

**COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT
STATE PLAN APPLICATION
Territory of American Samoa**



**Federal Fiscal Years
2026-2027**

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I. Executive Summary

A. Local Authority for the Community Services Block Grant Program

Presently there is no specific statutory authority for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program, but local authority for the CSBG program is in the form of executive decree by the Governor of American Samoa. By executive order, the American Samoa Department of Commerce (DOC) is responsible for the execution of the State administrative functions relevant to the CSBG program, as prescribed by 42 U.S.C. 990 of the CSBG Act.

B. Designation of Lead Agency

In accordance with Section 676(a) of the CSBG Act, the Governor of American Samoa, as the Chief Executive Officer for the American Samoa Government (ASG), officially designated the Department of Commerce as the lead agency for the administration of the Community Service Block Grant program in the Territory of American Samoa.

<i>Designated State Lead Agency:</i>	Department of Commerce (DOC)
<i>Director of Designated Lead Agency:</i>	Ali'imua Magdalene Petaia

C. Public Hearing Requirements

In compliance with Sections 676(a)(2)(B), (a)(3) and (e)(2) of the CSBG Act, the following requirements were duly met:

1. **Public Hearing:** Department of Commerce is holding a public hearing on Tuesday, November 18th, 2025 at 7am, to allow the general public to review and comment on the CSBG Application and State Plan FFY2026 and FFY2027. The hearing will be held in the Department of Commerce- Conference Room located on the 1st floor of the Pago Plaza Building, Pago Pago, American Samoa. The participants' comments will be documented and will be made part of the record for this year's program file. All comments received will be reviewed and documented accordingly..
2. **Legislative Hearing:** Pursuant to Section 676(a)(3) of the CSBG Act, legislative hearings are held every three years to gather input for the development of the CSBG State Plan. The CSBG State Plan FFY2024- FFY2025 legislative hearing held on March 7th, 2024, serves as the basis for developing the CSBG State Plan for FFY2026-FFY2027.
3. **Public Inspection of State Plan:** To facilitate review of and comment on the CSBG State Plan, multiple copies of the proposed plan were made available for public review during normal office hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), at the DOC office located in Pago Plaza, American Samoa. Public notification of plan availability for public inspection was achieved through the Department of Commerce website (doc.as.gov) and other social media outlets.



LEGISLATURE OF AMERICAN SAMOA
THIRTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THIRD REGULAR SESSION

REQUEST FOR APPEARANCE OF WITNESSES

DATE: MARCH 6, 2024

TO: GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING, 3RD FLOOR
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT
UTULEI, AMERICAN SAMOA 96799

The Chairman of COMMERCE & BUDGET Committee respectfully requests your office to inform the following witnesses:

1. Mrs. Petti T. Matila, Director of Commerce.
2. Mr. David Rivitte, Director of Legal Aid
3. Mrs. Jennifer Tofaeono, President of American Samoa Coalition
4. Mr. Larry S. Sanitoa, Hope House
5. Mr. Booch Ta'ase, Junior Prep President
6. Mr. Victor Avalos- President of American Samoa Youth Football Samoa.

To appear before the above-mentioned Committee of the House of Representatives to testify on the following matter:

SUBJECT: HOUSE ISSUE'S REGARDING COMMUNITY SERVICE BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.

Date: THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024

Time: 1:00 PM

Place: HOUSE CHAMBER/LEE AUDITORIUM

HON. MELEISEA & HON. AMITUANA'I
Chairman-Commerce & Budget Committees

Vaiaitu Mulinu'u. Filo Maluia
Chief Clerk/House of Representatives

Served by: Matile

Date & Time: 3-6-2024 12:27pm

Received by: Da

Date & Time: 3/6/24 12:29pm

*****PLEASE BE ADVISE TO DRESS FORMAL/MEN WITH TIE *****

II. STATEMENT OF FEDERAL AND CSBG ASSURANCES

As part of the annual or triennial application and State Plan required under Section 676 of the Community Services Block Grant Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 9901 et seq.), the designee of the Chief Executive Officer of the State of American Samoa (i.e., the Director of the Department of Commerce) hereby agrees to the Assurances set forth in Section 676 of the Act, as follows:

A. Programmatic Assurances

1. Funds made available through the grant or allotment will be used—
 - A. To support activities that are designed to assist low-income families and individuals, including families and individuals receiving assistance under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), homeless families and individuals, migrant or seasonal farm workers, and elderly low-income individuals and families, and a description of how such activities will enable the families and individuals:
 - i. to remove obstacles and solve problems that block the achievement of self-sufficiency (including self-sufficiency for families and individuals who are attempting to transition off a State program carried out under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act);
 - ii. to secure and retain meaningful employment;
 - iii. to attain an adequate education, with particular attention toward improving literacy skills of the low-income families in the communities involved, which may include carrying out family literacy initiatives;
 - iv. to make better use of available income;
 - v. to obtain and maintain adequate housing and a suitable living environment;
 - vi. to obtain emergency assistance through loans, grants, or other means to meet immediate and urgent family and individual needs; and
 - vii. achieve greater participation in the affairs of the communities involved, including the development of public and private grassroots partnerships with local law enforcement agencies, local housing authorities, private foundations, and other public and private partners to – document best practices based on successful grassroots intervention in urban areas, to develop methodologies for widespread replication; and strengthen and improve relationships with local law enforcement agencies, which may include participation in activities such as neighborhood or community policing efforts;
 - B. To address the needs of youth in low-income communities through youth development programs that support the primary role of the family, give priority to the prevention of youth problems and crime, and promote increased community coordination and collaboration in meeting the needs of youth, and support development and expansion of innovative community-based youth development programs that have demonstrated success in preventing or reducing youth crime, such as programs for the establishment of violence-free zones that would involve youth development and intervention models

(such as models involving youth mediation, youth mentoring, life skills training, job creation, and entrepreneurship programs); and after-school child care programs; and

- C. To make more effective use of, and to coordinate with, other programs related to the purposes of this subtitle (including State welfare reform efforts);
2. The State will provide a description of how the State intends to use discretionary funds made available from the remainder of the grant or allotment described in section 675C(b) in accordance with this subtitle, including a description of how the State will support innovative community and neighborhood-based initiatives related to the purposes of this subtitle;
3. The State will provide information provided by eligible entities in the State, containing—
 - i. a description of the service delivery system, for services provided or coordinated with funds made available through grants made under section 675C(a), targeted to low-income individuals and families in communities within the State;
 - ii. a description of how linkages will be developed to fill identified gaps in the services, through the provision of information, referrals, case management, and follow-up consultations;
 - iii. a description of how funds made available through grants made under section 675C(a) will be coordinated with other public and private resources; and
 - iv. a description of how the local entity will use the funds to support innovative community and neighborhood-based initiatives related to the purposes of this subtitle, which may include fatherhood initiatives and other initiatives with the goal of strengthening families and encouraging effective parenting;
4. Eligible entities in the State will provide, on an emergency basis, for the provision of such supplies and services, nutritious foods, and related services, as may be necessary to counteract conditions of starvation and malnutrition among low-income individuals;
5. The State assures that an assurance that the State and the eligible entities in the State will coordinate, and establish linkages between, governmental and other social services programs to assure the effective delivery of such services to low-income individuals and to avoid duplication of such services, and a description of how the State and the eligible entities will coordinate the provision of employment and training activities, as defined in section 101 of such Act, in the State and in communities with entities providing activities through statewide and local workforce investment systems under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.
6. The States will ensure coordination between antipoverty programs in each community in the State, and ensure, where appropriate, that emergency energy crisis intervention programs under title XXVI (*relating to low-income home energy assistance*) are conducted in such community;
7. The State assures it will permit and cooperate with Federal investigations undertaken in accordance with section 678D.
8. That State assures that any eligible entity in the State that received funding in the previous fiscal year through a community services block grant made under this subtitle will not have its funding terminated under this subtitle, or reduced below the proportional share of funding the entity received in the previous fiscal year unless, after providing notice and an opportunity for a hearing on the record, the State determines that cause exists for such termination or such reduction, subject to review by the Secretary as provided in Section 678C(b) of the Act.

