

CSBG State Plan

Program Name: Community Services Block Grant

Grantee Name: MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Report Name: CSBG State Plan Revision # 1

Report Period: 10/01/2025 to 09/30/2026


Report Status: Submission Accepted by CO (Revision #1)

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CSBG Cover Page (SF-424M)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Administration for Children and Families Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)				Form Approved OMB No: 0970-0382 Expires: 08/31/2027	
COVER PAGE					
* 1.a. Type of Submission: <input type="radio"/> Application <input checked="" type="radio"/> Plan <input type="radio"/> Other (2 Year)		* 1.b. Frequency: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Annual <input type="radio"/> Other (2 Year)		* 1.c. Consolidated Application/Plan/Funding Request? Explanation:	
		* 1.d. Version: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Initial <input type="radio"/> Resubmission <input type="radio"/> Revision <input type="radio"/> Update		2. Date Received:	
		3. Applicant Identifier:		State Use Only:	
		4a. Federal Entity Identifier:		5. Date Received By State:	
		4b. Federal Award Identifier:		6. State Application Identifier:	
7. APPLICANT INFORMATION					
* a. Legal Name: MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES					
* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN): 1646000766A2				* c. Organizational UEI: KMWGGJN3EKF9	
* d. Address:					
* Street 1: P.O. BOX 352		Street 2:		* City: JACKSON	
* State: MS		County:		* Country: United States	
* Zip / Postal Code: 39205 -		Province:			
e. Organizational Unit:					
Department Name:				Division Name:	
f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:					
Prefix:		* First Name: Tennille		Middle Name:	
Suffix:		Title: Acting Director		* Last Name: Collins	
* Telephone Number: (601) 359-4768		Fax Number:		Organizational Affiliation:	
* Email: tennille.collins@mdhs.ms.gov					
* 8a. TYPE OF APPLICANT: A: State Government					
b. Additional Description:					
* 9. Name of Federal Agency: Administration for Children and Families, Office of Community Services					
10. CFDA Numbers and Titles		Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 93569		CFDA Title: Community Services Block Grant	
11. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project					
12. Areas Affected by Funding:					
13. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS OF:					
* a. Applicant 02				b. Program/Project:	
Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.					
14. FUNDING PERIOD:				15. ESTIMATED FUNDING:	
a. Start Date: 10/01/2025		b. End Date: 09/30/2026		* a. Federal (\$): \$0	
				b. Match (\$): \$0	
* 16. IS SUBMISSION SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY STATE UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 PROCESS?					
a. This submission was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372					
Process for Review on :					
b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by State for review.					

c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.	
* 17. Is The Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? <input type="radio"/> YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	
Explanation:	
18. By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications** and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001) **I Agree <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.	
18a. Typed or Printed Name and Title of Authorized Certifying Official Tennille Collins	18c. Telephone (area code, number and extension) 18d. Email Address tennille.collins@mdhs.ms.gov
18b. Signature of Authorized Certifying Official 	18e. Date Report Submitted (Month, Day, Year) 09/19/2025
Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.	

Section 1: CSBG Lead Agency, CSBG Authorized Official, CSBG Point of Contact, and Official State Designation Letter

