

National Performance Goals and Indicators

The CSBG Act Section 678E(a)(1) required States administering CSBG to implement a management and evaluation strategy that measures and reports the performance outcomes of CAAs by FY 2001.

From 2001 to 2003, OCS worked with national, state, and local CSBG officials to identify the results and performance targets that best reflected the multi-faceted work of CAAs. Priority was given to targets that could be collected and reported in a manner that presented an accurate indication of national impact. Results of this collaboration include the National Performance Indicators (NPIs), used to organize and report outcomes, and the identification of four performance indicators for which target information is collected.

NATIONAL PERFORMANCE GOALS

States and CAAs receiving CSBG funds work to achieve six national performance goals:

Goal 1: Low-income people become more self-sufficient.

Goal 2: The conditions in which low-income people live are improved.

Goal 3: Low-income people own a stake in their community.

Goal 4: Partnerships among supporters and providers of services to low-income people are achieved.

Goal 5: Agencies increase their capacity to achieve results.

Goal 6: Low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and other supportive environments.

NATIONAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

To enable greater aggregation and national reporting of the most universal and significant CSBG results among States and CAAs, 12 common categories, or indicators, of CAA performance were identified in FY 2001 to 2003 data. From FY 2004 to 2008, the 12 NPIs measured the impact of CSBG Network programs and activities on families and communities. Beginning in FY 2009, the number of indicators was expanded to 16. One indicator was removed after the end of the Recovery Act funding period as it specifically tracked the impact of the Recovery Act Funding. The NPIs are related to the six national performance goals in that they measure incremental progress toward achieving each of the larger goals.

The NPIs cover the following outcome areas:

- 1.1 – Employment
- 1.2 – Employment Supports
- 1.3 – Economic Asset Enhancement and Utilization
- 2.1 – Community Improvement and Revitalization
- 2.2 – Community Quality of Life and Assets
- 2.3 – Community Engagement
- 3.1 – Civic Investment
- 3.2 – Community Empowerment through Maximum Feasible Participation
- 4.1 – Expanding Opportunities through Community-Wide Partnerships
- 5.1 – Agency Development
- 6.1 – Independent Living
- 6.2 – Emergency Assistance
- 6.3 – Child and Family Development
- 6.4 – Family Supports (Seniors, Disabled, and Caregivers)
- 6.5 – Service Counts

Moreover, while establishing common definitions for reporting family, community, and agency improvement outcomes, the NPIs enable States and CAAs to convey broad family and community outcomes. These outcomes are the result of the strategic use of a variety of change mechanisms, including service provision and program coordination, both within each agency and with partnering organizations in the broader community.

National Performance Outcomes

The outcomes measured by the NPIs represent some of the most common activities performed by CAAs. CSBG allows agencies to participate in a broad range of activities to meet their communities' unique needs, and in turn capture outcome data specific to its individual programs. Not all agencies participated in the activities which generated outcomes for every NPI, nor do these indicators represent all of the outcomes achieved by agencies. This report is based on outcomes which support the NPIs, reported by states and CAAs for FY 2015. CAAs organize a range of services to have a measurable and potentially major impact on the causes of poverty in the communities served. In order to tell a more complete story, narratives about NPI outcome achievements and successes are included along with the national data. These narratives represent a cross-section of the impact that CAAs make every day in local communities through innovative strategies with the necessary support of CSBG funding.

The outcomes documented below demonstrate the CSBG Network's widespread impact on the nation's most vulnerable individuals, families, and communities. In all, the CSBG Network reduced or eliminated nearly 32.3 million barriers contributing to poverty in FY 2015. CAAs were able to leverage their CSBG dollars more effectively, expanding and maintaining highly successful program outcomes. While some participants may have received a single service in only one key area to improve their self-sufficiency, many others received multiple, bundled services. For example, a person coming to a CAA may receive support finding a job, obtain support while pursuing and securing additional education, access stable transportation, and enroll children in quality childcare.

RESULTS OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

Figure 1 shows the number of program participants who gained employment as a result of CAA initiatives over the last five years. In 2015, the number of program participants gaining employment increased by 8 percent over employment outcomes in 2014.

FIGURE 1: CAA PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS OBTAINING EMPLOYMENT

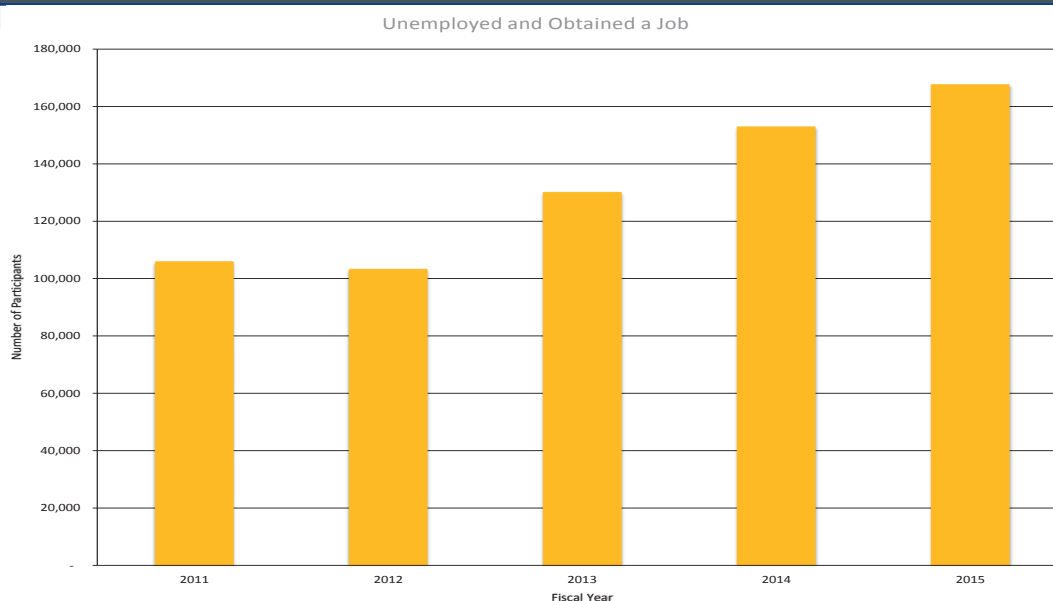


FIGURE 2: CAA PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS INCREASING THEIR INCOME FROM EMPLOYMENT

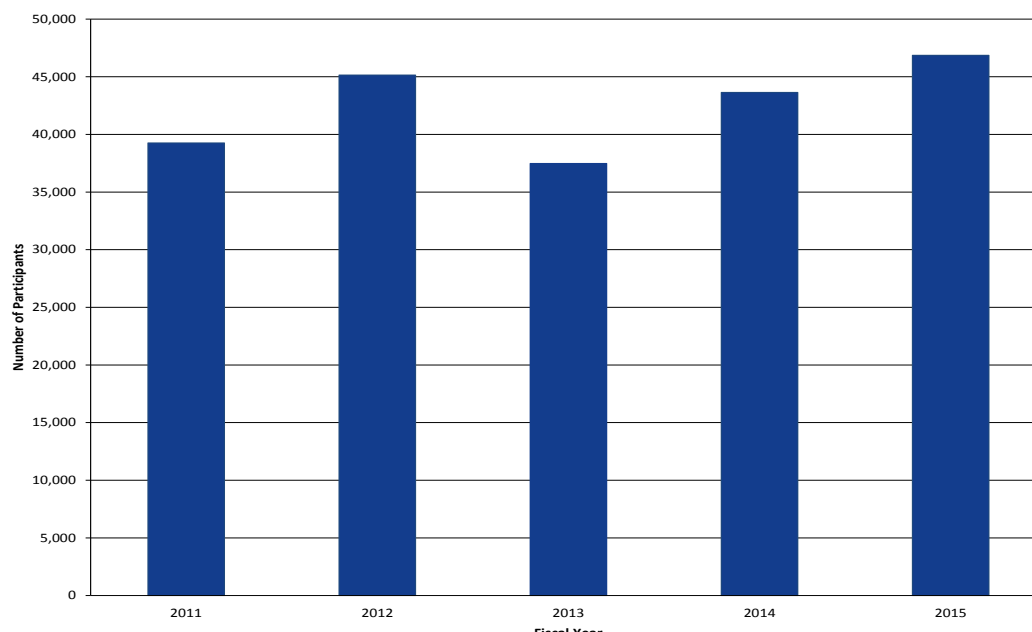


Figure 2 provides trend information for the number of CAA program participants who experienced an increase in income and/or benefits from employment as a result of CAA interventions over the past five years. Therefore, not all jobs obtained by program participants resulted in income or benefit increases. However, as demonstrated in Figure 2, the number of individuals experiencing greater income from employment increased by 7 percent over FY 2014. Evidence from the Bureau of Labor Statistics suggest there was sufficient growth in higher-paying sectors to make this increase possible.^{16,17}

GOAL 1: LOW-INCOME PEOPLE BECOME MORE SELF-SUFFICIENT.

NPI 1.1: EMPLOYMENT

The CSBG Network achieved employment outcomes:

- 165,530** Unemployed people with low-incomes obtained a job.
- 76,967** Unemployed people with low-incomes obtained a job and maintained it for at least 90 days.
- 46,863** Employed people with low-incomes obtained an increase in income and/or benefits.
- 29,394** Employed people with low-incomes achieved “living wage” and/or benefits.^{18,19}

NPI 1.2: EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTS

The CSBG Network provided services that reduced or eliminated barriers to initial or continuous employment:

Job Skills

243,675 People with low-incomes obtained skills/competencies required for employment.

Education

17,285 People with low-incomes completed Adult Basic Education (ABE) or General Educational Development (GED) coursework and received a certificate or diploma.

15,488 People with low-incomes completed postsecondary education and obtained a certificate or diploma.

Care for Children

273,361 People with low-incomes enrolled school-aged children in before and after school programs.

224,356 People with low-incomes obtained child care for pre-school children or dependents.

Transportation

147,318 People with low-incomes gained access to reliable transportation and/or a driver's license.

Health Care

513,321 People with low-incomes obtained health care services for themselves or a family member.

Housing

219,699 People with low-incomes obtained safe and affordable housing.

Food and Nutrition

1,673,138 People with low-incomes obtained food assistance.

Energy Security

2,100,835 People with low-incomes obtained non-emergency Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) energy assistance.

70,099 People with low-incomes obtained non-emergency Weatherization assistance.

189,077 People with low-incomes obtained other non-emergency energy assistance.

NPI 1.2 illustrates the breadth of supports provided to low-income people who are able to work. However, the CSBG Network also provides similar supports to people who are unable to work, such as seniors, caregivers, and adults with disabilities. NPI 6.4 captures the outcomes of family supports provided to those individuals.

Building Businesses | Highland County Community Action Organization | OH TRAINING FUTURE ENTREPRENEURS

The Highland County Community Action Organization in Hillsboro, Ohio offers a Microenterprise Business Training Program for people with low- incomes wanting to start their own businesses. Participants attend 39 hours of classroom lecture taught by teachers and former graduates. Additionally, they listen to multi-media presentations and are provided with up-to-date examples of business related topics, with a goal to develop a business plan. Graduating participants may submit their final business plan and apply for a loan of up to \$10,000 to implement their plan.

In addition to the intensive classroom training, one-on-one personal coaching is provided for up to three years after program enrollment. The instructor works to encourage a strong mindset in addition to the nuts and bolts of business. The instructor meets regularly with participants and builds close relationships and provides each student with a nametag that contains the title “CEO.” These small steps help participants begin to own their future.