9. The State assures that eligible entities in the State will, to the maximum extent possible, coordinate programs with and form partnerships with other organizations serving low-income residents of the communities and members of the groups served by the State, including religious organizations, charitable groups, and community organizations.
10. The State assures that it will require each eligible entity in the State to establish procedures under which a low-income individual, community organization, or religious organization, or representative of low-income individuals that considers its organization, or low-income individuals, to be inadequately represented on the board (*or other mechanism*) of the eligible entity to petition for adequate representation.
11. The State assures that it will secure from each eligible entity in the State, as a condition to receipt of funding by the entity through a community services block grant made under this subtitle for a program, a community action plan (which shall be submitted to the Secretary, at the request of the Secretary, with the State plan) that includes a community-needs assessment for the community served, which may be coordinated with community-needs assessments conducted for other programs.
12. The State assures that all eligible entities in the State will, not later than fiscal year 2001, participate in the Results Oriented Management and Accountability System, another performance measure system for which the Secretary facilitated development pursuant to section 678E(b), or an alternative system for measuring performance and results that meets the requirements of that section, and a description of outcome measures to be used to measure eligible entity performance in promoting self-sufficiency, family stability, and community revitalization; and information describing how the State will carry out the assurances[676(b)(13)].

B. Administrative Assurances

The State further agrees to the following administrative assurances, as required under the Community Services Block Grant Act:

STATE APPLICATION AND PLAN-

1. To submit an application to the Secretary containing information and provisions that describe the programs for which assistance is sought under the Community Services Block Grant program prepared in accordance with and containing the information described in Section 676 of the Act. [’675A(b)]
2. To use not less than 90 percent of the funds made available to the State by the Secretary under Section 675A or 675B of the Act to make grants to eligible entities for the stated purposes of the Community Services Block Grant program and to make such funds available to eligible entities for obligation during the fiscal year and the succeeding fiscal year, subject to the provisions regarding carry over of unobligated funds. [’675C(a)(3)]
3. In the event that the State elects to recapture and redistribute funds to an eligible entity through a grant made under Section 675C(a)(1) when unobligated funds exceed 20 percent of the amount so distributed to such eligible entity for such fiscal year, the State agrees to redistribute recaptured funds to an eligible entity, or require the original recipient of the funds to redistribute the funds to a private, nonprofit organization, located within the community served by the original recipient of the funds, for activities consistent with the purposes of the Community Services Block Grant Program under Subtitle B. [’675C(a)(3)]

4. To spend no more than the greater of \$55,000 or 5 percent of its grant received under Section 675A or the State allotment received under section 675B for administrative expenses, including monitoring activities. [‘675C(b)(2)]
5. If applicable, the State agrees to comply with the requirements and limitations specified in Section 675(c) regarding use of funds for statewide activities to provide charity tax credits to qualified charities whose predominant activity is the provision of direct services within the United States to individuals and families whose annual incomes generally do not exceed 185 percent of the poverty line in order to prevent or alleviate poverty among such individuals and families. [‘675(c)]
6. That the lead agency will hold at least one hearing in the State with sufficient time and statewide distribution of notice of such hearing, to provide to the public an opportunity to comment on the proposed use and distribution of funds to be provided through the grant or allotment under Section 675A or ‘675B for the period covered by the State Plan. [‘676(a)(2)(B)]
7. That the chief executive officer of the State will designate an appropriate State agency for purposes of carrying out State Community Services Block Grant program activities. [‘676(a)(1)]
8. To hold at least one legislative hearing every three years in conjunction with the development of the State Plan. [‘676(a)(3)]
9. To make available for the public inspection each plan or revised State Plan in such a manner as will facilitate review of and comment on the plan. [‘676(e)(2)]
10. To conduct the following reviews of eligible entities:
 - a. a full onsite review of each such entity at least once during each three-year period;
 - b. an onsite review of each newly designated entity immediately after the completion of the first year in which such entity receives funds through the Community Services Block Grant program;
 - c. follow-up reviews including prompt return visits to eligible entities, and their programs, that fail to meet the goals, standards, and requirements established by the State;
 - d. other reviews as appropriate, including reviews of entities with programs that have had other Federal, State or local grants (other than assistance provided under the Community Services Block Grant program) terminated for cause. [‘678B(a)]
11. In the event that the State determines that an eligible entity fails to comply with the terms of an agreement or the State Plan, to provide services under the Community Services Block Grant program or to meet appropriate standards, goals, and other requirements established by the State (*including performance objectives*), the State will comply with the requirements outlined in Section 678C of the Act, to:
 - a. Inform the entity of the deficiency to be corrected
 - b. requires the entity to correct the deficiency
 - c. offer training and technical assistance as appropriate to help correct the deficiency, and submit to the Secretary a report describing the training and technical assistance offered or stating the reasons for determining that training and technical assistance are not appropriate;
 - d. at the discretion of the State, offer the eligible entity an opportunity to develop and implement, within 60 days after being informed of the deficiency, a quality improvement plan and to either approve the proposed plan or specify reasons why the proposed plan cannot be approved;

- e. after providing adequate notice and an opportunity for a hearing, initiate proceedings to terminate the designation of or reduce the funding to the eligible entity unless the entity corrects the deficiency.
[’678(c)(a)]
- 12. To establish fiscal controls, procedures, audits and inspections, as required under Sections 678D(a)(1) and 678D(a)(2) of the Act.
- 13. To repay to the United States amounts found not to have been expended in accordance with the Act, or the Secretary may offset such amounts against any other amount to which the State is or may become entitled under the Community Services Block Grant program. [678D(a)(3)]
- 14. To participate, by October 1, 2001, and ensure that all-eligible entities in the State participate in the Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) System [’678E(a)(1)].
- 15. To prepare and submit to the Secretary an annual report on the measured performance of the State and its eligible entities, as described under 678E(a)(2) of the Act.
- 16. To comply with the prohibition against use of Community Services Block Grant funds for the purchase or improvement of land, or the purchase, construction, or permanent improvement (other than low-cost residential weatherization or other energy-related home repairs) of any building or other facility, as described in Section 678F(a) of the Act.
- 17. To ensure that programs assisted by Community Services Block Grant funds shall not be carried out in a manner involving the use of program funds, the provision of services, or the employment or assignment of personnel in a manner supporting or resulting in the identification of such programs with any partisan or nonpartisan political activity or any political activity associated with a candidate, or contending faction or group, in an election for public or party office; any activity to provide voters or prospective voters with transportation to the polls or similar assistance with any such election, or any voter registration activity.
[’678F(b)]
- 18. To ensure that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin or sex be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under, any program or activity funded in whole or in part with Community program funds. Any prohibition against discrimination on the basis of age under the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.) or with respect to an otherwise qualified individual with a disability as provided in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 12131 et seq.) shall also apply to any such program or activity. [’678FC]
- 19. To consider religious organizations on the same basis as other non-governmental organizations to provide assistance under the program so long as the program is implemented in a manner consistent with the Establishment Clause of the first amendment to the Constitution; not to discriminate against an organization that provides assistance under, or applies to provide assistance under the Community Services Block Grant program on the basis that the organization has a religious character; and not to require a religious organization to alter its form of internal government except as provided under Section 678B or to remove religious art, icons, scripture or other symbols in order to provide assistance under the Community Services Block Grant program.[’679]

C. Other Administrative Certifications

The State also certifies the following:

1. To provide assurances that cost and accounting standards of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB Circular A-110 and A-122) shall apply to a recipient of Community Services Block Grant program funds
2. To comply with the requirements of Public Law 103-227, Part C Environmental Tobacco Smoke, also known as the Pro-Children Act of 1994, which requires that smoking not be permitted in any portion of any indoor facility owned or leased or contracted for by an entity and used routinely or regularly for the provision of health, day care, education, or library services to children under the age of 18 if the services are funded by a federal grant, contract, loan or loan guarantee. The State further agrees that it will require the language of this certification be included in any sub-awards, which contain provisions for children's services and that all subgrantees shall certify accordingly.

I, the administrator of the lead agency designated by the chief executive officer (CEO) of American Samoa to administer the Territory's Community Services Block Grant program, pledge on behalf of our CEO (American Samoa Governor, the Hon. Lemanu Peleti Mauga) that the Territory of American Samoa, frequently referred to herein as "the State", will comply with all applicable requirements of the Community Services Block Grant Act and do hereby affix my signature to the foregoing assurances and certifications that when effected will advance the purposes and aims of the CSBG Act.