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Administration for Children and Families Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)		Form Approved OMB No:0970-0382 Expires:08/31/2027	
SECTION 1 CSBG Lead Agency, CSBG Authorized Official, CSBG Point of Contact, and Official State Designation Letter			
1.1. Identify whether this is a One-Year or a Two-Year Plan		<input checked="" type="radio"/> one-year <input type="radio"/> two-year	
1.1a. Provide the federal fiscal years this plan covers:		Year One 2026	Year Two
1.2. Lead Agency and Authorized Official: Update the following information in relation to the lead agency and authorized official designated to administer CSBG in the state, as required by Section 676(a) of the CSBG Act.			
<i>Information should reflect the responses provided in the Application for Federal Assistance, SF-424M.</i>			
Has information regarding the state lead agency and authorized official changed since the last submission of the State Plan? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No			
If yes, select the fields that have been changed [Check all the apply]			
<input type="checkbox"/> Lead Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Department Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Department Name	
<input type="checkbox"/> Authorized Official	<input type="checkbox"/> Street Address	<input type="checkbox"/> City	
<input type="checkbox"/> Zip Code	<input type="checkbox"/> Office Number	<input type="checkbox"/> Fax Number	
<input type="checkbox"/> Email Address	<input type="checkbox"/> Website		
1.2a. Lead agency		Mississippi Department of Human Services	
1.2b. Cabinet or administrative department of this lead agency [Check one and provide a narrative where applicable]			
<input type="radio"/> Community Affairs Department			
<input type="radio"/> Community Services Department			
<input type="radio"/> Governors Office			
<input type="radio"/> Health Department			
<input type="radio"/> Housing Department			
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Human Services Department			
<input type="radio"/> Social Services Department			
<input type="radio"/> Other, describe			
1.2c. Cabinet or Administrative Department Name: Provide the name of the cabinet or administrative department of the CSBG authorized official		Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS)	
1.2d. Authorized Official of the Lead Agency			
Name: Robert G. Anderson		Title: Executive Director	
1.2e. Street Address		200 South Lamar Street	
1.2f. City	Jackson	1.2g. State MS	1.2h. Zip 39201
1.2i. Telephone number 601 359 - 4457 ext.		1.2j. Fax number 601 359 - 4477	
1.2k. Email address bob.anderson@mdhs.ms.gov		1.2l. Lead agency website www.mdhs.ms.gov	
1.3. Designation Letter: Attach the state's official CSBG designation letter. A new designation letter is required if the chief executive officer of the state and/or the designated agency has changed.			
1.4. CSBG Point of Contact: provide the following information in relation to the designated state CSBG point of contact. The state CSBG point of contact should be the person that will be the main point of contact for CSBG within the state.			
Has Information regarding to the state point of contact has changed since the last submission of the State Plan? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			

If yes, select the fields that have changed [check all the apply]					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Agency Name	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Point of Contact	<input type="checkbox"/>	Street Address
<input type="checkbox"/>	City	<input type="checkbox"/>	Zip Code	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Office Number
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fax Number	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Email Address	<input type="checkbox"/>	Website
1.4a. Agency Name MDHS-Division of Community Services					
1.4b Point of Contact Name					
Name: Tennille Collins			Title: Acting Division Director		
1.4c. Street Address			200 South Lamar Street		
1.4d. City			Jackson	1.4e. StateMS	1.4f. Zip 39201
1.4g. Telephone Number 601 359 - 4769 ext.			1.4h. Fax Number -		
1.4i. Email Address tennille.collins@mdhs.ms.gov			1.4j. Agency Website www.mdhs.ms.gov		
1.5. Provide the following information in relation to the State Community Action Association.					
There is currently a state Community Action Association within the state. <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No					
Has Information regarding the state Community Action Association has changed since the last submission of the State Plan? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No					
If yes, select the fields that have been changed [Check all the apply]					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Agency Name	<input type="checkbox"/>	Executive Director	<input type="checkbox"/>	Street Address
<input type="checkbox"/>	City	<input type="checkbox"/>	State	<input type="checkbox"/>	Zip Code
<input type="checkbox"/>	Office Number	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fax Number	<input type="checkbox"/>	Email Address
<input type="checkbox"/>	Website	<input type="checkbox"/>	RPIC Lead		
1.5a. Agency Name Mississippi Association of Community Action Agencies					
1.5b. Executive Director or Point of Contact					
Name: Diann Payne			Title: Interim Executive Director		
1.5c. Street Address			1538 Old Leland Rd.		
1.5d. City			Greenville	1.5e. StateMS	1.5f. Zip 38701
1.5g. Telephone number 228 243 - 1317 ext.			1.5h. Fax number -		
1.5i. Email Address diann.payne@msacaa.org			1.5j. State Association Website www.msacaa.com		
1.5k. State Association currently serves as the Regional Performance Innovation Consortia (RPIC) lead <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No					

Section 2: State Legislation and Regulation

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Administration for Children and Families
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

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SECTION 2 State Legislation and Regulation

2.1. CSBG State Legislation:

State has a statute authorizing CSBG ☐ Yes ☒ No

2.2. CSBG State Regulation:

State has regulations for CSBG ☐ Yes ☒ No

2.3. Legislation/Regulation Document: *Attach the legislation and/or regulations or provide a hyperlink(s) to the documents indicated under Item 2.1. and/or Item 2.2.*

2.4. State Authority:

Select a response for each of the following items about the state statute and/or regulations authorizing CSBG:

2.4a. Authorizing Legislation: State legislature enacts authorizing legislation or amendments to an existing authorizing statute, last federal fiscal year ☐ Yes ☒ No

2.4b. Regulation Amendments: State established or amended regulations for CSBG last federal fiscal year ☐ Yes ☒ No

Section 3: State Plan Development and Statewide Goals

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
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SECTION 3

State Plan Development and Statewide Goals

3.1. CSBG Lead Agency Mission and Responsibilities:

Briefly describe the mission and responsibilities of the state agency that serves as the CSBG Lead Agency.