The classroom training takes place at the Family Center, in Findlay, Ohio. During the 2014-2015 program year, there were 29 graduates of the program. A number of new businesses are thriving as a result of this program. Just two successful examples are a local Zumba business that has expanded to a second location and an upscale hair salon that employs 14 stylists with a constant flow of clients.

A wide partner network exists around this program, such as Job and Family Services as well as the Chamber of Commerce. Community Service Block Grant funds support this program by partially funding the instructor’s salary and providing mileage stipends to participants who have to travel in order to attend the classes. The remaining costs of the program are covered by a separate grant and the small fees associated with enrollment and loan processing supports the program.

National Performance Indicators Addressed:

- 1.1 - Employment
- 1.2 - Employment Supports
- 2.1 - Community Improvement and Revitalization
- 2.2 - Community Quality of Life and Assets
- 2.3 - Community Engagement
- 3.2 - Community Empowerment Through Maximum Feasible Participation
- 6.4 - Family Supports

Healthy Food Initiative | Northeast Oklahoma Community Action Agency | OK

ACCESSING HEALTHY FOODS

In 2015, Northeast Oklahoma Community Action Agency developed the Healthy Foods Initiative that identifies alternatives to food production by enabling the agency to grow fresh produce, employ local residents and provide wholesome food to low-income families at a reduced cost. This initiative grew from the need for healthy food that was identified in both the 2013-2014 and the 2014-2015 Community Needs Assessments.

Through donations from multiple partners (ranging from local businesses and foundations to tribes, schools and non-profits), CSBG discretionary funding, and regular CSBG funding, Northeast Oklahoma Community Action Agency hired two part-time master gardeners and one part-time gardening assistant to develop and implement the project. In the first year, the agency built seven 52' x 4' and three 52' x 3' raised beds and a greenhouse on donated land. The beds produced in excess of 2,000 pounds of produce. The produce was donated to six clients completing the Bridges out of Poverty group, a local Senior Housing Center, a local food bank, children at the agency's Early Head Start Program and the Education Station Child Care Center. It is estimated that food was provided to over 500 individuals with low-incomes in the area. The greenhouse produced all starter vegetables and also produced over 200 hanging baskets, 360 flats of flowers, and 300 6" pots of geraniums and other decorative plants.

This effort was so strong that the agency opened a farmers' market two days a week that was later expanded to include other growers. The market employs one contract worker, a TANF recipient in work activity, one person suffering from a disability, and 37 volunteers who are recovering from alcohol or substance abuse.

This initiative earned Northeast Oklahoma Community Action Agency designation in the excellence category as a Certified Healthy Early Childhood Program for the Early Head Start program. This designation will enable the agency to seek Oklahoma's Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust funds to build gardens for Early Head Start parents to utilize.

To further meet the needs of community members, the agency plans to open a restaurant/retail outlet that will include a commercial kitchen that can be used to produce food for the restaurant, catering and as a rental to entrepreneurs interested in producing food products for retail. The facility will include a meeting and restaurant area for dining and a teaching kitchen to train in food preparation using wholesome foods. The agency is in collaboration to develop a food production and preparation training program.

National Performance Indicators Addressed:

- 1.1 - Employment
- 1.2 - Employment Supports
- 2.1 - Community Improvement and Revitalization
- 2.2 - Community Quality of Life and Assets
- 3.2 - Community Empowerment through Maximum Feasible Participation
- 6.3 - Child and Family Development

NPI 1.3: ECONOMIC ASSET ENHANCEMENT

The CSBG Network helped low-income families increase their non-employment financial assets:

Tax Credits

384,307 Families with low-incomes in CAA tax preparation programs qualified for federal or state tax credits.

\$444,711,840 Anticipated total tax credits.

Child Support Payments

8,390 Families with low-incomes were helped to obtain court-ordered child support payments.

\$24,447,564 Anticipated total payments.

Utility Savings

423,720 Families with low-incomes enrolled in telephone lifeline programs and/or received energy bill discounts.

\$97,242,211 Anticipated total savings.

NPI 1.3: ECONOMIC ASSET UTILIZATION

The CSBG Network helped low-income families gain financial management skills that enabled them to better use their resources and achieve their asset goals:

Maintain a Family Budget

64,949 Families with low-incomes demonstrated the ability to complete and maintain a budget for over 90 days.

Open Individual Development Accounts or Other Savings

6,939 Families with low-incomes opened Individual Development Accounts (IDA) or other savings accounts.

Increased Savings

8,330 Families with low-incomes increased their savings through IDA or other savings accounts.

\$5,858,570 Total savings amount.

Capitalize Small Business

553 Families with low-incomes began small businesses with accumulated savings.

\$657,996 In savings used.

Enroll in Higher Education

1,019 Families with low-incomes pursued post-secondary education with accumulated savings.

\$894,526 In savings used.

Purchase a Home

1,228 Families with low-incomes purchased a home with accumulated savings.

\$3,882,416 In savings used.

Purchase Other Assets

1,238 Families with low-incomes purchased other assets with accumulated savings.

\$437,441 In savings used.

Healthy Kids | Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc. | AK PARTNERSHIP FOR ALASKA'S KIDS

Last spring, a few new friendly faces were seen in local Head Start classrooms in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. These new faces were the students and instructors of University of Alaska Anchorage's School of Nursing program and team members of Project PAK: Partnership for Alaska's Kids. Project PAK's objective is to provide free comprehensive health screenings to Head Start children living in rural Alaskan villages.

Over a 6-day trip, 5 UAA nursing students and a Rural Alaska CAP Head Start health and nutrition coordinator traveled to three different villages and completed 98 health exams for Early Head Start and Head Start children. In addition to completing the health exams, Project PAK members dedicated their time to completing oral health risk assessments, lead testing and hemoglobin screenings on the children.

Nursing students researched iron rich traditional foods that help to prevent anemia, answered staff questions on the importance of health exams, and talked to parents about the need for improved oral health. Not only did this trip provide valuable health services for the children, it was also an opportunity for nursing students to see the reality of healthcare in rural villages, with the hope this experience would encourage them to seek a career in rural health after graduating.

National Performance Indicators Addressed:

2.2 - Community Quality of Life Assets

2.3 - Community Engagement

4.1 - Expanding Opportunities through Community-wide Partnerships

6.3 - Child and Family Development

GOAL 2: THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH LOW-INCOME PEOPLE LIVE ARE IMPROVED.

NPI 2.1: COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT AND REVITALIZATION

The CSBG Network increased and preserved community opportunities and resources for low-income people through programs, partnerships, and advocacy*:

Saved or Created Jobs

26,612 Jobs created or saved from reduction or elimination in the community.

Living Wage Jobs

7,588 Accessible “living wage” jobs created or preserved in the community.

New Housing

19,168 Safe and affordable housing units created in the community.

Improved or Preserved Housing

128,823 Existing housing units improved or preserved through construction, weatherization, or rehabilitation.

Health Care Services

270,614 Accessible safe and affordable health care services/facilities for people with low-incomes created or saved from reduction or elimination.

Child Care and Child Development

145,782 Child care or child development placement opportunities for children in families with low-incomes created or saved from reduction or elimination.

Youth Programs

134,924 Before or after school program placement opportunities for families with low-incomes created or saved from reduction or elimination.

Transportation

2,150,197 Transportation opportunities for people with low-incomes (public transportation routes, rides, carpool arrangements, car purchase, and maintenance) created, expanded, or saved from elimination.

Educational Opportunities

141,344 Educational and training placement opportunities for people with low-incomes created, expanded, or saved from elimination (including literacy, job training, ABE/ GED, and postsecondary education).

* While CSBG does not support lobbying efforts, CAAs are engaged in a number of advocacy and educational efforts as demonstrated through the outcomes associated with a number of the NPIs. These efforts are supported by multiple funding sources. Specifically, the outcomes reported in NPI 2.1 and NPI 2.2 describe the alliances, partnerships, and relationships developed by the CAA to improve the quality of life and assets of the community and do not indicate lobbying efforts, but rather an increasing awareness and education of the public that influences public policy.

Building Strong Futures | First State Community Action Agency | DE

ASSISTING NEW AMERICANS

Navigating the special education system can be an intimidating undertaking for any parent with a child with disabilities. Parents with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) are faced with an even more daunting task: advocating for their children's needs without the ability to effectively communicate in English.

To address this need, First State established the La Casita (Little House) Outreach Program to assist new Americans in navigating the complex systems they encounter during daily activities. La Casita clients gain assistance in translating correspondence, such as utility bills, landlord notices, court documents, doctors' notes and scheduling appointments, as well as their children's school information.

The Howard T. Ennis School (HTE) provides special education services to children with significant disabilities that adversely affect their educational performance. La Casita Outreach Center has formed a partnership with HTE in order to assist parents who lack English communication skills in gaining the knowledge and skills necessary to access needed services for their children and to encourage active involvement in the planning and execution of their child's education. Howard T. Ennis serves a diverse student body, 27.8% of which was Hispanic during the 2013-2014 school year.

An Individualized Education Program (IEP) is a written statement of the educational program designed to meet a student's specific needs. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) mandates that school districts that receive federal funding provide interpreters at every parent teacher conference where a student's IEP is discussed. La Casita Outreach Center staff provided interpretation service at 11 IEP conferences between July 2013 and June 2014. At an average of three hours per conference, this equates to approximately 33 hours of interpretation service that the school would have to fund. By providing interpretation services at these meetings, parents were given a voice and afforded the opportunity to express concerns about their child's education. La Casita Outreach Center staff also provided telephone interpretation on behalf of Howard T. Ennis to 60 families on 407 occasions between July 2013 and June 2014. With an average call time of 15 minutes, La Casita Outreach Center staff provided approximately 102 hours of interpretation assistance to the school during this year.

National Performance Indicators Addressed:

- 2.2 - Community Quality of Life Assets
- 6.3 - Child and Family Development
- 1.2 - Employment Supports
- 2.1 - Community Improvement and Revitalization
- 4.1 - Expanding Opportunities Through Community-Wide Partnerships
- 6.2 - Emergency Assistance
- 6.3 - Child and Family Development

NPI 2.2: COMMUNITY QUALITY OF LIFE AND ASSETS

CSBG Network initiatives and advocacy* improved the quality of life and assets in low-income neighborhoods:

Public Policy

211,540 Community assets (i.e. low- and moderate-income housing, jobs, education and training opportunities, bus rides, and medical appointments) preserved or increased as a result of CAA advocacy for changes in laws, regulations, or public policies.

Community Facilities

193,941 Community facilities created, expanded, or saved from reduction or elimination as a result of CAA initiatives.

Community Services

149,637 Community services created, expanded, or saved from reduction or elimination as a result of CAA initiatives.

Commercial Services

28,630 Commercial services within low-income communities created, expanded, or saved from elimination as a result of CAA initiatives.

Quality-of-Life Resources

296,111 Neighborhood quality-of-life resources (i.e. parks, youth sports teams, recreation centers, special police foot patrols, and volunteer neighborhood watch programs) created, expanded, or preserved as a result of CAA initiatives.

* While CSBG does not support lobbying efforts, CAAs are engaged in a number of advocacy and educational efforts as demonstrated through the outcomes associated with a number of the NPIs. These efforts are supported by multiple funding sources. Specifically, the outcomes reported in NPI 2.1 and NPI 2.2 describe the alliances, partnerships, and relationships developed by the CAA to improve the quality of life and assets of the community and do not indicate lobbying efforts, but rather an increasing awareness and education of the public that influences public policy.