Ali'imua Magdalene Petaia, Director
Department of Commerce, American Samoa Government

11/17/2025

Date

III. NARRATIVE STATE PLAN

A. Administrative Structure

1. Department of Commerce

Mission and Responsibilities:

The overall mission of the Department of Commerce is –

“To improve the quality of life for individuals and communities through economic development and sustainable resource management.”

The Department of Commerce’s myriad responsibilities include oversight of business registration and licensing; regulation of commercial laws and zoning ordinances; allocation and financial management of grants and subgrants to eligible recipients; assessment of land use options, strategic planning with public participation, funding identification, creation of development schedule and document preparation; formulation and implementation of the various required plans germane to economic development; collection, analysis and dissemination of statistical information concerning the profile and activities of the people, and the physical and social systems in American Samoa; compilation and analysis of economic data and information on economic activities in the Territory; and coordination of statistical operations of government agencies, both federal and local, with respect to data collection.

The Department of Commerce administers and/or coordinates the following programs/activities/offices:

- Business Trades & Investments
- Real Property Management
- Resource Management
- Urban Planning & Development
- Statistics & Analysis
- Administrative Services

2. Eligible Entities:

American Samoa has no municipal, county, or other true, fully functional political subdivisions below the State (*territorial*) level. Prior to the 1998 reauthorization of the Community Services Block Grant Act by Public Law 105-285, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services had treated the American Samoa Government (ASG) as both the State and the “eligible entity” for American Samoa. In such capacity, the ASG acted as both the State government in receiving and administering CSBG funds apportioned each fiscal year, and the eligible entity in planning for and expending those funds through grants and contracts to carry out the purposes of the CSBG Act.

In its capacity as the eligible entity, the American Samoa Government is considered a public organization predicated on its apparent governmental attributes. Since the 1998 reauthorization legislation allows for the continuation of existing eligible entities, as defined in 42 U.S.C. 9902 (A), the American Samoa Government continues its historical role as the sole eligible entity for American Samoa.

As the sole eligible entity, the ASG is responsible for coverage of the territory’s entire geographic area. In that respect, the ASG serves as the governance organization for the CSBG program throughout the whole of American Samoa -- performing planning functions and awarding specific programmatic grants to, and/or making contracts with, other eligible organizations.

To assure decision-making and participation by low-income individuals in the development, planning, implementation, and evaluation of programs funded under Subtitle B of the CSBG Act, American Samoa administers the CSBG program through the Community Services Block Grant Panel (CSBG Panel), which serves as the tripartite board required by Section 676B (b) of said Act.

Comprising members appointed by the director of the Department of Commerce, the Community Services Block Grant Panel is constituted so as to ensure that no less than one-third of its membership are in accordance with democratic selection procedures adequate to assure that these members possess the following traits:

- a. representative of low-income individuals and families in the neighborhood served;
- b. reside in the neighborhood served; and
- c. able to participate actively in the development, planning, implementation, and evaluation of programs funded under the CSBG Act.

3. Distribution and Allocation of Funds

Ninety percent of each of the Federal Fiscal Year 2024 and Federal Fiscal Year 2025 CSBG funds made available to American Samoa under Section 675A will be used by the sole eligible entity (i.e., the American Samoa Government) for the purposes described in Section 672. Of its grant received under 675A, American Samoa has set aside \$55,000 for administrative expenses with the remaining amount to be used for travel to and from monitoring sites, conferences sponsored by the National Association for State Community Services Programs, Community Action Partnership, or other CSBG program-related organizations, per diem, ground transportation expenses, telephone calls, copying, postage, office supplies and necessary equipment, and other items consistent with the purposes of administering the CSBG Act.

Recapture and Redistribution of Unobligated Funds [676C(a)(3)]

As stated in the CSBG Reauthorization " A State may recapture and redistribute funds distributed to an eligible entity ... that are unobligated at the end of a fiscal year if such unobligated funds exceed 20% of the amount so distributed to such entity for such fiscal year."

The CSBG MOU indicates that each CAA's annual grant will be closed out as of September 30 each year and unexpended funds exceeding 20% of an agency's annual allocation will be recaptured and distributed in the following year. The recapture and distribution process/policy are described in the Appropriations Act (H.R. 3061) or CSBG IM#6.

B. Criteria and Distribution Formula

As the sole eligible entity, the American Samoa Government solicits proposals for CSBG funding from public agencies and private nonprofit organizations in addition to services provided by the Department of Commerce that meet the identified priorities set for the respective program year to meet the needs of the low-income population. Workshops are conducted to explain the application process, as well as the purposes and requirements of the community service block grant program. Prospective applicants are given instructions on how to submit an application and prepare an acceptable proposal. They are also provided written materials and guidelines from the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Community Services to assist them in the development of their proposals.

A selection process will be delineated utilizing guidelines from the Office of Community Services (OCS) of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' Administration for Children and Families as its primary basis. As one of its administrative functions as the tripartite board, the Community Services

Block Grant Panel will evaluate, score, and rate the applications, upon which subgrant awards will be primarily made. The State CSBG Administrator will act as facilitator of the tripartite board/evaluation panel. The tripartite board will utilize an evaluation sheet designed to determine the completeness and quality of the applications in terms of current CSBG statutory requisites. Evaluation criteria will focus on the community action plan, the community needs assessment, the ability of the proposed program to meet CSBG national goals, the suitability of proposed program methodology in the attainment of program objectives, the ability of the applicant to follow ROMA guidelines, and the appropriateness and prudence of the proposed use of funds.

All applications submitted for CSBG funding consideration will be screened as to completeness, appropriateness, and relevance in re CSBG aims. A needs assessment and action plan to address identified needs will be required elements of each application and proposal. It is essential that each application/proposal include a format-specific narrative. Additionally, applications will need to be organized around the concept of ROMA.

The tripartite board will identify those applications satisfactorily meeting the requirements of the application process and supporting CSBG national goals. Applications will be assessed and scored for their overall quality in terms of program methodology, monitoring, accountability, and outcome performance measurement. CSBG funding available will be awarded to those applications deemed worthy, as primarily demonstrated in evaluation score and rank, by the tripartite board in consultation with the DOC director.

With projected funding of \$1,045,566 (*FFY 2025 funding level*) for each FFY totaling \$2,019,132 for both FFY 2026 and FFY 2027, the application process for CSBG funding will once again be very competitive. Intuitively, only those eligible programs offering the most prudent, quality community services in accordance with CSBG requirements will ultimately be approved.

All expenditures of CSBG funds will be closely monitored to prevent illegitimate/unbudgeted costs and to avoid overruns. FFY 2026 and FFY 2027 funds distributed through grants made in accordance with Section 672 of the CSBG Act shall be available for obligation during FFY 2026 and FFY 2027 (*i.e. October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027 and October 1, 2027 to September 30, 2028, respectively*), is not subject to redistribution or recapture yet it is subject to the extent Community Services Block Grant funds are distributed as grants by a State to eligible entities provided under the Act, and have not been expended by such entity, the funds shall remain with such entity for carryover into the next fiscal year for expenditure by such entity for program purposes. Section 675C(a)(3) of the CSBG Act.

In the event that the American Samoa terminates the designation of an organization as an eligible entity, or otherwise reduces funds, any resulting funding may be awarded only to an organization that is an eligible entity for CSBG funds. Section 676A of the CSBG Act outlines procedures for designation and re-designation of eligible entities in un-served areas. In accordance with the CSBG Act, a State may solicit applications and designate as an eligible entity either:

- a. A private nonprofit organization that is geographically located in the un-served area that is capable of providing a broad range of services designed to eliminate poverty and foster self-sufficiency and meets the requirements of the CSBG Act; or
- b. A private nonprofit eligible entity that is geographically located in an area contiguous to or within reasonable proximity of the un-served area and is already providing related services in the un-served area.