CSBG is administered by the Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS)- Division of Community Services. MDHS is a primary link between families and individuals with specific needs vital to their survival and the services available to meet those needs. The Mississippi Department of Human Services is dedicated to serving others while providing a wide range of public assistance programs, social services and support for children, low-income individuals and families. The agency seeks to empower families so they can become self-sufficient and responsible for their future success through: Professional, accountable, and responsible administration of CSBG; Development of effective partnerships with CSBG entities, MDHS-DCS, the state association and other State and Federal programs serving low-income individuals.

3.2. State Plan Goals:

Describe the state's CSBG-specific goals for state administration of CSBG under this State Plan.

(Note: This information is associated with State Accountability Measure 1Sa(i) and pre-populates the State's Annual Report, Module 1, Item B.1.)

The state is dedicated to collaborating with the network and the state association to combat and eradicate poverty in Mississippi. As the State Administrator, our objectives under this plan include: Goal 1 Ensuring that all communities in Mississippi have access to CSBG program funds and services through the network of CSBG eligible entities. Goal 2: Emphasizing comprehensive training for the state and subgrantees in various areas, in alignment with the T&TA plan through RPIC to include key training courses like Leadership Development, Board Governance, and IT Front Desk Software Training. For additional details, please refer to the attached RPIC Training and Technical Assistance Work Plan. Goal 3: Continue to advance continuity and design of Virtual ROMA 2, the state client tracking database. Goal 4: Awarding and allocating CSBG funding to subrecipients annually, in accordance with the States authorized budget authority for each fiscal year.

3.3. State Plan Development:

Indicate the information and input the state accessed to develop this State Plan.

3.3a. Analysis of state-level tools *[Check all that apply applies and provide additional information where applicable]*



State Performance Indicators and/or National Performance Indicators (NPIs)



U.S. Census data



State Performance Management Data (e.g., accountability measures, ACSI survey information, and/or other information from annual reports)



Monitoring Visits/Assessments



Tools Not Identified Above (specify)

3.3b. Analysis of local-level tools *[Check all that applies and provide additional information where applicable]*



Eligible Entity Community Needs Assessments



Eligible Entity Community Action Plans



Public Hearings/Workshops



Tools Not Identified Above (e.g., State required reports)[specify]

3.3c. Consultation with *[Check all that applies applies and provide additional information where applicable]*



Eligible Entities (e.g., meetings, conferences, webinars; not including the public hearing)



State Association



National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSPP)



Community Action Partnership (NCAP)



Community Action Program Legal Services (CAPLAW)



CSBG Tribal Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) provider



Regional Performance Innovation Consortium (RPIC)



Association for Nationally Certified ROMA Trainers (ANCRT)



Federal CSBG Office



Organizations not identified above [Specify]

3.4. Eligible Entity Involvement			
3.4a. State Plan Development Describe the specific steps the State took in developing the State Plan to involve the eligible entities.			
<i>(Note: This information is associated with State Accountability Measures 1Sa(ii) and may pre-populate the State's annual report form)</i>			
<p>The plan was made available on both the MDHS website and the Virtual ROMA platform on June 20, 2025, to allow all eligible entity staff the opportunity to review and provide feedback. The Virtual ROMA site, which is used daily by the entities, served as a key access point. Additionally, on June 20, 2025, an email was sent to notify entities about the public hearing and that the state plan had been added to the MDHS and Virtual ROMA websites. During the public hearing the State Plan was formally presented for input and comments. Public comments were accepted through July 29, 2025.</p>			
3.4b. Performance Management Adjustment: Describe how the state adjusted its State Plan development procedures under this State Plan, as compared to previous State Plans, in order to:			
1) encourage eligible entity participation and 2) ensure the State Plan reflects input from eligible entities?			
<p>Any adjustment should be based on the State's analysis of past performance in these areas, and should consider feedback from eligible entities, OCS, and other sources, such as the public hearing. If the State is not making any adjustments, provide further detail.</p>			
<i>(Note: This information is associated with State Accountability Measures 1Sb(i) and (ii) and pre-populate the Annual Report, Module 1, Item B.1.)</i>			
<p>Previously, the State Plan was only emailed to Executive Directors for comment. The current process allows for electronic distribution to all entities, enhancing the efficiency of feedback by enabling input from staff at all levels including case workers, receptionists, and others. Despite this broader access, no feedback was received on this years State Plan. Instead, entities expressed questions regarding the future direction of the CSBG program.</p>			
3.5. Eligible Entity Overall Satisfaction:			
Provide the State's target for eligible entity Overall Satisfaction during the performance period:			
Year One	75	Year Two	0
<p>Instructional Note: The state's target score will indicate improvement or maintenance of the state's Overall Satisfaction score from the most recent American Customer Survey Index (ACSI) survey of the state's eligible entities.</p> <p><i>(Note: Item 3.5 is associated with State Accountability Measure 8S and may pre-populate the State's annual report form)</i></p>			