Emergency Response | North Coast Opportunities | CA

ACTIVATING COMMUNITIES

During the summer of 2015, Lake County experienced a series of devastating wildfires that consumed more than 268 square miles (21 percent of the county's total land area), caused more than \$2 billion in damage, left at least 1,400 families homeless, destroyed hundreds of other buildings, and left behind charred landscapes and devastated lives to mark one of the worst fire seasons. A State of Emergency was declared in the county in August 2015, and a federal designation was made in September.

The Community Action Agency, North Coast Opportunities (NCO) stepped forward immediately and played a leading role in coordinating disaster response. NCO activated more than 375 new volunteers, hired a Volunteer Coordinator, and worked to generate more than \$1.9 million in donations.

NCO worked closely with banks and other partners to develop a streamlined application system for financial help to affected families. By the end of the year, the fund had dispensed assistance totaling more than \$1,535,000 to approximately 1,100 families in grants of up to \$3,000 per family.

National Performance Indicators addressed:

- 2.1 - Community Improvement and Revitalization
- 2.2 - Community Quality of Life and Assets
- 4.1 - Expanding Opportunities through Community-Wide Partnerships
- 6.2 - Emergency Assistance

NPI 2.3: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The CSBG Network mobilized individuals to work together for community improvement:

757,329	Community members mobilized by CAAs to participate in community revitalization and anti-poverty initiatives.
41,135,113	Volunteer hours donated to CAAs.

GOAL 3: LOW-INCOME PEOPLE OWN A STAKE IN THEIR COMMUNITY.

NPI 3.1: COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT THROUGH MAXIMUM FEASIBLE PARTICIPATION

The CSBG Network mobilized low-income individuals to work together for community improvement:

23,766,197 Volunteer hours donated by individuals with low-incomes to CAAs.

Many low-income people empowered by the CSBG Network are invested not only in their own success, but that of their community and their peers. To capture the impact and dedication of low-income program participants, NPI 3.1 was added in FY 2009. Based on the total number of volunteer hours reported in NPI 2.3, 57.8 percent of total volunteered time was donated by individuals with low-incomes.

NPI 3.2: COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT THROUGH MAXIMUM FEASIBLE PARTICIPATION

The CSBG Network empowered low-income individuals to engage in activities that promoted their own well-being and that of their community:

Community Decision-Making

61,652

People with low-incomes participated in formal community organizations, government, boards, or councils that provide input to decision-making and policy setting as a result of CAA efforts.

Community Business Ownership

1,928

People with low-incomes acquired businesses in their communities as a result of CAA assistance.

Homeownership in the Community

4,304

People with low-incomes purchased a home in their community as a result of CAA assistance.

Community Involvement

330,974

People with low-incomes engaged in non-governance community activities or groups created or supported by CAAs.

Addressing Mental Health | Tri-Town Economic Opportunity Committee | RI**WHOLISTIC HEALTHCARE AT EVERY DOCTOR VISIT**

For more than 40 years, Tri-Town has provided families with high-quality, accessible, affordable and comprehensive health services in Johnston, Rhode Island. Services provided include preventive and primary health care, mental health and substance abuse treatment and counseling, dental/oral health, and enabling services. Last year, Tri-Town successfully implemented an Integrate Behavioral Health Care model within the Behavioral Health Department.

This method relies on a systematic coordination of general and behavioral healthcare by providing care to patients suffering from mental health issues. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, integrating mental health, substance abuse into primary care services produces the best outcomes and proves the most effective approach to caring for people with multiple healthcare needs. By combining multiple funding sources, including Health Resources and Services Administration, Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island Capacity Building funds, third-party insurance payments, and Community Service Block Grant funds, Tri-Town created a patient-centered and Integrated Behavioral Care model which includes new treatment rooms, staff, and patient tracking system.

Tri-Town will track a number of outcomes as indicators of program quality such as, 1) number of patients who report behavioral issues as related to prior years, 2) number of patients who report lessening of symptoms after treatment, 3) number of client referrals to external behavioral health agencies as compared to prior years. Additional indicators will be added as the program is evaluated over the coming years.

National Performance Indicators Addressed:

- 1.2 - Employment Supports
- 2.1 - Community Improvement and Revitalization
- 2.2 - Community Quality of Life and Assets
- 4.1 - Expanding Opportunities through Community-Wide Partnerships
- 6.1 - Independent Living
- 6.4 - Family Supports

GOAL 4: PARTNERSHIPS AMONG SUPPORTERS AND PROVIDERS OF SERVICES TO LOW-INCOME PEOPLE ARE ACHIEVED.

NPI 4.1: EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH COMMUNITY-WIDE PARTNERSHIPS

195,646

Organizations worked with the CSBG Network to promote family and community outcomes.

These organizations included:

45,448	Nonprofits
20,321	Faith-Based Organizations
15,095	Local Governments
7,104	State Governments
3,748	Federal Government
47,008	For-Profit Business or Corporations
9,689	Consortiums/Collaborations
5,299	Housing Consortiums/Collaborations
9,664	School Districts
5,783	Institutions of Postsecondary Education/Training
4,937	Financial/Banking Institutions
13,282	Health Service Institutions
4,381	Statewide Associations or Collaborations

For many years the CSBG IS Survey has reflected the outcomes of partnerships between CAAs and other organizations in the community, including faith-based organizations. Beginning in FY 2009, NPI 4.1 was expanded to show a more comprehensive view of these partnerships.

Restorative Justice for Youth | Lakeshore CAP, Inc. | WI

WORKING TOGETHER TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM IN YOUTH

Lakeshore Community Action Program's Teen Court in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, is a diversion program for juvenile offenders that incorporates peer-led hearings and sentencing. Sentences for offenders typically involve community service requirements and restorative justice activities. The City of Manitowoc, Wisconsin provides the judge and venue for the trials to take place. Local agencies provide opportunities for restorative justice by providing volunteer opportunities and supervision for offenders. CSBG funds help to cover space costs and the administrative overhead for this program, allowing it to devote local funds to direct service.

In 2015, 62 youth (36 offenders and 26 volunteers) participated in Teen Court. Every volunteer and offender is exposed to the impact of juvenile crime on the community. They are given a road map to become productive members and a way to ready themselves to contribute to the wellbeing of the community. The program also provides both offenders and youth volunteers with education and support to help them plan for their future beyond high school.

The program currently holds a recidivism rate of 8%, as only 3 of the 36 offenders served in 2015 have reoffended. This is 57% less than the national average of recidivism for the juvenile court system. Several former offenders have stayed on with Teen Court and continue to serve the court beyond their sentencing, taking on key roles such as defense or prosecuting attorney. The program also holds a 65% success rate of reducing the use of alcohol and other substances among youth offenders with alcohol or drug abuse cases.

National Performance Indicators Addressed:

- 1.3 - Employment Supports
- 2.2 - Community Quality of Life Assets
- 2.3 - Community Engagement
- 4.1 - Expanding Opportunities through Community-wide Partnerships
- 6.3 - Child and Family Development

GOAL 5: AGENCIES INCREASE THEIR CAPACITY TO ACHIEVE RESULTS.

NPI 5.1: AGENCY DEVELOPMENT

The CSBG Network worked to expand agency capacity to achieve results:

Certified Trainers in Local CAAs

507	Certified Community Action Professionals (CCAP)
357	Nationally Certified ROMA Trainers
4,331	Family Development Trainers
16,459	Child Development Trainers

Training Participation

124,346	Staff attending trainings
14,523	Board members attending trainings
3,110,932	Hours of staff in trainings
117,183	Hours of Board members in trainings

The CSBG Network continually works to increase its capacity to provide high quality services to people and communities. At the local level, one way that CAAs increase their capacity is by investing in staff and board development. In FY 2009, NPI 5.1 was added to capture this information. CCAP and ROMA certifications are only two of a number of professional development opportunities that the CSBG Network offers their workforce. These certifications demonstrate the commitment of CAAs to implement the highest level of performance management and measurement within their agencies.

In addition to agency-level investments, State CSBG Offices also work to increase their staff capacity. At the state level, there are 49 Nationally Certified ROMA Trainers, 4 ROMA Implementers and 6 CCAP certified staff nationwide.

GOAL 6: LOW-INCOME PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS, ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL BY STRENGTHENING FAMILY AND OTHER SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS.

NPI 6.1: INDEPENDENT LIVING

The CSBG Network assisted vulnerable individuals to maintain an independent living situation:

Senior Citizens

1,853,810 Senior citizens received services and maintained an independent living situation as a result of services.

Individuals with Disabilities

1,125,875 * Individuals with disabilities received services and maintained an independent living situation as a result of services.

121,833 Of those individuals were 0-17 years old.

403,224 Of those individuals were 18-54 years old.

600,818 Of those individuals were 55 years old and older.

*The total includes the sum of the individual age categories, plus individuals whose age data were not collected.

NPI 6.2: EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

The CSBG Network administered emergency services that helped individuals obtain and maintain self-sufficiency:

Individuals	Emergency Services
6,093,893	Emergency Food
2,638,022	Emergency Fuel or Utility Payments
178,865	Emergency Rent or Mortgage Assistance
46,249	Emergency Car or Home Repair
126,354	Emergency Temporary Shelter
81,165	Emergency Medical Care
67,394	Emergency Protection from Violence
47,885	Emergency Legal Assistance
299,987	Emergency Transportation
22,956	Disaster Relief
286,950	Emergency Clothing

NPI 6.3: CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

The CSBG Network helped infants, children, youth, parents, and other adults achieve developmental and enrichment goals:

Infants and Children

507,394	Infants and children obtained age-appropriate immunizations, medical, and dental care.
2,260,856	Infants and children received adequate nutrition, assisting in their growth and development.
487,311	Infants and children participated in pre-school activities, assisting in developing school readiness skills.
281,055	Children who participated in pre-school activities became developmentally ready to enter kindergarten or first grade.

Youth

252,147	Youth experienced improved health and physical development.
129,302	Youth experienced improved social and emotional development.
97,192	Youth avoided risk-taking behavior for a defined period of time.
38,493	Youth reduced involvement with the criminal justice system.
151,246	Youth increased their academic, athletic, or social skills by participating in before or after school programs.

Parents and Other Adults

235,393	Parents and/or other adults learned and exhibited improved parenting skills.
234,114	Parents and/or other adults learned and exhibited improved family functioning skills.

Financial Supports | Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity | VT**CREATING A MONEY SMART COMMUNITY**

The Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program offers free tax preparation services to people with moderate-to-low-income households whose annual income is at or below \$53,000. Internal Revenue Service and Vermont State Tax Department certified volunteers prepare participants taxes for free February 1st through April 15th. According to the National Society of Accountants, the average cost of preparing a basic, non-itemized Federal Form 1040 and a state income tax form is \$152.00. The VITA program helped prepare 883 federal and state tax returns, saving households an estimated \$134,216 in tax preparation and

providing and providing fees. These households received a combined \$961,498 in tax credits and providing \$1,368,978 in refunds. In addition, 61 households completed Renters Rebates, for a return of \$37,600, and an additional 157 households completed their returns using the www.myfreetaxes.com website.

Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity works closely with a number of local partners. A local college, Champlain College, has integrated community service with the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity VITA program as part of the curriculum for accounting majors. The Chittenden CASH Coalition (Creating Assets, Savings, and Hope) offers a diverse group of members, including nonprofits, financial institutions, local businesses and municipality representatives. Through this venue, planning for the VITA program continues year round.

VITA partnered with the efforts of Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity's Health Care Navigators. Navigators have been readily available throughout the tax season, and screened participants for health insurance needs and other supportive services, such as 3SquaresVT benefits, and interest in the asset building and growing money programs of Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity's Financial Futures program. Every VITA client is provided one-on-one access to a Financial Coach, the option of participating in financial literacy classes, and the opportunity to receive updates throughout the year on news and issues related to these services. Chittenden County, in particular, has a diverse population of refugees and other New Americans and VITA meets in advance with interpreters and organizations that specialize in New American services, including the Somali Bantu Association, the Association of Africans Living in VT, and the VT Refugee Resettlement Program.

Community Service Block Grant funds are used to support the primary VITA Site Coordinator position, the agency Director, and miscellaneous program expenses.

National Performance Indicators Addressed:

- 1.2 - Employment Supports
- 1.3 - Employment Asset Enhancement and Utilization
- 2.1 - Community Improvement and Revitalization
- 2.2 - Community Quality of Life and Assets

NPI 6.4: FAMILY SUPPORTS

The CSBG Network provided services that reduced or eliminated barriers to family stability:

Care for Children

48,923 Participants enrolled children in before or after school programs.

59,258 Participants obtained care for a child or other dependent.

Transportation

440,099 Participants obtained access to reliable transportation and/or a driver's license.

Health Care

205,378 Participants obtained health care services for themselves or a family member.

Housing

123,427 Participants obtained safe and affordable housing.

Food and Nutrition

1,286,146 Participants obtained food assistance.

Energy Security

1,344,602 Participants obtained non-emergency Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) energy assistance.

47,947 Participants obtained non-emergency Weatherization assistance.

188,007 Participants obtained other non-emergency energy assistance.

Just as the CSBG Network provides supports to low-income people who are able to work, it also provides similar supports to those who are unable to work. Thus, NPI 6.4 has been added to capture the outcomes of family supports provided to those individuals.

NPI 6.5: SERVICE COUNTS UPDATED

The CSBG Network helped low-income individuals and families meet basic household needs and improve economic security:

Services Provided

19,917,924 Food Boxes

297,465,604 Pounds of Food

1,784,958 Units of Clothing

18,418,903 Rides Provided

8,847,749 Information and Referral Calls

CAAs that meet the needs of low-income families through the provision of services and resources report those services in NPI 6.5. Unlike the other NPIs, where outcomes are mostly measured in the number of unduplicated individuals or families impacted, NPI 6.5 measures services.

Bone Builder Program | Community Teamwork | MA

BONE HEALTHY SENIORS

In response to the more than 40 million people who either live with or are at risk of developing osteoporosis, the two million bone breaks annually, and the nearly 300,000 seniors who break a hip, Community Teamwork's Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) offers a Bone Builders program. The goal of Bone Builders is to reduce osteoporosis and the risk of falls among seniors. Other benefits include a decrease in the feeling of isolation among seniors through socialization at the Bone Builders class.

With funding from CSBG, the Tufts Health Plan Foundation and the Greater Lowell Community Foundation, free fitness classes are provided to seniors. The classes include a warm up, weight bearing and balance exercises and a cool down. A portion of each class is dedicated to a Falls Prevention Curriculum, developed by Tufts University's Nutrition and Exercise Physiology Laboratory. The curriculum was designed to educate participants about many issues related to osteoporosis. Topics include but are not limited to: good nutrition, benefits of exercise, and falls risk factors. Participants are also encouraged to take part in a home visit led by Bone Builder leaders that reviews potential fall risks in their home.

Community Teamwork, Inc (CTI) Bone Builders participants reported a 95% significant improvement in strength, flexibility, and balance; a 89% improvement in overall well-being and socialization; and 92% reported that they feel that falling is less of a risk to them. The exercises in the Bone Builders classes assist participants with balance and strength that prevent falling, assist with weight management, and increase mental acuity and offer an overall healthy lifestyle. At present, CTI's RSVP Bone Builders program serves a total of 300 seniors and has 60 Bone Builder leaders. The retention rate for participants is 90% with an 86% average showing improvement in strength, balance and overall health.

National Performance Indicators Addressed:

- 2.1 - Community Improvement and Revitalization
- 2.2 - Community Quality of Life and Assets
- 6.1 - Independent Living

OUTCOMES HIGHLIGHTS

Employment

The CSBG Network assisted individuals with finding and maintaining employment and increasing wages or benefits. As a result of CAA involvement, over 165,000 unemployed individuals obtained jobs. CAAs supported these outcomes by partnering with local businesses to provide job training and certifications and by subsidizing positions that would have been eliminated without CSBG Network involvement.

However, CAAs also work to reduce or remove challenges facing job seekers. In addition to direct job-seeking and training assistance, CAAs provided many services that remove barriers to employment, such as education attainment, safe and reliable housing, and transportation. For example, to help people with low-incomes access and maintain employment, the CSBG Network helped over 140,000 people secure reliable transportation.

Education

Both children and adults benefit from the educational opportunities provided by the CSBG Network. CAAs make education more accessible to individuals with low incomes through ABE or GED courses, college scholarships, skills training, and a multitude of options and support services based on local need. Over 243,000 individuals obtained skills required for employment, a 42% increase from 2014. Further, 34% more individuals obtained their ABE/GED than in 2014, creating opportunity for 17,285 people. An additional 15,488 people completed post-secondary education programs and obtained certificates or diplomas as a result of CSBG Network assistance. As well as enrolling tens of thousands of youth in before and after-school programs, CAAs assisted more than 487,000 children to develop necessary school readiness skills through participation in pre-school activities.

Health Care

Many CAAs are designated as Health Insurance Navigators or have personnel on staff who are trained to assist individuals look for health coverage options. The CSBG Network made health care more accessible to over 718,000 low-income individuals. CAAs also helped infants and children improve and maintain their health in several ways. More than 507,000 infants and children received necessary immunizations, medical care, and dental care. In addition, over 2.2 million infants and children received adequate nutrition, which assisted in their growth and development.

Energy

The CSBG Network provided energy services to approximately 6.5 million low-income individuals through the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and other energy programs. Individuals with low-incomes' homes were made more energy-efficient to decrease utility payments and also positively impact health and the environment. Homes of individuals with low-incomes were made more energy-efficient to decrease utility payments and also to positively impact the environment and health of the communities as a whole.

National Performance Targets & Trends

In addition to CSBG's performance measurement initiative, the Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has established a government-wide initiative to use performance targets and outcome measures to assess the program efficiency and effectiveness of all federally-funded domestic assistance programs. As a result, beginning in FY 2004 OCS began to develop and report CSBG performance targets, or anticipated levels of result achievement. This 2016 report (with FY 2015 data) represents the eleventh year of collecting performance targets based on the NPIs.

The nature and scope of national CAA outcome reporting has been incorporated into the NPIs. OCS collects baseline information concerning CAA performance targets to which future years' performances may be compared. This information serves as a means to gauge the effectiveness and efficiency of CAA program activities. This section provides target performance levels for the following four NPIs:

- National Performance Indicator 1.1 – Employment
- National Performance Indicator 1.3 – Economic Asset Enhancement and Utilization
- National Performance Indicator 6.2 – Emergency Assistance
- National Performance Indicator 6.3 – Child and Family Development

Section 678E of the CSBG statute requires agencies to measure their performance and achievement in carrying out their goals. CAAs set targets for the number of participants they expect to achieve specific goals and then collect data on the number of participants who actually achieve those goals.

As the data accrue, agencies relate their abilities to predict performance outcomes by dividing the number of participants achieving the goal by the number expected to achieve the goal. The resulting percentage generally assesses CAAs' knowledge of their programs as well as the success of their participants. Trends indicate that agencies' abilities to set targets remain high as the anticipated and actual numbers converge. Tables 2 through 5 reveal performance outcomes for the four indicators.

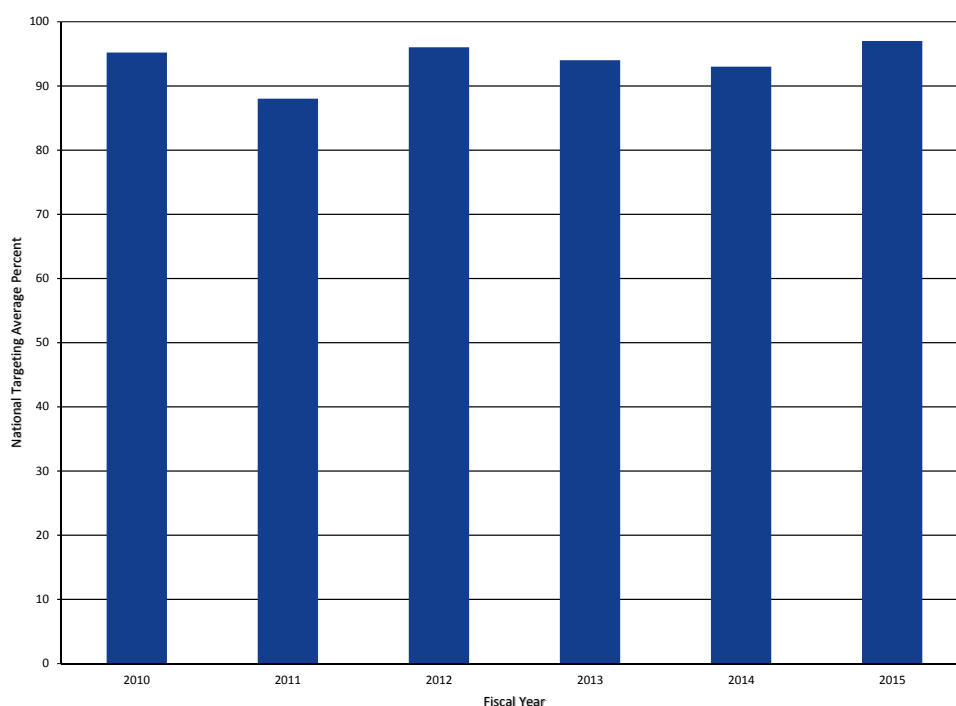
NPI 1.1 - EMPLOYMENT

Table 2 shows performance measures for NPI 1.1: The number and percentage of low-income participants in Community Action employment initiatives who get a job or become self-employed. This table depicts how agencies set and met their outcome goals for Employment in FY 2015, with 919 CAAs reporting outcomes under this indicator. CAAs achieved their performance targets for obtaining an increase in income and/or benefits by at least 90 percent.