American Samoa will grant the designation to an organization of demonstrated effectiveness in meeting the goals of the CSBG Act, and may give priority to an eligible entity in a contiguous area that is already providing related services in the un-served area. If no private, nonprofit organization is identified or determined to be qualified as an eligible entity to serve the area, American Samoa will designate an appropriate political subdivision of the State to serve as an eligible entity for the area.

Any nonprofit or public agency receiving CSBG funds must meet the tripartite board requirements specified in Section 676B of the CSBG Act. The process of soliciting applications to select a new eligible entity may take place during the period in which the Department of Health and Human Services is reviewing a state decision to terminate an organization's eligibility for CSBG funds. However, American Samoa ensures that it will not award the funds to a new eligible entity until the Department confirms the State's finding for cause or the 90-day period for Federal review has passed.

Unless otherwise notified by HHS, income eligibility for direct CSBG services will be determined based on 125 percent of the most recent poverty income criterion published in the Federal Register by the federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Grantees and contractors will follow the income eligibility criteria as updated in the CSBG application guide.

C. Distribution and Use of Restricted Fund

The total amount of restricted funds allocated under Section 675C(a) of the CSBG Act is to be received by the American Samoa Government as the State's sole eligible entity, which in turn will use said funds to administer needed services and make subgrants to appropriate public agencies and private, nonprofit organizations for duly approved activities consistent with the purposes of the CSBG Act.

In its capacity as the sole eligible entity, the American Samoa Government serves the geographical area comprising the entire Territory of American Samoa. The Territory consists of seven islands, 77 square miles in total land area. Five of the islands – Tutuila, Aunu'u, and the Manu'a Group (Ta'u, Olosega, and Ofu) – are volcanic; two – Rose and Swains, coral atolls.

The 2020 census recorded a population of 49,710, reflecting a decline of 5,809 individuals compared to the 2010 census. From 2010 to 2020, the territory experienced an average annual population decline of -1.1%. The American Samoa Statistical Yearbook estimates a rise in population compared to recent years. In 2021, the estimated population was 51,561, rising to 53,331 in 2023 an increase of 2,062. By 2024, the population is projected to reach 53,616, a modest increase of 285 from the previous year. These estimates closely align with historical census trends, apart from the period between 2021 and 2022, and indicate a recent shift toward positive growth.

D. Distribution and Use of Discretionary Fund

Any discretionary funds made available from the remainder of the grant, as described in Section 675C(b) of the CSBG Act, will be earmarked for any other CSBG-related activity for the FFY 2026 and FY2027 periods. When feasible, American Samoa will use part of the funds earmarked for administration to support innovative community and neighborhood-based initiatives thusly:

1. By providing training and technical assistance to those entities, in need of such training and assistance, implementing said initiatives;
2. By providing training and technical assistance to villages to build capacity to formulate their own community development plans;

3. By providing technical assistance to villages in building self-sufficiency to mitigate economic devastation in the event the canneries shutdown operations in the Territory;
4. By providing training and technical assistance to villages to embrace and nurture the concept of entrepreneurship; and,
5. Through territorial-wide coordination and communication among entities involved in said initiatives.

E. Use of Administrative Funds

Section 675C(b)(2) of the CSBG Act sets a cap of the greater of \$55,000 or 5 percent of the State's grant for administrative expenses, including monitoring activities. Accordingly, American Samoa has budgeted \$55,000 from its discretionary funds to be used for the administration of the CSBG program for each of FFY 2026 and 2027.

The planned administrative expense budget for each FFY is as follows:

Object Class	Amount
Personnel Costs	\$55,000

Presently, there is no charity tax credit in effect under the laws of American Samoa.

F. State Community Services Program Implementation

1. Program Overview

a. The Service Delivery System:

The Department of Commerce administers the CSBG program, which serves the primary purpose of providing services to eligible individuals and grants to eligible projects that support the goals and objectives of Public Law 105-285. The Department of Commerce uses the allowable portion of the administrative expenses, not to exceed the administrative cap under Section 675C(b)(2), for administration of the program, including monitoring activities. The estimated amount attributed to indirect cost and operating materials for the CSBG program, which will exceed the administrative cap, will be absorbed by the Department of Commerce through its other programs. Thus, 100 percent of restricted funds are allocated to achieve the goals of the CSBG Act and distributed for that purpose.

Applicants for CSBG funding describe their service delivery systems within their individual applications. Applicants are in part selected on the basis of their ability to describe how their service delivery systems and their program methodology will serve the low-income families and individuals, or organizations, under the CSBG Act. To meet the needs of the low-income population the Department of Commerce itself provides identified programs and services. In its role, however, as a central coordinating authority within the government, the Department of Commerce through its Planning Division conducts territorial planning, coordinates services among organizations, and thereby frequently functions or provides services as described in Section 675C(b)(1).

To ensure the effective delivery of CSBG funded services, the Department of Commerce will closely monitor the approved projects to be awarded in FFY 2024 and FFY 2025 community services block grants by the American Samoa Government, the only eligible entity in the State.

With FFY 2026 and FFY 2027 CSBG funds, low-income youth are directly being served in the areas of physical rehabilitation, suicide prevention, basic computer literacy and skills, fitness and nutrition, shelter and housing, vocational education, life and coping skills development, mentoring/counseling, drug/alcohol rehabilitation, and career/workforce preparation as funding amounts permit.

For the past few years, CSBG has played a major role in supporting and partnering with the local Department of Human Resources in providing summer employment opportunities for low-income and at-risk youths. This partnership is critical in promoting the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth Program for increasing young people's skills and knowledge to acquire better jobs and improve self-sufficiency.

CSBG funds have been assisting in the provision of vital services to disabled individuals and frail and/or elderly individuals. CSBG-funded services have been expanded to include programs that empower disadvantaged at-risk youth with basic skills in reading, writing, computer literacy and coping skills, as well as assist young individuals with a disability or long-term illness to develop emotional and physical capacity to successfully live and participate in their communities. During the upcoming year, the focus will be improving the capacity of at-risk families to gain economic stability through building personal capacity through skills training. In addition, CSBG assistance has been provided to grantees who target the mitigation of risk factors creating social instability that are causing low-income earners to remain in their poverty status.

An employment development program continually supported using CSBG funds will continue to help fill critical skill positions in patient care and foster the expansion of a certified technicians' pool to meet this need. The program aims to not only increase the pool of health care professionals by targeting low-income persons but retain them as well.

In order to support and provide the needed data to qualify for federal and provide low-income program funds, the Department of Commerce is able through the CSBG program to continue the Census Data and Regional Analysis & Community and Economic Development Planning. This on-going project contains primary environmental, economic and social policies to move American Samoa toward family and individual self-sufficiency, community coordination and revitalization, and the elimination of poverty.

Emanating from this, the continuing project will coordinate and stimulate education and community involvement initiatives. This could potentially create wage competitive jobs in close proximity to the direct benefit of the disadvantaged community. This will not only educate the community but allow them to strive to be more involved in the critical decision-making process in the Territory.

b. Linkages:

Local linkages by service providers (i.e., subgrantees) will be developed to fill identified gaps in services using the Department of Commerce as the hub of communication and coordination. Working in unison, the DOC and the other service providers will share relevant information, provide referrals, coordinate case management, and render necessary consultations. DOC staff will be assigned the specific responsibilities pertinent to establishing and maintaining the highest level of articulation and cooperation among CSBG-funded service providers.

The Department of Commerce is charged with coordinating the developmental activities of the government, which includes the provision of basic needs infrastructure and the development of socioeconomic development plans. The Department of Commerce through its Planning Division will continue its lead in the development of needed facilities and to impact the delivery of services to low-income persons. The Planning Division will take the lead in providing planning and technical assistance to the village planning process. The Department of Commerce continues to consult directly with all government agencies and key private, nonprofit organizations in a planning process that will yield action plans for the future missions and functions of the program.

c. Coordination with Other Public and Private Resources:

Funds made available through CSBG will be coordinated with other public and private resources through active involvement in the planning and budgetary processes of both CSBG service providers and appropriate third-party entities. The Department of Commerce continues to work with various American Samoa Government agencies that receive U.S. Department of Health and Human Services funding to develop and implement a Unified State Plan to provide services to low-income persons. The Unified State Plan ideally identifies how agencies can improve the services presently provided through coordination and opens up areas of service not presently available to the general populace. This initiative is still being pursued. Changes in agency leadership continue to have an impact in the delayed completion of this valuable project.

d. Innovative Community and Neighborhood-based Initiatives:

When presented with the opportunity, recipients of CSBG funds will, if feasible, use said funds to support innovative community and neighborhood initiatives related to the purposes of the CSBG with the specific objective of strengthening families and encouraging effective parenting.