Section 4: CSBG Hearing Requirements

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SECTION 4 CSBG Hearing Requirements

4.1. Public Inspection:

Describe the steps taken by the state to disseminate this State Plan to the public for review and comments prior to the public hearing, as required under Section 676(e)(2) of the Act.

The proposed State Plan was uploaded and posted on the MDHS and Virtual ROMA websites from 6/20/2025-7/20/2025 for review and comments. There were no written comments and feedback from the public and eligible entities submitted during this period. The notice of the public hearing appeared statewide in the Clarion Ledger newspaper, and eleven other newspapers on June 18, 2025, and July 8, 2025. The availability of the FFY 2026 CSBG State Plan for inspection was made known in the Public Hearing announcement posted in the newspapers. The state plan was made available for public inspection by calling the MDHS-DCS, as stated in the public hearing announcement. Additional opportunities for comments were available during the public hearing.

4.2. Public Notice/Hearing:

Describe how the state ensured there was sufficient time and statewide distribution of notice of the public hearing(s) to allow the public to comment on the State Plan, as required under Section 676(a)(2)(B) of the CSBG Act.

To adhere to the thirty (30) days notice of the public hearing, notice of the hearing was published in the Clarion Ledger, which has statewide circulation, as well as in eleven additional newspapers on June 18 and July 8, 2025. An email notification was also sent to eligible entities on June 20, 2025. The public hearing was held on July 22, 2025, and public comments were accepted through July 29, 2025.

4.3. Public and Legislative Hearings:

In the table below, specify the date(s) and location(s) of the public and legislative hearing(s) held by the designated lead agency for this State Plan, as required under Section 676(a)(2)(B) and Section 676(a)(3) of the Act.

	Date	Location	Type of Hearing [Select an option]	If a combined hearing was held, confirm that the public was invited
1	07/22/2025	Mississippi Department of Human Services, 200 South Lamar St., Jackson, MS 39201, Training Room 811	Combined	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

NOTE : States can add rows as needed for each hearing as needed

4.4. Attach supporting documentation or a hyperlink for the public and legislative hearings.

See Public Hearing Notice Attachment

Section 5: CSBG Eligible Entities

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SECTION 5 CSBG Eligible Entities

5.1. CSBG Eligible Entities:

In the table below, indicate whether each eligible entity in the state, is public or private, the type(s) of entity, and the geographical area served by the entity.

Note: Table 5.1 pre-populates the Annual Report, Module 1, Table C.1.

Types of Entities include Community Action Agency, Limited Purpose Agency, Local Government Agency, Migrant or Seasonal Farmworker Organization, Tribe or Tribal Organization, and Other