TABLE 2: NATIONAL PERFORMANCE INDICATOR 1.1 - EMPLOYMENT

PERFORMANCE MEASURE	ENROLLED	EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE OUTCOME (TARGET)	ACHIEVING OUTCOME	ACHIEVING TARGET
Unemployed and obtained a job	266,722	167,584	165,530	98.77%
Employed and maintained a job for at least 90 days	142,683	73,546	76,967	104.65%
Employed and obtained an increase in employment income and/or benefits	100,109	50,742	46,863	92.36%
Achieved “living wage” employment and/or benefits	62,118	32,452	29,394	90.58%
TOTAL	571,632	324,324	318,754	96.59%

FIGURE 3: NPI 1.1 TARGETING PERCENTAGE, FY 2010-FY 2015



NPI 1.3 - ECONOMIC ASSET ENHANCEMENT AND UTILIZATION

Table 3 shows performance measures for NPI 1.3: The number and percentage of low-income households that achieve an increase in financial assets and/or financial skills as a result of Community Action assistance. This table depicts how agencies set and achieved their outcome goals for Economic Asset Enhancement and Utilization in FY 2015, with 896 CAAs reporting outcomes under this indicator. Achievements of targets were high, with CAAs achieving their performance targets by at least 84 percent. The purchase of and saving for homes typically results in lower numbers in comparison to the other indicators. Evidence from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) suggests low-income families “face significant barriers to sustainable homeownership”. Because these barriers exist, CAAs implement a variety of programs to help people obtain homeownership such as matched savings accounts known as Individual Development Accounts that help families purchase a home.²⁰ It is also important to note that many of these indicators and associated outcomes may take periods of longer than one year to achieve, and many of the individuals enrolled continue to work towards achievement of outcomes over program years.

**TABLE 3: NATIONAL PERFORMANCE INDICATOR 1.3 -
ECONOMIC ASSET ENHANCEMENT AND UTILIZATION**

PERFORMANCE MEASURE	ENROLLED	EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE OUTCOME (TARGET)	ACHIEVING OUTCOME	ACHIEVING TARGET
Identified and received Federal/State tax credits	442,839	352,697	384,307	108.96%
Received court-ordered child support	28,069	9,248	8,390	90.72%
Received telephone and energy discounts	481,635	411,556	423,720	102.96%
Developed/maintained a family budget for 90 days or more	92,429	63,370	64,949	95%
Opened Individual Development Account (IDA)	17,176	7,782	6,939	89.10%
Increased savings through IDA or other savings accounts	16,826	8,721	8,330	95.50%
Used IDA to capitalize a business	2,290	583	552	94.85%
Used IDA to pursue higher education	3,413	1,190	1,019	85.63%
Used IDA to purchase a home	3,874	1,238	1,228	99.19%
Used IDA to purchase other assets	2,762	1,461	1,238	84.74%
TOTAL	1,091,313	857,846	900,672	94.67%

NPI 6.2 - EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Table 4 shows performance measures for NPI 6.2: The number of low-income individuals served by Community Action who sought emergency assistance and the number of those individuals for whom assistance was provided. This table depicts how agencies set and met their outcome goals for Emergency Assistance in FY 2015, with 1,000 CAAs reporting outcomes for this indicator. CAAs responded to at least 87 percent of most emergency needs for families with low-incomes. One measure, emergency rent or mortgage assistance, was only met 61 percent of the time. This percentage has not changed much over the past several years and rarely rises above 65 percent, indicating a chronic need for housing assistance in communities where low-incomes families live across the nation, and a lack of targeted funding.²¹ Similarly, CAAs saw a spike in need for car and home repair services, and were able to meet the need approximately 75 percent of the time.

TABLE 4: NATIONAL PERFORMANCE INDICATOR 6.2 - EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

PERFORMANCE MEASURE	EMERGENCY SERVICE	INDIVIDUALS SEEKING SERVICE	INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING SERVICE	EMERGENCY NEEDS MET
Strengthened individuals and families via emergency assistance	Emergency Food	6,225,150	6,093,893	97.89%
	Emergency Fuel or Utility Payments	2,936,978	2,638,022	89.82%
	Emergency Rent or Mortgage Assistance	290,186	178,865	61.64%
	Emergency Car or Home Repair	61,296	46,249	75.45%
	Emergency Temporary Shelter	166,365	126,354	75.95%
	Emergency Medical Care	91,148	81,165	89.05%
	Emergency Protection from Violence	70,111	67,394	96.12%
	Emergency Legal Assistance	61,421	47,885	77.96%
	Emergency Transportation	342,800	299,987	87.51%
	Disaster Relief	23,784	22,956	96.52%
	Emergency Clothing	296,904	286,950	96.65%
TOTAL		10,566,143	9,889,720	85.87%

NPI 6.3 - CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

Table 5 shows performance measures for NPI 6.3: The number and percentage of all infants, children, youth, parents, and other adults participating in developmental or enrichment programs who achieve program goals. This table depicts how agencies set and met their outcome goals for Child and Family Development, with 946 CAAs reporting outcomes for this indicator. CAAs were able to exceed their targets for most of the measures in this indicator.

TABLE 5: NATIONAL PERFORMANCE INDICATOR 6.3 - CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

PERFORMANCE MEASURE	ENROLLED	EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE OUTCOME (TARGET)	ACHIEVING OUTCOME	ACHIEVING TARGET
Infants and Children				
Improved immunization, medical, dental care	539,691	491,150	507,394	103.31%
Improved nutrition (physical health)	2,208,771	1,598,884	2,260,856	141.40%
Achieved school readiness skills	521,268	421,463	487,311	115.62%
Improved developmental readiness for kindergarten or first grade	392,491	467,675	281,055	60.1%
Youth				
Improved health and physical development	286,077	269,398	252,147	93.6%
Improved social and emotional development	157,425	125,339	129,302	103.16%
Avoided risk-taking behaviors	123,680	103,331	97,192	94.06
Reduced involvement with the criminal justice system	58,560	46,175	38,493	83.36%
Increased academic, athletic, and social skills	168,347	143,589	151,246	105.33%
Adults				
Improved parenting skills	289,035	218,432	235,393	107.76%
Improved family functioning skills	227,565	229,968	234,114	105%
TOTAL	4,972,910	4,115,404	4,674,503	94.76%

TARGETING SUMMARY

Overall, the data demonstrate that despite volatile and hard-to-predict economic conditions, the CSBG Network has remained knowledgeable about its capacity to achieve results and to effectively provide the most needed services to families and communities with low incomes. It is important to reiterate that many of these indicators and associated outcomes may take periods of longer than one year to achieve, and many of the individuals enrolled continue to work towards achievement of outcomes over program years. Additionally, changes within local communities and local economic instability are variables outside of agency's control and affect targeting projections.

CAAs are able to use trend data and the ROMA cycle to modify and position their programs and services in anticipation and are highly successful at modifying and responding to changes in the communities in which they operate to achieve relatively high percentages of their projected outcomes. Targeting is an essential part of the CSBG Network's capacity to anticipate, plan, and respond to needs in communities and facing families and individuals served throughout the year.

State Uses of CSBG Funds

In FFY 2015, Congress appropriated over \$663.3 million for the CSBG Act.²² States were allocated \$654.04 million and tribes and territories were allocated nearly \$9.3 million. In addition, the CSBG Act provides for community economic development and rural facilities grants that were funded at approximately \$36.38 million.²³ Some CAAs received these grants, which are separate from their regularly appropriated CSBG allocations.

There are three allowable uses for State CSBG funds: grants to local eligible entities, state administrative costs, and discretionary projects. During FY 2015, \$646.2 million was expended by states, including nearly \$143.7 million carried over from FY 2014. States allocated over 92 percent of these funds to eligible entities, totaling over \$596.5 million. The remainder was allocated for state administrative expenses, discretionary funding, and supporting the infrastructure and operations related to administering CSBG funding. The block grant-funded state personnel coordinate multiple programs, manage systems to avoid duplication, and oversee and evaluate the continuity of services and activities provided by CAAs.

It is critical to understand the nature of the CSBG distribution of funding. The Congressional allocation includes funding for tribes, territories, discretionary grants at the national level, and funding for the states. Each state receives a yearly CSBG allocation, but by statute, has a two-year period over which to spend the allocation. Therefore, the total amount of CSBG funding that each state has access to on a yearly basis includes a yearly allocation, plus carryover from the prior year, and minus any funding the state decides to carry forward into the second year period. At the state level, per the statute, the state is obligated to allocate 90 percent of the yearly Congressional allocation to local agencies. Additionally the state may keep 5 percent of the yearly Congressional allocation for state administrative expenses, and 5 percent for discretionary funding at the state level, which may go to a CAA or to an organization that is not a CAA. Each agency therefore, has CSBG funding that may have been carried over from the prior year, the current state allocation, and any discretionary funding, as well as other federal, state, local, and private sources of funding, which also vary by year. As an added factor, each state has its own fiscal year, which may or may not align with the federal fiscal year. These factors combine to create a funding environment in which allocations and expenditures are unlikely to match precisely. State fiscal years, additional sources of federal, state, local, and private funding, and additional state-wide breakdowns of funding can be found in the Appendix.

GRANTS TO LOCAL ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

The CSBG statute requires not less than 90 percent of the state block grant be allocated to local eligible entities. States allocated over \$596.5 million, or 92 percent, to the 1,026 CAAs, as shown in Table 7. These funds supported direct services to low-income individuals and communities as well as the management, infrastructure, and operations of the CAAs. The block grant-funded local personnel to coordinate multiple programs, fill gaps in services, manage systems to avoid duplication, and improve the continuity of services and activities for participants. CSBG-funded staff was also assigned to build local partnerships for reducing poverty. In addition, CSBG covered indirect expenses associated with the space, equipment, materials, and services needed for the CAAs to work effectively.

TABLE 6: USES OF CSBG FUNDS

USE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT ALLOCATED*	NUMBER OF STATES	PERCENTAGE OF FUNDING ALLOCATED
Grants to Local Eligible Entities	\$596,463,883	52	92.30%
State Administrative Costs	\$26,123,813	52	4.04%
Discretionary Projects	\$23,638,610	44	3.66%
TOTAL EXPENDED IN FY 2015**	\$646,226,307	52***	100%
Carried Forward to FY 2016	\$140,411,277	42	

*Expended funding may differ from allocated funding based on carryover and differing fiscal years and contracts based on state variances.

** This includes funds carried over from FY 2014.

***Includes 50 states, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. This is an unduplicated count of states in FY 2015.

STATE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

No state may spend more than the greater of \$55,000, or five percent of the block grant for state administrative costs, including monitoring. This administrative allotment provides states with the resources necessary to maintain strong oversight of CSBG through fiscal reporting, data collection and analysis, and ongoing assessments of CAAs. It also helps states coordinate and establish linkages between and among governmental and other social services programs to assure the effective delivery of services to low-income people and avoid duplication of services. As Table 7 shows, States collectively used 4.04 percent for their administrative expenditures.

The block grant funded all or part of 561 state positions, and an additional 206.61 full-time state employees (FTEs). Just as the local agencies administer a number of federal and state programs in conjunction with CSBG, so do the state CSBG offices. Altogether, state CSBG offices administered an average of four programs per state, in addition to CSBG.

CSBG state administrators are housed in a variety of administrative locations, most often in a state's Social Services and/or Human Services Department or the state's Community Affairs, Community Services, or Community Economic Development Department. A few state CSBG offices are housed in departments related to health or labor and still others are in a state's executive office. State-specific details showing the administrative locations and responsibilities of CSBG State administrators are available in the Appendix.