2. Community Needs Assessments

As the sole eligible entity for CSBG purposes, the American Samoa Government is the only entity federally required [under Section 676(b)(11) of the CSBG Act] to prepare, as a condition to receipt of CSBG funding, a community action plan that includes a community needs assessment. Nevertheless, the American Samoa Government through its designated lead agency requires all CSBG applicants to develop and submit with its proposal, as a State-imposed condition to receipt of CSBG funding, an action plan that includes a needs assessment for the community served. Applicants will be required to clearly identify their targeted clientele in order to implement performance measurement, monitoring, and accountability at the close of the program year.

The American Samoa Government's community action plan/needs assessment is a consolidation of the separate community action plan/needs assessment prepared by various public agencies and private nonprofit organizations. The Department of Commerce requires applicants, as a condition for application to use CSBG funds, to follow the ROMA guidelines for development of their proposed programs. It has been determined that with the proper training, the program development and management procedures of ROMA are a timely concept for the Territory to adopt. With ROMA, the Department of Commerce has been given the ability to ensure that low-income families and individuals are accurately identified and properly served. Additionally, the ROMA requirements of the CSBG Act enable the lead agency to efficiently guide CSBG-funded activities and monitor program performance.

American Samoa Economy:

As a small, insular economy, American Samoa has long been prone to economic shocks from internal and external forces. Little data has been archived from before World War II, and only sparse economic

data can be found from the years before 2002. Available resources indicate an economy that quickly transformed from primarily agricultural, in the early 20th century, to booming by the 1940s, when U.S. Department of Defense project funds flooded the island. Immediately following the end of World War II, the flow of federal dollars slowed to a trickle and the local economy fell into a death spiral that would last nearly a decade.

In 2021, the American Samoa economy was affected by the continued federal government response related to the COVID–19 pandemic. Territorial government and consumer spending were supported by federal payments authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020; the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act of 2021; and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Expenditures funded by these payments are reflected in the GDP estimates. However, the full effects of the pandemic cannot be quantified in BEA statistics for American Samoa, because the impacts are generally embedded in the data sources used to estimate the components of GDP. Statistical data reveals current economic status is not in good shape.

On September 1st, 2022, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) released estimates of gross domestic product (GDP) for American Samoa for 2021. These estimates were developed under the Statistical Improvement Program funded by the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

It showed real GDP decreased 1.7 percent in 2021 after increasing 5.0 percent in 2020. The reason for such drop is decline in investment spending in the government, primarily reflecting decreases in exports and private inventory investment. These decreases were partly offset by increases in personal consumption expenditures, government spending, and private fixed investment. The private sector showed a decline in inventory investment of the tuna canning industry yet it also showed an increased 3.1 percent primarily reflecting growth in manufacturing. The growth in manufacturing reflected increased tuna cannery output. Output of nonmanufacturing industries, such as construction and related professional services, also increased, reflecting post-cyclone recovery activities. Limited banking institutions can contribute to financial hardship and difficulty for low to middle income families to attain long term financial security and economic stability.

Employment dropped by 39.7% from Fiscal Year 2022 (FY2022) to Fiscal Year 2023 (FY2023), followed by an 18.8% rise in FY2024. This sharp drop in FY2023 and the slight increase in FY2024 were largely due to changes in the private sector, with government jobs playing a more consistent role. In FY2023, government jobs represented 55.6% of total employment, whereas, by FY2024 this figure decreased slightly to 46.4%. While government employment has continued to rise steadily, private sector jobs have started to fall below their 10-year average, indicating a shift in the employment landscape.

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN:

CSBG will work to strengthen its partnership with ASG agencies, non-profit organizations and the private sector to better services and programs delivered to low-income families. The program will work on offering more workshop training and presentations for recipients of the grant to develop and implement more the use of results-oriented plans and strategies to meet positive outcomes and outputs. We will also encourage our sub-grantee recipients to collaborate and partner with ASG agencies and the private sector to provide needed information for the public and provide more understanding of the importance of bundling services to help the low income community. We will work to enforce and strengthen use of ROMA cycle and ROMA Generation for all recipients and use of needs assessment and data collection to formulate their planning and program strategies. This will help in determining level of

performance and accountability and make necessary changes to their programs and services in order to yield high outcomes.

3. Tripartite Boards

Section 676B of the CSBG Act requires that an eligible entity administer the CSBG program through a tripartite board or other mechanism specified by the State, whose members are chosen in accordance with democratic selection procedures to assure that not less than 1/3 of its members are representatives of low-income individuals and families in the neighborhood served, reside in the neighborhood served, and are able to participate actively in the development, planning, implementation, and evaluation of the program to serve low-income communities.

To ensure active participation and decision-making by low-income individuals in the development, planning, implementation, and evaluation of programs funded under Subtitle B of the CSBG Act, the Community Services Block Grant Panel has been appointed to administer the State/sole eligible entity CSBG program. The Community Services Block Grant Panel serves the identical function, as the tripartite board required by Section 676B (b) of the CSBG Act. No less than one-third of the Community Services Block Grant Panel membership comprises persons chosen in accordance with democratic selection procedures adequate to assure that these members -- (a) are representatives of low-income individuals and families in the neighborhood served; (b) reside in the neighborhood served; and (c) are able to participate actively in the development, planning, implementation, and evaluation of programs funded under the CSBG Act.

4. State Charity Tax Program

At present, American Samoa has no statutory charity tax credit program in effect.

5. Programmatic Assurances – How They Are To Be Carried Out

The assurances enumerated in Section 676(b) of the CSBG Act will be carried out, as more fully described below.

a. Assurance ‘676(b)(1):

Funds made available through the grant will be used:

1. To support activities that are designed to assist low-income families and individuals, including families and individuals receiving assistance under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), homeless families and individuals, migrant or seasonal farmworkers, and elderly low-income individuals and families to enable families and individuals to:
 - i. remove obstacles and solve problems that block the achievement of self-sufficiency (including self-sufficiency for families and individuals who are attempting to transition off a State program carried out under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act);
 - ii. secure and maintain meaningful employment;
 - iii. attain an adequate education, with particular attention toward improving literacy skills of low-income families in the communities involved, which may include carrying out family literacy initiatives;
 - iv. make better use of available income;
 - v. obtain and maintain adequate housing and a sustainable living environment;

- vi. obtain emergency assistance through loans, grants, or other means to meet immediate and urgent family and individual needs; and
 - vii. achieve greater participation in the affairs of the communities involved, including the development of public and private grassroots partnerships with local law enforcement agencies, local housing authorities, private foundations, and other public and private partners to document best practices based on successful grassroots intervention in urban areas, to develop methodologies for widespread replication; and strengthen and improve relationships with local law enforcement agencies, which may include: participation in activities such as neighborhood or community policing efforts.
2. To support youth in low-income communities by strengthening the primary role of families, prioritizing the prevention of youth problems and crime, and promoting greater community coordination and collaboration in meeting youth needs. This includes developing and expanding innovative, community-based youth development programs shown to reduce or prevent youth crime such as the creation of violence-free zones grounded in effective youth development and intervention models.
 3. To make more effective use of, and to coordinate with, other programs (*including State welfare reform efforts*).