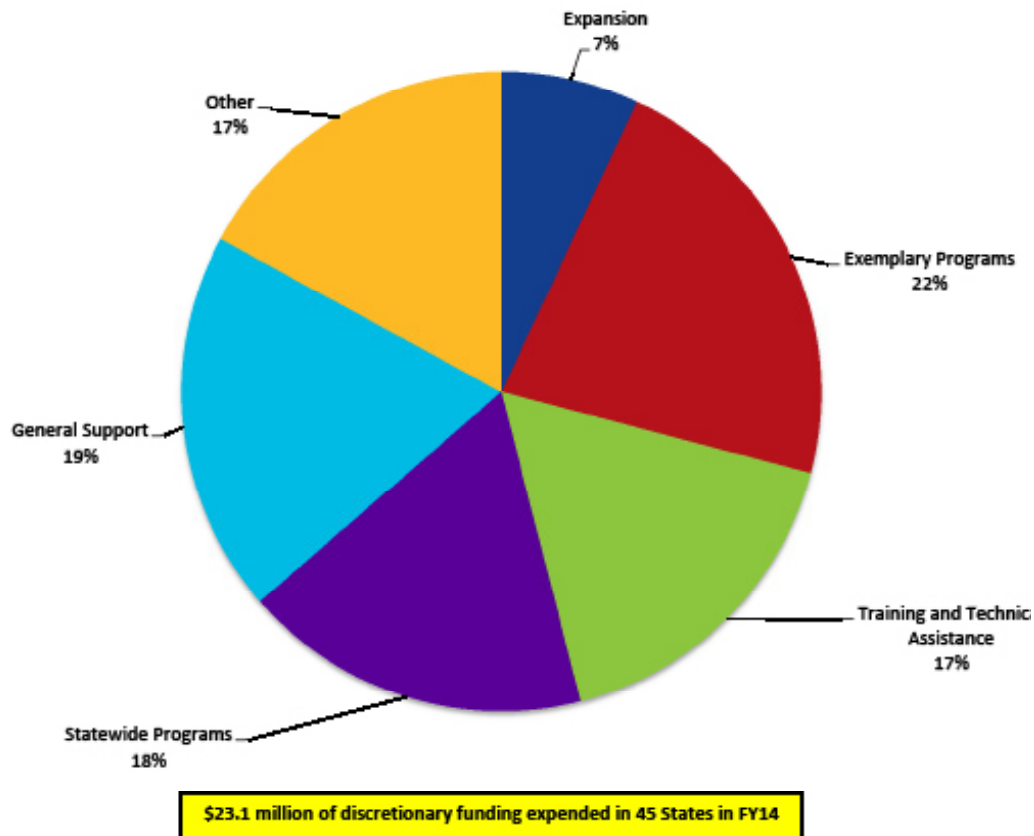
DISCRETIONARY PROJECTS

The remaining funds may be used at the state's discretion for programs that help accomplish the statutory purposes of the block grant. Discretionary project funding by 44 states accounted for 3.66 percent of CSBG expenditures, or \$23.6 million. These expenditures included:

- Statewide initiatives, such as programs that address a particular need and involve state-level planning, research, information dissemination, coalition building, and/or intra-State coordination.
- Grants awarded to CAAs through a vigorous process that support exemplary competitive or demonstration programs to eliminate one or more causes of poverty. This was the largest area of discretionary spending by the CSBG network.
- Training and technical assistance to local agencies.
- Expansion to new geographic areas.

Information for state-level initiatives funded by discretionary grants can be found in the Appendix.

FIGURE 4: DISTRIBUTION OF CSBG DISCRETIONARY FUNDS BY PURPOSE



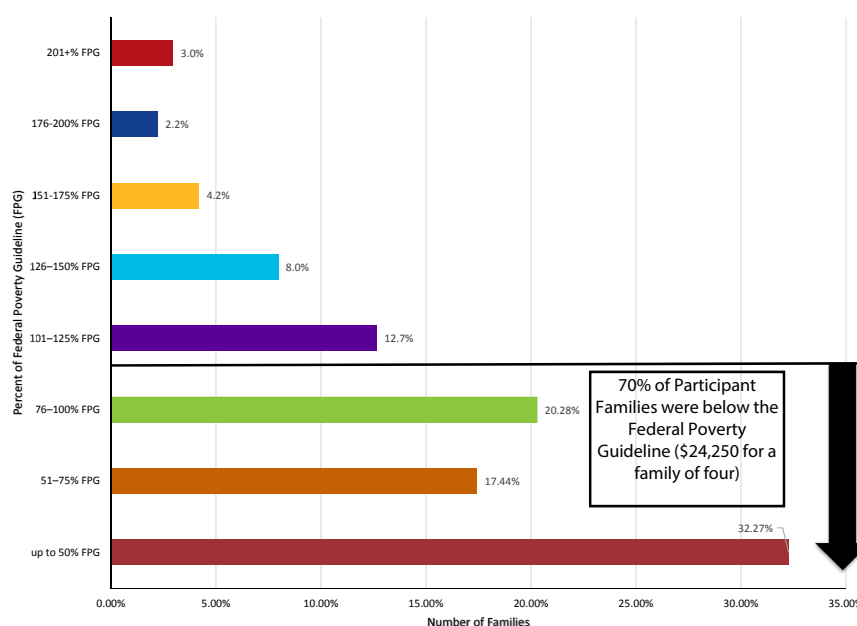
Participants of CAA Programs

In FY 2015, CAAs in every state reported information about the participants in their programs and projects to the state CSBG office. Over 15.6 million individuals and members of 6.5 million families participated in CAA programs. The CSBG IS Survey captured various demographic data for 76 percent of individuals and 81 percent of the families of this population.²³

The CSBG Network serves a heterogeneous group of Americans with low-incomes who live in a wide variety of communities. However, the average CAA program participants were white, had incomes below the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG), and were members of families that relied on either a worker's wages or retirement income. State-specific data on participant characteristics are available in the Appendix.

Individuals and families aided by CAAs face poverty and economic insecurity in varying degrees. However, data show that CAAs serve some of the poorest, and most vulnerable populations in the U.S. The 15.6 million individuals served by CAAs represent nearly 36.1 percent of the 43.1 million Americans who, according to the most recent census data, live in poverty.²⁴ According to the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey data, over 17.9 percent of the U.S. population had incomes below 125 percent of the poverty threshold and 6.1 percent had an income below 50 percent of the poverty threshold.²⁵ Out of the approximately 4.6 million families reporting their poverty status to CAAs, 70 percent were at or below the FPG of \$24,250 for a family of four. More than 2.3 million families, nearly 50 percent, were "severely poor," with incomes at or below 50 percent of the FPG, or below \$12,125 for a family of four.²⁶ This data indicates that CAAs are successful in targeting and serving populations most in need of their services and programs. Figure 3 shows the proportion of families with incomes at or below percentages of the FPG.

FIGURE 5: POVERTY STATUS OF CAA PROGRAM PARTICIPANT FAMILIES*



*Percentages do not add to 100 due to rounding.

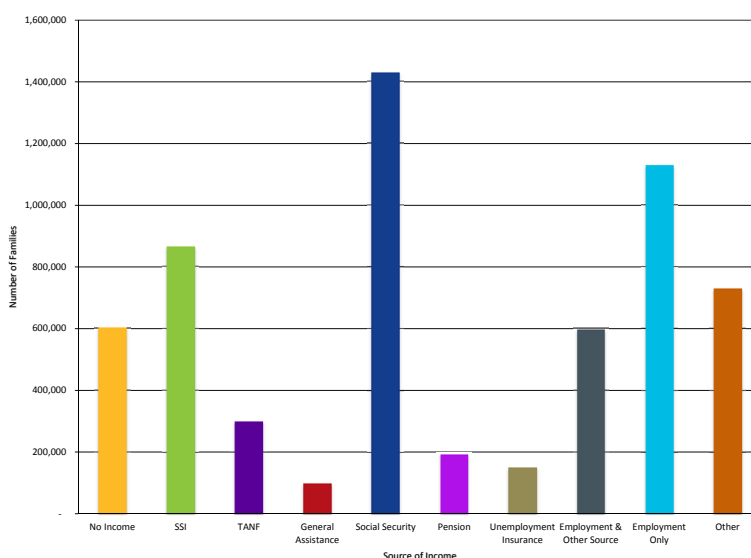
INCOME SOURCES

Low-income households experience significantly greater instability in their monthly incomes than high-income households. Income sources are wages, government assistance, social security, pension, and other types of resources. Families report all sources of household income, not just the primary source. In addition, approximately 602,000 families that came to CAAs reported zero income. This a decrease of over 90,000 families reporting no income in FY 2014. It underscores the difficulty that families with low incomes face in making ends meet, and emphasizes the fact that the majority of families have a source of income. The following statistics outline key income trends of families in the CSBG Network who reported one or more sources of income.

- Over 47 percent of participant families reporting one or more sources of income indicated that some or all of their income comes from employment.
- Approximately 88 percent of participant families include a worker, an unemployed job-seeker, or a retired worker as contributing to their income sources.
- Approximately 1.1 million low-wage participant families relied solely on wages for income.
- CAAs served nearly 1.6 million families living on retirement income from Social Security or pensions.
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) provided income to less than eight percent of the families served by CAAs.

According to recent Census Bureau analysis, the poverty rate for working households in 2014 was 6.3 percent.²⁷ While this rate has been decreasing each year since 2012, it is still higher than pre-recession

FIGURE 6: SOURCES OF INCOME FOR CAA PROGRAM PARTICIPANT FAMILIES**



*Government assistance includes TANF and unemployment insurance.

** Figure 6 includes a full list of income sources. Note that General Assistance is a state income supplement program, not a federal source of assistance.

rates of 6%. In addition, incomes have not returned to their pre-recession rates. As a result, many more low-income working families are not making ends meet and need CAA services to help them maintain employment and achieve a better, living wage job.

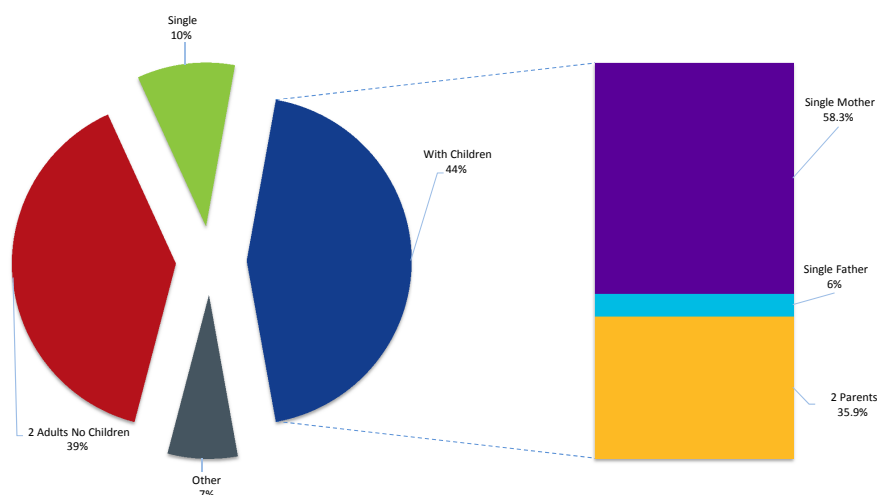
FAMILY STRUCTURE OF PARTICIPANTS

CAAs served over 1.7 million two-person and three-person families and nearly 42,000 families with 8 or more members. The average family size of the participants who were surveyed was 2.41 members per family.

Of the participants reporting family size, 44 percent of participating families who provided information on their family size indicated they had children in their family, nearly 40 percent of all families were people who lived alone, and 9 percent reported two adults living alone with no children. Just over 64% of all CAA program participants' households reporting children were single parent families. Research shows that families headed by a single parent are more likely to be living at or below the poverty line – 24% of single fathers and 43% of single mothers.²⁸

Figure 7 illustrates that of the 44 percent of participating families who indicated they had children in their family:

FIGURE 7: FAMILY COMPOSITION OF CAA PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

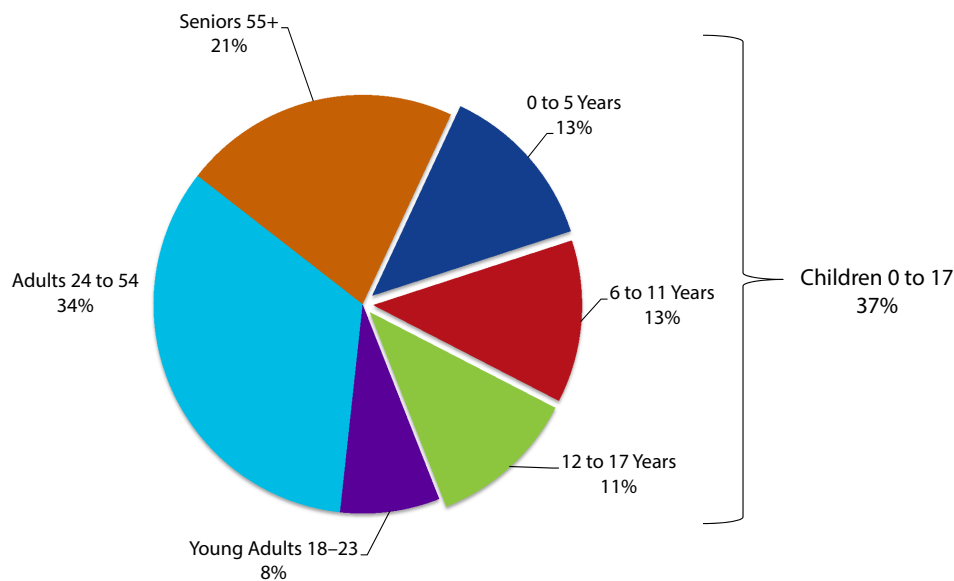


- 35.9 percent had both parents present.
- 58.3 percent were headed by a single mother.
- 6 percent were headed by a single father.
- “Other” includes families composed of children living with grandparents, or other extended family.

RACE AND ETHNICITY OF PARTICIPANTS

CAA program participants are ethnically diverse, reflecting the diversity of the communities CAAs serve across the country. Of the 15.6 million individuals served, over 10.2 million reported their race or ethnicity data to CAAs. Ethnicity data indicated that nearly 19 percent self-identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino.²⁹ In 18 states, 20 percent or more of the participants self-identified as Hispanic or Latino.

FIGURE 8: AGE GROUPS OF CAA PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



*Totals do not sum to 100% due to rounding

The following racial breakdown reflect participants' voluntarily-provided responses:

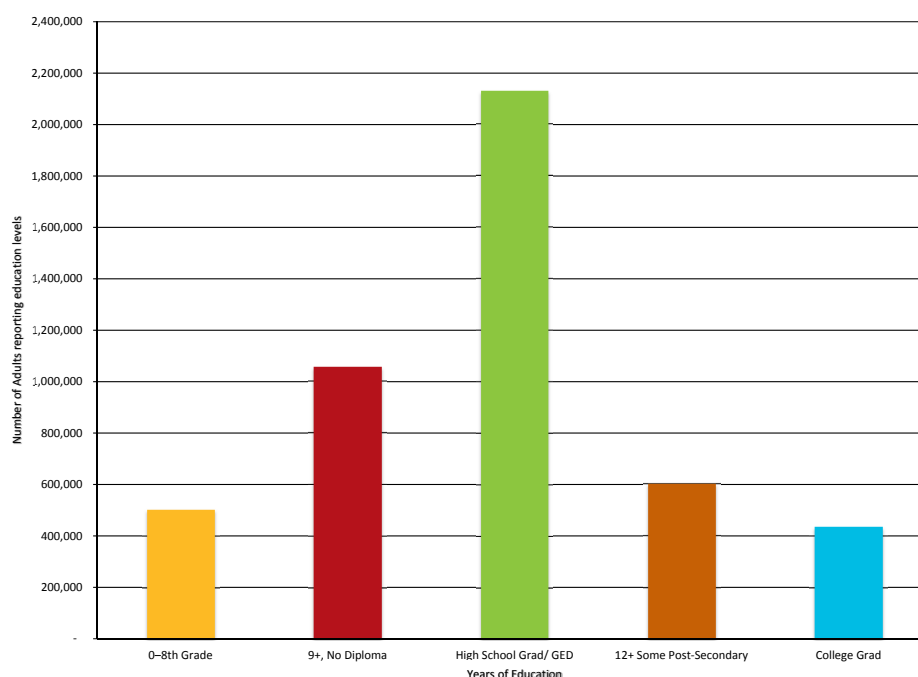
- 56.78 percent White.
- 25.79 percent African-American.
- 8.71 percent of another race or declined to disclose.
- 4.41 percent multi-racial.
- 2.28 percent Asian.
- 1.65 percent American Indian or Alaska Native.
- 0.38 percent Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.

CHILDREN AND SENIORS IN CAA PROGRAMS

The participants in CAA programs included over 4 million children under the age of 17. The Census Bureau reports that the poverty rate for children under 18 is 19.7 percent.³⁰ Reflecting this fact, children aged 17 and under made up more than 37 percent of all individuals served. Additionally, approximately 1.4 million, or 13 percent of all CAA program participants, were 5 years of age or younger, as Figure 8 shows. Child poverty is an urgent need across the nation and CAAs are working to alleviate the effects of poverty on this vulnerable population.

Nearly 2.4 million people, over 21 percent of CAA program participants reporting age, were 55 years or older, and nearly 8 percent of the participants in that age group were 70 years or older. CAAs helped these older participants maintain their independence and remain engaged in their communities.

FIGURE 9: EDUCATION LEVEL OF ADULT CAA PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



BARRIERS TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Many CAA program participants face multiple barriers to achieving economic security, such as lack of health insurance, or education, living with a disability, and homelessness. Health insurance data offered by nearly 9 million participants indicated that 27 percent were without medical insurance. In FY 2015, 16 percent less people reported being uninsured than in FY 2014. CAAs across the nation were involved in certifying Navigators and working to enroll clients in the Health Insurance Marketplace, as established by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). Research shows that lack of health insurance is a strong predictor of future critical hardships for families at all income levels, but is particularly strong for those with incomes below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.³¹ For this reason, the work that CAAs do in the area of health services is especially significant in ending a cycle of poverty that impacts families now and for generations to come.

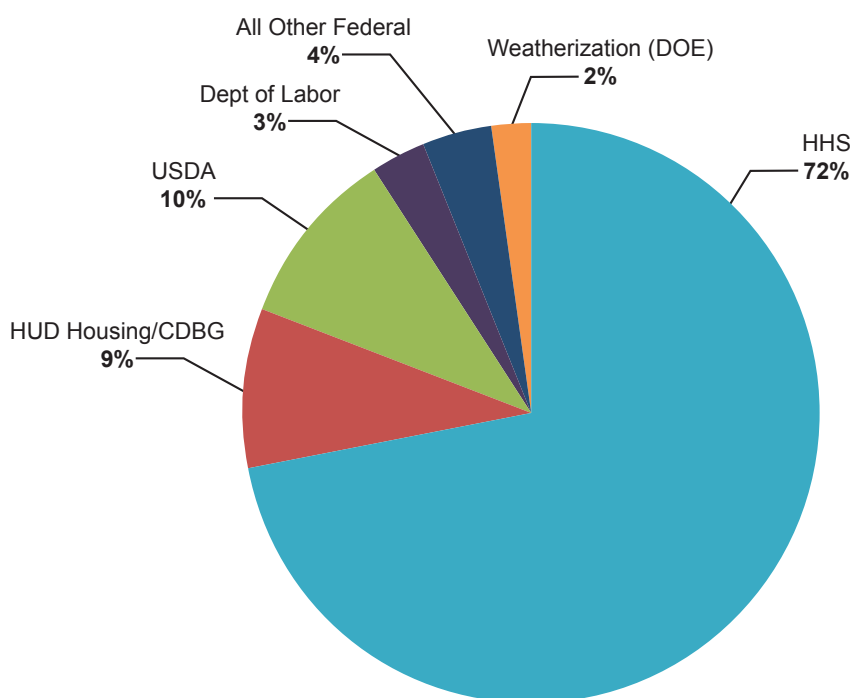
Research also shows that adults with a bachelor's degree earn 50 percent more than high school graduates and 114 percent more than those who do not have high school diplomas.³² Thirty-three percent of adults over age 24 who reported their educational attainment to CAAs lacked a high school diploma or equivalency certificate, and 45 percent of CAA program participants reported a High school diploma or a GED as their highest educational attainment as shown in Figure 9. CAAs' efforts to improve educational levels for program participants is a key investment.

Data collected from nearly 9.6 million participants indicated that 19 percent of the CAA program participants were disabled. Research shows that among working-age adults with disabilities, only 17.1 percent were employed. Also, persons reporting disabilities are more likely to be over 65 years of age.³³ CAAs are critical in assisting people with disabilities to find employment, improve their quality of life, and maintain an independent living situation.

Housing data offered by a little fewer than 5 million participants indicated that 3.6 percent were homeless. This number rises to 10 percent when including clients who report living with friends and family for an extended period of time. Homelessness, though, does not equate to unemployment.

Almost half of the homeless population works, but does not earn enough to pay for housing. However, homelessness does contribute to many other social and economic challenges. For example, research shows a cyclical relationship between health and homelessness.³⁴ Homelessness leads to poor health, and poor health can lead to homelessness. CAAs provide critical services to help alleviate homelessness and its effects through housing, health services, and other supportive programs.

FIGURE 10: FEDERAL SOURCES OF CAA ALLOCATIONS



CAA Resources

NATIONWIDE RESOURCES

In FY 2015, CAAs were allocated financial resources totaling \$12.9 billion from federal, local, state and private sources of funding, including \$636.9 million from CSBG. Although CSBG is a small part of the total resources managed by CAAs, its flexibility allows them to fund staff, infrastructure, innovative programs, and activities not supported by other resources. Figure 10 shows all sources of federal funding that CAAs manage and the percent of total funding from each source.

While federal programs, predominantly those of HHS, provided nearly three-quarters of non-CSBG funding allocations, private partners contributed over 1.5 billion. Volunteers contributed an additional \$298 million in value, bringing all total resources to over \$13.8 billion. Table 8 shows all allocated resource amounts, as well as the leveraging ratio as compared to CSBG. State-specific details, including federal, state, private, and local allocations, are available in Appendix 27.

A major function of staff funded by CSBG is developing resources to meet community needs. The high leveraging ratio reflects CAAs' progress towards this goal. CAAs develop partnerships to offer opportunities for private donors, businesses, and volunteers to donate their resources or time to improve the lives of families in their communities. They also generate federal, state, and local government support by obtaining contracts, grants, and partnership agreements. The total financial resources of a given year

TABLE 7: RESOURCES BY FUNDING SOURCE AS COMPARED TO CSBG

FUNDING SOURCE	ALLOCATION	LEVERAGING RATION PER \$1 OF CSBG
CSBG	\$636,900,106	\$1.00**
All Federal Programs (minus CSBG)	\$8,343,043,839	\$13.10
State Sources	\$1,660,020,617	\$2.61
Local Sources	\$1,454,460,352	\$2.28
Private Sources	\$1,489,464,827	\$2.34
Value of Volunteer hours	\$298,229,569	\$0.47
Total Non-Federal Sources***	\$4,603,945,795	\$7.70
TOTAL ALL RESOURCES	\$13,882,119,309	\$20.80

*Calculated by dividing the funding source allocation by the CSBG allocation.