G. Fiscal Controls and Monitoring

1. Program Monitoring:

As the designated lead agency for the administration of the CSBG program, the Department of Commerce will conduct the following reviews of CSBG-funded activities, as required under Section 678B(a) of the Act:

- a. ***full onsite review of each such entity at least once during each three-year period;***
Department of Commerce staff assigned CSBG responsibilities will conduct an assessment visit of the site of each CSBG-funded program at least twice during each fiscal year. The initial visit will be conducted within the first 120 days of the fiscal year; the second visit will be held after day 150 but before day 270 of the fiscal year.
- b. ***an onsite review of each newly designated entity immediately after the completion of the first year in which such entity receives funds through the CSBG program;***
Within one month after the completion of the first year in which an entity receives funds through the CSBG program, CSBG personnel of the Department of Commerce will perform an onsite review of said entity for the purpose of monitoring and evaluation.
- c. ***follow-up reviews including prompt return visits to entities, and their programs, that fail to meet the goals, standards, and requirements established by the State;***
After an onsite review uncovers a CSBG-funded program that fails to meet the goals, standards, and requirements set by the State, CSBG staff will make follow-up visits to the deficient program until the deficiencies are corrected or some other acceptable disposition is realized.
- d. ***Other reviews as appropriate, including reviews of entities with programs that have had other Federal, State or local grants (other than assistance provided under the CSBG program-Subtitle B) terminated for cause;***

Full onsite reviews of entities that have had other Federal, State, or local grants (other than assistance provided under the CSBG program) terminated for cause will be made no fewer than twice during the fiscal year. The initial visit will be conducted within the first quarter of the fiscal year. The second and third visits will be made during the second and third quarter respectively.

e. Specify the date of the last audit conducted and the period covered by the audit.

According to available records, no program-specific audits or program implementation assessments (PIAs) of the State's CSBG program have been conducted over the past 18 years.

2. Corrective Action. Termination and Reduction of Funding:

In the event that the State determines that a subgrantee fails to comply with the terms of an agreement or the State plan, to provide services under the CSBG program, or to meet appropriate standards, goals, and other requirements established by the State (including performance objectives), the State will –

- a. within one week of its determination of program noncompliance, inform the entity by written notice of the deficiency to be corrected;
- b. require the entity in writing to correct the deficiency;
- c. (i) offer training and technical assistance, if appropriate, to help correct the deficiency, and prepare and submit to the Secretary a report describing the training and technical assistance offered; or (ii) if the State determines that such training and technical assistance are not appropriate, prepare and submit to the Secretary a report stating the reasons for the determination;
- d. (i) at the discretion of the State (taking into account the seriousness of the deficiency and the time reasonably required to correct the deficiency), allow the entity to develop and implement, within 60 days after being informed of the deficiency, a quality improvement plan to correct such deficiency within a reasonable period of time, as determined by the State; and

(ii) not later than 30 days after receiving from an entity a proposed quality improvement plan pursuant to subparagraph (i), either approve such proposed plan or specify the reasons why the proposed plan cannot be approved; and
- e. after providing 15 days' written notice and an opportunity for a hearing, initiate proceedings to terminate the designation of, or reduce the funding to, the entity unless the entity corrects the deficiency.

3. Fiscal Controls, Audits, and Withholding:

American Samoa's systems of fiscal controls, procedures, and plans for audits and inspections, as required under Sections 678D(a)(1) and 678D(a)(2) of the Act, consist of the following:

- a. Fiscal control and fund accounting procedures necessary to assure the proper disbursement of and accounting for Federal funds paid to the State under the CSBG Act, including procedures for monitoring the funds provided under said Act, have been established by the American Samoa Government in compliance with Federal funding accounting under Office of Management and Budget Circular 102.

- b. Ensuring that cost accounting standards of the Office of Management and Budget apply to all CSBG recipients of CSBG funds, the State's Office of Program Planning and Budget will oversee and approve all expenditures in accordance with the approved budget and this State plan. The Department of Commerce in its capacity as designated lead agency will monitor all financial assistance provided under the CSBG Act in strict adherence to an OPPB-established expenditures and budgetary process.
- c. Within 60 days of the close of each fiscal year (i.e., by November 30), the Department of Commerce will cause an audit of the expenditures of the State of amounts received under this Act and amounts transferred to carry out the purposes of said Act.
- d. The Department of Commerce will make appropriate books, documents, papers, and records available to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their duly authorized representatives, for examination, copying, or mechanical reproduction on or off the premises of the appropriate entity upon a reasonable request for the items.
- e. Subject to subparagraph (ii), each audit required by Section 678D(a)(1)(C), will be conducted by the Office of the Territorial Auditor – an autonomous public entity independent of any agency administering activities or services carried out under the CSBG Act – in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. (ii) Audits will be conducted in the manner and to the extent provided in chapter 75 of title 31 of the United States Code (commonly known as the “Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996”).
- f. Within 30 days after the completion of each audit in American Samoa, the Governor will submit a copy of such audit to any entity that was the subject of the audit at no charge, to the American Samoa Legislature (Fono), and to the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

The assurances set out in Section 676(b) of the CSBG Act will be carried out, as follows:

- g. Assurance 676(b)(7): The Department of Commerce and other appropriate government organizations (*including, but not limited to, the Attorney General's Office, the Department of Public Safety, the Treasury Department, the Office of Program Planning and Budget, and the Office of the Territorial Auditor*) will permit and cooperate with Federal investigations undertaken in accordance with Section 678D of the CSBG Act.
- h. Assurance 676(b)(8): Any eligible entity in American Samoa that received funding in the previous fiscal year through a community services block grant under the CSBG program will not have its funding terminated or reduced below the proportional share of funding the entity received in the previous fiscal year unless, after providing 15 days' written notice and an opportunity for a hearing on the record, American Samoa determines that cause exists for such termination or such reduction', subject to review by the Secretary of Health and Human Services as provided in Section 678C(b) of the Act.
- i. Assurance 676(b)(10): The State will require the American Samoa Government, as sole eligible entity, to establish procedures under which a low-income individual, community organization, or religious organization, or representative of low-income individuals that considers its organization, or low-income individuals, to be inadequately represented on the Community Services Block Grant Board to petition the Director of the Department of Commerce for adequate representation.

Upon the Director of the Department of Commerce's receipt of the written petition, the Director will review the request to determine its merit. If warranted, the Director will within ten days after receipt of the petition nominate an appropriate person to serve on the CSBG Board. If the petition lacks the necessary merit, the Director will, within 10 days after receipt of the petition, inform the petitioner in writing of the denial and reasons therefore.

H. Accountability and Reporting Requirements

1. Results-Oriented Management and Accountability System

American Samoa is complying with the assurance in Section 676(b)(12) of the CSBG Act: requiring the State and all eligible entities in the State to, not later than fiscal year 2001, participate in the Results Oriented Management and Accountability System or another performance measure system for which the Secretary of Health and Human Services facilitated development pursuant to Section 678E(b) of the CSBG Act.

Outcome measures used to assess program performance in promoting self-sufficiency, community revitalization, and family stability are enumerated below. These measures also evaluate performance towards meeting the three community action goals of the Community Services Block Grant Program:

1. Individuals and families with low incomes are stable and achieve economic security,
2. Communities where people with low incomes live are healthy and offer economic opportunity,
3. People with low incomes are engaged and active in building opportunities in communities.

2. Annual Report on Prior Fiscal Year CSBG Program

a. Performance Objectives:

It is the stated goal of the American Samoa Government to improve the quality of programs that provide services to the low-income people of American Samoa by –

- providing a range of services to low-income individuals;
- measurably impacting upon the causes of poverty;
- making effective use of other federal programs for the low-income persons, which support individual self-sufficiency;
- establishing linkages among social service agencies and assuring effective delivery of services; and
- providing emergency services, as well as continued care for those in need.

b. Eligible Entity Program Description and Activities:

CSBG funds supported the programs and activities described below within the FFYs 2024 and current Fiscal Year 2025 program years:

i. Program: Oceania Community Development Network (OCDN)

Program Description:

Oceania STEM is a network of educators, non-profit organizations, community colleges and universities committed to increasing Native Pacific Islanders in STEM fields and careers. We aim to share curriculum and activities that incorporate indigenous knowledge and/or cultural connections that make STEM topics relevant to students, as we list opportunities for teachers and students such as conferences, research experiences for undergraduates (REUs), scholarships and funding.

ii. Program: Territorial Planning/Department of Commerce

Program Description:

The Territorial Planning Division works to create strategies, identify financing solutions, and implement projects that drive critical industry development and growth. Objectives continue to evolve to meet the ever-changing needs of the local community, however, Planning proposes to continue the general direction of this program focusing on the following:

- Promoting economic growth and prosperity through the planning of policies and projects that support competition, entrepreneurship, and innovation.
- Foster growth of our entrepreneurial ecosystem; and
- Continue capacity building efforts.

The objectives in place aim to assist low-income families and individuals with emphasis upon priority sectors such as small business and workforce development. Additionally, the Planning Division works on territory-wide policies, initiatives, and implementation strategies for the local population while also supporting the successful transitioning of low-income families/individuals to self-sufficiency above the national level of poverty.

iii. Program: The Hope House

Program Description:

Provides respite care to low-income families with members who are severely disabled. The American Samoa Development Disabilities Council contracts with the Catholic Church for the provision of respite care for eligible families of severely disabled individuals. The program provides relief to low-income families to allow them to find employment to improve family self-sufficiency.

iv. Program: Department of Human Resources- Workforce and Innovation Opportunity Act Employment Program (DHR-WIOA)

Program Description:

Hundreds of American Samoa young people undergo five- to eight-week jobs during each summer sponsored by the Department of Human Resources and jointly funded by the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), CSBG program, and ASG. It is targeted at youth from low-income families and connects eligible young people with worksites that match their interests and abilities and offer them an environment where they can get hands-on experience under the watchful eye of a skilled supervisor. Participants work for nonprofit organizations or government agencies, helping these young people understand the importance of punctuality, displaying initiative, developing relationships, completing tasks, having pride in productivity, and other traits critical to success and becoming meaningful, law-abiding, responsible contributing members of society. These young individuals learn valuable skills that will indubitably shape their future.

v. Program: Jr. Prep Sports Amerika Samoa

Program Description:

To provide sport activities, counseling, and education, and scholarship programs for low-income youth.

vi. Program: Foeoletini Christopher Ledoux Foundation

Program Description:

To provide awareness and education of the effects of methamphetamine. This non-profit was created to battle the drug pandemic in the territory by providing an outlet for youth. From resilience workshops, on the job training, and athletic programs, this Foundation has made ripples in the community.

vii. Program: American Youth Football of Samoa (AYFS)

Program Description:

To promote the wholesome development of youth through the AYFS with adult leaders in the sport of American Football. Rules and regulations are established to ensure that players play in an atmosphere of safety with a competitive balance between teams. According to its charter, AYFS is on a mission to give back to the community.

viii. Program: Evolve Sports Association

Program Description:

To provide a safe space and outlet for youth and adult athletes to engage in athletic sports; softball, flag football, and basketball. This program also co-sponsors with the private sector a few of the tournaments and is looking to expand into other sports.

ix. Program: American Samoa Legal Aid (ASLA)

Program Description:

Provides free legal services to low-income families and individuals. ASLA aims to empower our community to access equal justice through high quality civil legal services.

x. Program: Tautua

Program Description: Mental Health Awareness and Treatment Initiative: Establishing a mental health resource center in Am. Samoa. To address the mental health needs of our territory.

xi. Program: American Samoa Community College (ASCC Nursing) Program

Program Description:

To provide quality nursing education in preparing knowledgeable and caring professional nurses to meet the diverse health needs of our community, increasing the local pool of certified nurses.

c. Comparison of Planned and Actual Expenditures

FFY 2024 has been awarded and expended while FFY 2024 is currently in the liquidation period.

FFY2024 CSBG	Planned	Actual
Administrative	\$55,000	\$55,000
Discretionary	\$49,556.60	\$ 41,554.88
Programming	\$941,009.40	\$936,675.32
TOTAL	\$ 1,045,556.00	\$ 1,033,230.20

d. Profile of Estimated Participants Served during FFY 2024

Program	# Served	Client Characteristics
Hope House	775	Low-income disabled elderly and youth with special needs
Territorial Planning- Commerce	80	Low-income residents; public/private agencies
Oceania Community Development Network	200	STEAM students, teachers and from low income families
Junior Prep Sports Amerika Samoa	407	Youth from low income families
American Samoa Legal Aid (ASLA)	1676	Low-income residents; public/private agencies

Tautua	42	Assist with Mental Health Awareness & Treatment
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Important Note: The Department of Human and Social Services has the responsibility of preparing and submitting American Samoa's application for FFYs 2026 and 2027 Community Food and Nutrition Program funding. The Territorial Energy Office has the responsibility of preparing and submitting American Samoa's application for FFY 2026 and 2027 LIHEAP Assistance for Crisis Assistance. The CFN Application and LIHEAP Assistance, are therefore separate documents. Funding for each eligible entity or subgrantee is subject to the review of community needs assessments, action plans and/or grant application and the CSBG board's recommendation for funding followed by the approval of the DOC Director. Allocations entered for FY26-FY27 via OLDC are subject to change.

FFY 2024-2025
Highlighted Community Services Block Grant Eligible Entities

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program is committed to serving the community by advancing its national goals of promoting self-sufficiency, strengthening family stability, and supporting community revitalization. CSBG continues to collaborate with non-profit organizations and public agencies to provide essential services and programs that address poverty throughout the territory. For FY 2024, CSBG received \$1,045,556, which has been allocated among eleven Community Action Agencies. These agencies along with the programs and services they provide are listed below.

Jr Prep Sports Amerika Samoa (JPSAS) is a local non-profit youth sports organization that focuses on educational and sports development for youth in American Samoa ages 8 to 18. JPSAS is a "Student First" program that uses sports to prepare and develop the youth for success academically and athletically. Through its programs, JPSAS teaches the youth general life skills with emphasis on four key pillars: respect, discipline, character and good sportsmanship. Additionally, JPSAS stresses the importance of fitness and mental health, and believes that sports provides an avenue for the youth to express themselves, exercise freedom, escape from negative peer pressure, and relieve stress and anxiety. Since its establishment in 2016, JPSAS has served over 2,500 youth. Through its partnerships with the community, local high school coaches and education officials, JPSAS has assisted close to 200 student athletes in achieving their goals for higher education.



Foeoletini Christopher Ledoux Foundation named after Christopher James Foeoletini Ledoux who was a jack of many trades - a mechanic, electrician, plumber, painter, and carpenter. He was better known to his family and friends as "Foeoletini" (The Winning Oar translated in Samoan) a proud son of American Samoa. During the peak of covid in 2020, After losing Foeoletini to addiction, his family's grief inspired the start of the The Christopher James Foeoletini Ledoux Foundation in hopes of sparing another family from the same pain and tragedy.

The Foundation's vision and mission are to raise awareness about drug and alcohol use and abuse in American Samoa through collaboration, innovation, education, and advocacy. After survey and data collection in the villages, outreach results showed one of the leading causes of high depression in youth was the lack of sports and outdoor activities in the villages. Our first outreach program was the start of an athletics program, partnered with the American Samoa Little League to start baseball teams on the Eastern

side of the territory. CSBG was our first grant funding, and with this funding, after three years, we've served over 600 low-income families, providing athletics programs for youth from the ages of 4 to 16.

Stigma is real, and it hinders the chances of anyone getting recovery. Our goal is to end addiction stigma and educate the territory about the negative impacts of substance abuse in homes, villages, churches, and schools. Our work today includes grassroots outreach in villages and helping people take action to end the addiction crisis in their communities.



The Foundations services include:

- Routine screenings.
- Telehealth drug counseling for individuals and their families.
- One-and-one treatment plans.
- Recovery support.
- Village and school outreach projects.



American Youth Football Samoa is a local non-profit organization dedicated to supporting child development through the sport of football. Over the years, the program has successfully helped cultivate young athletes, many of whom have gone on to become standout football players.