**This amount not included in leveraging totals below.

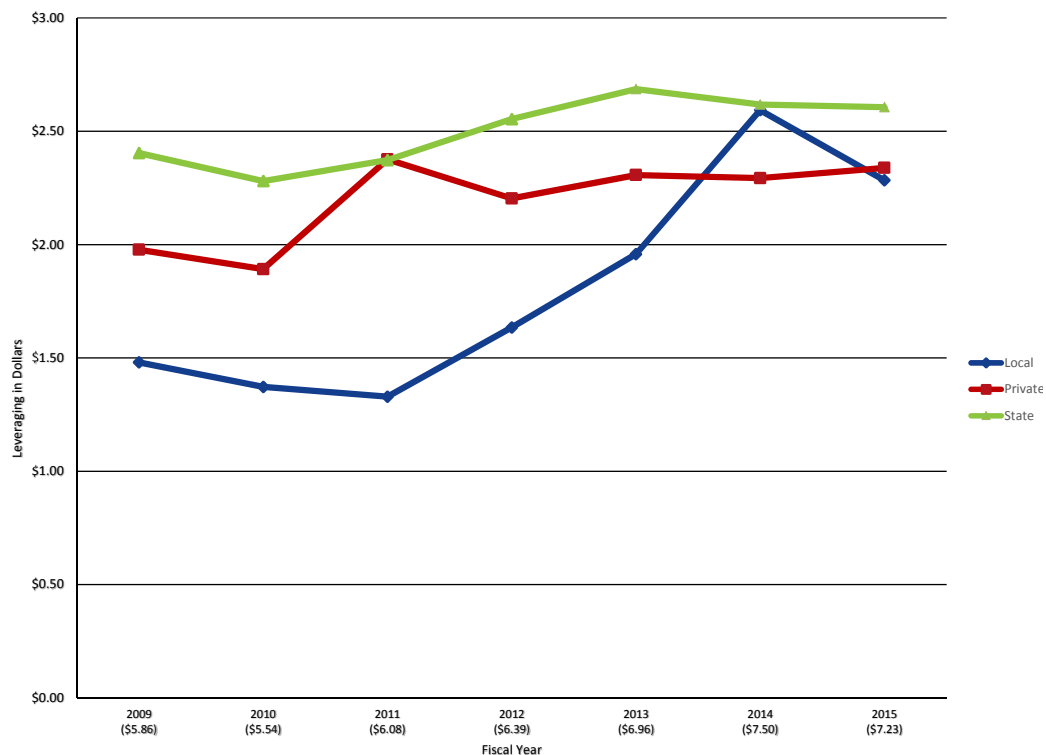
*** Includes value of state, local, and private sources as well as volunteer hours.

can reflect the organization's resource development work of the previous fiscal years. Altogether, the non-federal sources of funds matched local CSBG dollars by a ratio of \$7.23 to every dollar of CSBG. If the value of volunteer hours is included, the ratio of these resources to each CSBG dollar increases to \$7.70 for a total of \$20.80 dollars leveraged per dollar of CSBG.

TRENDS IN NETWORK RESOURCES

In FY 2015, the “leveraging” ratio of CSBG to non-federal funding, an important indicator of CAAs’ efficacy, was 16 percent higher than 2009 and, excluding the value of the volunteer hours. These increases demonstrate the efficacy and targeted focus of CAAs to strengthen local, state, and private partnerships for maximum impact. Figure 11 shows the non-federal resources leveraged by CSBG funds for FY 2015.

FIGURE 11: NON-FEDERAL LEVERAGING PER CSBG DOLLAR (\$1.00)



CAA Uses of CSBG Funds

CAAs typically draw upon resources from many limited-purpose programs to support individual participants and families striving to increase their economic security. CAA programs either fill a gap in community supports or coordinate existing facilities and services.

CAAs also mobilize initiatives that benefit entire communities, such as effective responses to predatory lending or initiatives preventing local business closure. Typically, CAAs must develop the investment partnerships or coalitions that support community improvement.

The staff, facilities, and equipment needed for this work often are supported by CSBG. The block grant funding permits CAAs to coordinate national and state programs to meet local needs. Although most CAAs manage multiple programs that are classified by the group served (such as the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children; Crime Victims Assistance Program; or Emergency Services to the Homeless), CAA projects are classified by the conditions causing poverty that the CSBG statute identifies as major barriers to economic stability.

UNIQUE INITIATIVES

While some categories are easy to understand, such as employment, education, income management, health, housing, nutrition, and emergency services. Other types of initiatives have a broader scope, and may require further explanation:

LINKAGES

The term “linkages” describes funding for a unique local institutional role. It refers to the activities that bring together, or make linkages through mobilizing and coordinating community members or groups, and often, government and commercial organizations which serve many communities. Linking a variety of local services, programs, and concerned citizens is an important strategy to combat community-wide causes and conditions of poverty. CAAs categorized 13 percent of their CSBG expenditures, a little over \$78 million, as linkages expenditures.

Linkages also can be observable connections, such as medical transportation, integrated databases of community resources, communications systems, or support and facilities for new community-based initiatives. Linkage programs can involve a variety of local activities that CSBG-funded CAA staff support, including:

- 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;
- Collective impact projects to create community changes, such as reducing crime or partnering with businesses in neighborhoods where people with low-incomes live to plan long-term development;
- Efforts to establish links between resources, such as transportation and medical care, or programs that bring services to participants, such as mobile clinics or recreational programs, and management of continuum-of-care initiatives;

- The removal of barriers, such as transportation challenges, that hinder low-income individuals' abilities to access their jobs or other necessary activities;
- Support for other groups of community residents with low-incomes who are working for the same goals as the eligible entity.

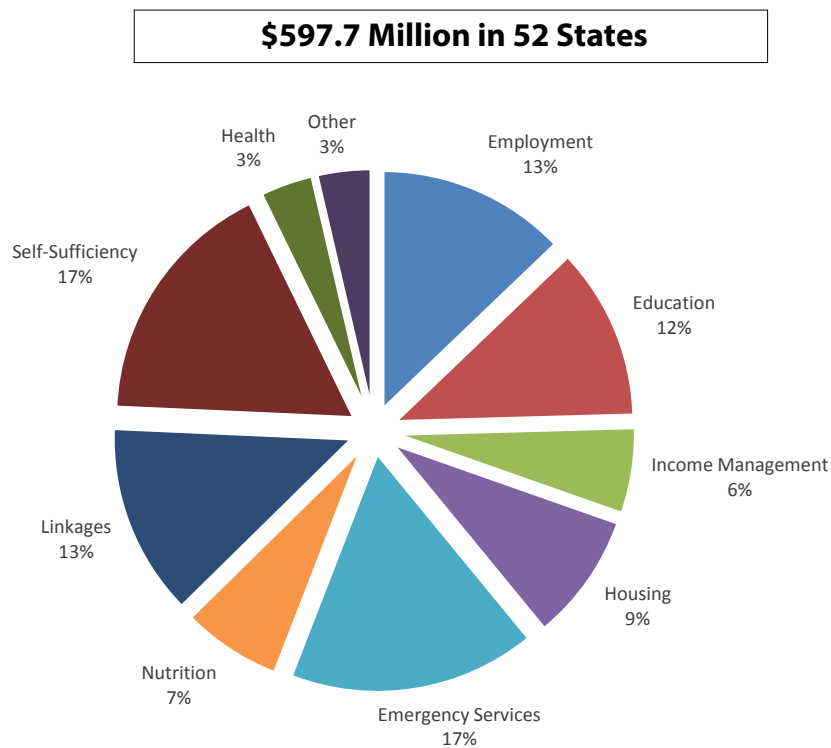
FIGURE 12: CAA USES OF CSBG FUNDS


Figure 12 shows how CAAs expended CSBG funds among these categories. A project in any one category may help to further the multiple goals of CAAs and many projects fall into more than one of these categories. To ensure unduplicated figures, funds are only reported under the primary category. The expenditures include agencies' CSBG funds and any discretionary funds, as well as any funds carried forward from the previous year and expended during the reporting period. States and CAAs vary in their methods for recording expenditures. The largest categories of CSBG fund expenditures were self-sufficiency programs (17.1 percent) and emergency services (16.8 percent).

SELF-SUFFICIENCY INITIATIVES

All activities funded by CSBG support the goals of increasing economic security and self-sufficiency for low-wage workers and their families, as well as for those unable to work, such as some seniors and individuals living with disabilities. CAAs partner with many organizations that also aim to help families and individuals become more self-sufficient. However, funding reported under self-sufficiency generally represent longer-term investments in families, through case management or counseling programs, for example, in which trained staff help families examine their economic, social, medical, and educational goals. These programs offer a continuum of services to assist families in becoming more financially secure. Dedicated CAA staff members identify and coordinate supportive services to help the family members attain their goals over an extended period of engagement. Examples of services supported 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;
- Identifying resources to help the participant implement the plan, such as 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, assistance in expunging minor criminal offenses in eligible states, etc

CAA RESOURCES HIGHLIGHTS

YOUTH AND SENIOR EXPENDITURES

Within the service categories, CAAs reported spending nearly \$46.3 million in CSBG funds on programs serving youth, and approximately \$56 million in CSBG funds on programs serving seniors. Services noted under these categories were targeted exclusively to youth from ages 12 to 18, or persons over 55 years of age. Examples of youth programs include recreational facilities and programs, educational services, health services, prevention of criminal involvement, delinquency prevention, employment, and mentoring projects. Seniors' programs help the elderly to avoid or ameliorate illness or incapacity, address absence of a caretaker or relative, prevent abuse and neglect, and promote wellness. Expenditures made by each state for programs serving youth and seniors can be found in Appendix B.



Endnotes

- ¹“2014 Highlights” <https://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/overview/>
- ² Bishaw, Alemayehu and Glassman, Brian. “Poverty: 2014 and 2015. American Community Survey Briefs”. <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2016/demo/acsbr15-01.pdf>. September 2016.
- ³ Loughan, Ashlee, and Robert Perna. “Neurocognitive Impacts for Children of Poverty and Neglect.” American Psychological Association. June 1, 2012. <https://apa.org/pi/families/resources/newsletter/2012/07/neurocognitive-impacts.aspx>
- ⁴ Sapolsky, Robert. “New Studies of Human Brains Show Stress May Shrink Neurons (8/96).” Stanford Press Release. August 14, 1996. <http://news.stanford.edu/pr/96/960814shrnkgrbrain.html>
- ⁵ Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey. Data extracted September 22, 2015 from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. <http://data.bls.gov/timeseries/LNS12300000>
- ⁶ “Employment Situation Summary: The Employment Situation – April 2012” Bureau of Labor Statistics: <http://bls.gov/news.release/empst.nr0.htm>
- ⁷ “Federal Funding for Integrated Service Delivery: A Toolkit.” CLASP and the Annie E. Casey Foundation. January 12, 2011. http://www.clasp.org/admin/site/publications/files/CWF_ALL.pdf
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²⁹ It is important to note that Hispanic or Latino is an ethnic identity, and may include individuals who identify as White, African-American, only by ethnicity and not by a racial group at all, or who self-identify as multi-racial or other. Given the racial diversity present in this ethnic group, these responses are not aggregated with racial data, which includes the racial self-identification of some, but not all, individuals who also reported a Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.

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