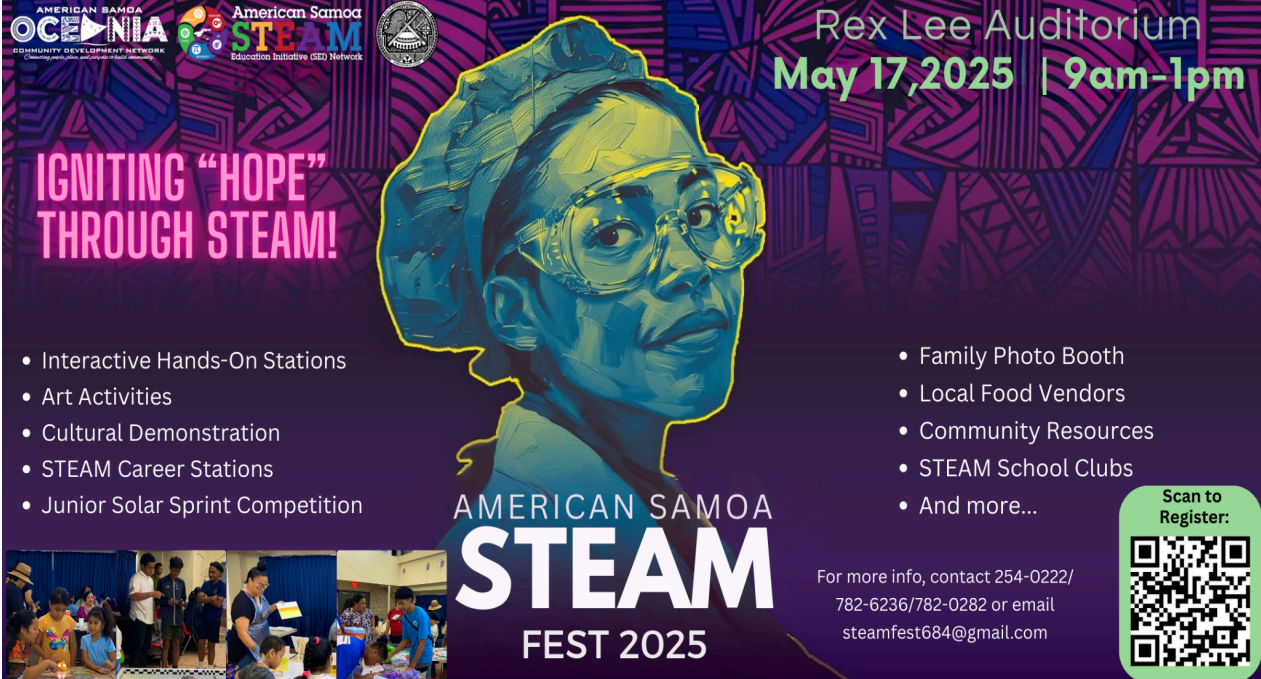
Each season, the program engages approximately 130 youth participants, organized by their respective village teams. Through structured practices, mentorship, and community involvement, the program promotes physical activity, teamwork, and healthy development for children across the island.

In addition to local programming, American Youth Football Samoa provides its athletes with national exposure by sending a team each year to compete in tournaments in California, Las Vegas, and Hawaii. This opportunity allows young athletes to broaden their experience, challenge their skills, and represent American Samoa on a larger stage.

Oceania Community Development Network is a culturally rooted nonprofit dedicated to supporting Pacific Islander communities through education, storytelling, digital access, and innovation. The program's

mission is to strengthen families and communities by building equitable access to learning, culture, and opportunity. Oceania serves over 400 families annually through digital literacy workshops, youth programs, cultural storytelling, and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) education.

OCDN supports initiatives that encourage creativity, collaboration and communication that help our students become lifelong learners, critical thinkers, global citizens, action takers and problem solvers.

A vibrant purple and blue poster for the American Samoa STEAM Fest 2025. At the top left are logos for American Samoa Oceania, American Samoa STEAM, and the American Samoa Government. The top right text reads 'Rex Lee Auditorium May 17, 2025 | 9am-1pm'. The center features a stylized portrait of a person wearing glasses. To the left of the portrait, the text 'IGNITING "HOPE" THROUGH STEAM!' is written in pink. Below this, a list of activities includes: Interactive Hands-On Stations, Art Activities, Cultural Demonstration, STEAM Career Stations, and Junior Solar Sprint Competition. To the right of the portrait, another list includes: Family Photo Booth, Local Food Vendors, Community Resources, STEAM School Clubs, and And more... At the bottom center, it says 'AMERICAN SAMOA STEAM FEST 2025'. On the bottom left, there are small photos of people at the event. On the bottom right, contact information is provided: 'For more info, contact 254-0222/ 782-6236/782-0282 or email steamfest684@gmail.com'. A QR code with the text 'Scan to Register:' is in the bottom right corner.

Diocese of Pago Hope House- Hope House, formerly known as Nazareth House, is the only facility on



island providing twenty-four-hour residential care for over 30 years. Hope House is a care home for the elderly, individuals with physical and mental disabilities as well as young children with severe disabilities.. The CSBG funding went towards medical, cleaning and utility expenses for the Hope House to assist in providing personal and medical care for 22 residents on a 24-hour basis and working with eight (13) elderly adults ages 80-95 who have mild to severe levels of Dementia.

American Samoa Legal Aid Inc.- The CSBG grant supports ASLA's mission to provide free civil legal services to low-income residents of American Samoa. ASLA opened 353 new cases while continuing work on 300 existing cases. All clients assisted were low-income residents of American Samoa. ASLA serves low-income individuals in American Samoa, including people residing in the Manu'a islands and Aunu'u. The CSBG funding was used to assist in covering for the ASLA rental expenses and their office supplies..

Department of Human Resources- WIOA- This program is dedicated to supporting job seekers by providing free access to employment, education, training, and supportive services for eligible participants. Our mission is to empower individuals to succeed in the Labor market and to foster connections between employers and skilled workers, thereby maintaining and enhancing our community's global competitiveness. During this reporting period, our primary focus was on preparing for the registration phase of the Summer Youth Employment Program. We conducted targeted outreach activities to schools, utilizing flyers and advertisements to raise awareness and encourage student participation. Emphasizing early registration adhering to a first-come, first-served approach maximizes opportunities for acceptance and placement.

Additionally, we collaborated with partners to coordinate training sessions for Summer Youth participants, providing guidance on program expectations and outlining how they can actively engage in the program. Our goal is to offer youth aged 14 to 24 not only a pay check but also valuable work experiences that promote skill development and career exploration. In summary, we aim to make this summer a meaningful and enriching experience for our youth, helping them develop essential skills, establish professional connections, and gain exposure in their areas of interest. Through continued collaboration, we are committed to diversifying learning opportunities, expanding access to resources, and empowering the next generation.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Summer Youth Employment Program Highlights: Participant Registration & Placement: Successfully registered 560 youth eager to gain work experience. Despite funding limitations, we placed 490 participants at worksites aligned with their interests, ensuring meaningful engagement.

Department of Commerce (DOC) CSBG Funding: A significant achievement was the assessment and approval of 126 youth under DOC CSBG funding. These participants were strategically placed in worksites matching their career goals, enhancing the relevance and impact of their experiences.

Program Impact: Our focused placement approach aims to increase engagement and success among participants, fostering a more impactful experience. Continued support from DOC/CSBG has been vital in expanding these opportunities.

Planning- The Planning Division works to create planning strategies, identify financing solutions, and implement projects that drive key industry development and growth. The funding received assisted in implementing some of their key initiatives/projects such as:

1. Capacity Building Initiative Prioritizing the advancement of professional development opportunities for the workforce within the Department of Commerce.
2. A partnership with the Department of Legal Affairs to fund a Workforce Development Law School Admission Test Tutoring Program that offers support to individuals planning to apply to law school by helping them prepare for the LSAT exam. This initiative aims to address the shortage of local attorneys in American Samoa.
3. Service Project- Providing assistance to non-profit organizations who offer services to the low-income community. Serving the mission and vision of the Community Services Block Grant.
4. Plans in support of economic development.

Tautua- Tautua is a non-profit organization committed to providing education, increasing awareness and ensuring access to quality treatment. Their goal is to ensure a sustained approach towards revitalizing the low-income community, empowering individuals and families, and addressing the needs of youth, implementing preventative measures regarding mental health. The grant continues to support their efforts to enhance mental health services and raise awareness within our community.



ASCC Nursing Program- This program aims to assist freshmen and sophomore ASCC Nursing students with competency in basic nursing skills, exam preparations, and increase the pass rate enabling more trained nurses to enter the local workforce. This program is the single largest source of nurses for employment at our local LBJ Tropical Medical Center. The awarded CSBG funding assists in acquiring the necessary tools and supplies needed, as well as cover the Nursing student NCLEX registration fee. With this assistance, 27 students were able to pass their NCLEX and achieved a professional certification as a registered nurse (RN), or practical nurse (PN).