#	CSBG Eligible Entity	Geographical Area Served by county (Provide all counties)	Public or Nonprofit	Type of Entity [choose all that apply]
1	AJFC Community Action Agency, Inc.	Adams County, Claiborne County, Copiah County, Franklin County, Jefferson County, Lawrence County, Lincoln County	Non-Profit	Community Action Agency
2	Bolivar Community Action Agency	Bolivar County	Non-Profit	Community Action Agency
3	Central Mississippi, Inc.	Attala County, Carroll County, Grenada County, Holmes County, Leflore County, Montgomery County, Yalabusha County	Non-Profit	Community Action Agency
4	Coahoma Opportunities, Inc.	Coahoma County	Non-Profit	Community Action Agency
5	Hinds County Human Resource Agency	Hinds County	Public	Community Action Agency
6	Community Action of South Mississippi	George County, Harrison County, Jackson County	Non-Profit	Community Action Agency
7	Lift, Inc.	Calhoun County, Chickasaw County, Itawamba County, Lafayette County, Lee County, Monroe County, Pontotoc County, Union County	Non-Profit	Community Action Agency
8	Mid-State Opportunity Inc.	Desoto County, Panola County, Quitman County, Tallahatchie County, Tate County, Tunica County	Non-Profit	Community Action Agency
9	Multi-County Community Service Agency	Clarke County, Jasper County, Kemper County, Lauderdale County, Neshoba County, Newton County, Scott County, Smith County, Wayne County	Non-Profit	Community Action Agency
10	Northeast MS Community Services	Alcorn County, Marshall County, Prentiss County, Tishomingo County, Benton County, Tippah County	Non-Profit	Community Action Agency
11	Pearl River Valley Opportunity Inc.	Covington County, Forrest County, Jefferson Davis County, Jones County, Lamar County, Marion County, Pearl River County, Perry County, Greene County, Hancock County, Stone County	Non-Profit	Community Action Agency
12	Prairie Opportunity, Inc.	Choctaw County, Webster County, Clay County, Leake County, Lowndes County, Noxubee County, Oktibbeha County, Winston County	Non-Profit	Community Action Agency
13	South Central Community Action Agency Inc.	Madison County, Rankin County, Simpson County	Non-Profit	Community Action Agency
14	Southwest Mississippi Opportunity Inc.	Amite County, Pike County, Walthall County, Wilkinson County	Non-Profit	Community Action Agency
15	Sunflower-Humphreys County Progress Inc.	Humphreys County, Sunflower County	Non-Profit	Community Action Agency
16	Warren Washington Issaquena Sharkey Community Action Agency Inc.	Issaquena County, Sharkey County, Warren County, Washington County, Yazoo County	Non-Profit	Community Action Agency

5.2. Total number of CSBG eligible entities 16

5.3. Changes to Eligible Entities List:

Within the tables below, describe any changes that have occurred to the Eligible Entities within the state since the last federal fiscal Year (FFY), as applicable.

One or more of the following changes were made to the eligible entity list: [Check all that apply].

- ☐ Designation and/or Re-Designation
- ☐ De-Designations and/or Voluntary Relinquishments
- ☐ Mergers
- ☒ No Changes to Eligible Entities List

5.3a. Designation and Re-Designation: Identify any new entities that have been designated as eligible entities, as defined under Section 676A of the Act, since the last federal fiscal year. Include any eligible entities designated to serve an area previously not served by CSBG as well as any entities designated to replace another eligible entity that was terminated (de-designated) or that voluntarily relinquished its status as a CSBG eligible entity.

CSBG Eligible Entity	Type	Start Date	Geographical Area Served	Delete

5.3b. Designation and Voluntary Relinquishments: Identify any entities that are no longer receiving CSBG funding. Include any eligible entities that have been terminated (de-designated) as defined under Section 676(c) and Section 676C of the Act, or voluntarily relinquished their CSBG eligible entity status since the last Federal Fiscal Year (FFY). Include any eligible entities designated to serve an area previously not served by CSBG as well as any entities designated to replace another eligible entity that was terminated (de-designated)

CSBG Eligible Entity	Reason	Delete

5.3c. Mergers: In the table below, provide information about any mergers or other combinations of two or more eligible entities that were individually listed in the prior State Plan.

Original CSBG Eligible Entities	Surviving CSBG Eligible Entity	New Name (as applicable)	DUNS No.	Delete

Section 6: Organizational Standards for Eligible Entities

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Administration for Children and Families Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)	Form Approved OMB No: 0970-0382 Expires: 08/31/2027
SECTION 6 Organizational Standards for Eligible Entities	
Note: Reference IM 138, <i>State Establishment of Organizational Standards for CSBG Eligible Entities</i> , for more information on Organizational Standards. Click HERE for IM 138.	
6.1. Choice of Standards: Confirm whether the state will implement the CSBG Organizational Standards Center of Excellence (COE) organizational standards (as described in IM 138) or an alternative set during the federal fiscal year(s) of this planning period <input type="radio"/> COE CSBG Organizational Standards <input checked="" type="radio"/> Modified version of COE CSBG Organizational Standards <input type="radio"/> Alternative set of Organizational Standards	
6.1a. Modified Organizational Standards: In the case that the state is requesting to use modified COE-developed organizational standards, provide the proposed modification for the FFY of this planning period including the rationale. The State will use a modified version of the COE-developed organizational standards to comply with state policies already in place. Mississippi uses a Community Strengths and Needs Assessment instead of the term community assessment. The modified COE-developed organizational standards are: Standard 3.1- The organization will conduct a community needs assessment yearly. Standard 5.5- The board fills vacancies as set out in its bylaws and state board policy. Standard 9.4- The organization submits the Annual report to MDHS-DCS. Please see Organizational Standards for Non-Profit Agencies Guide.	
6.1b. Alternative Organizational Standards: If using an alternative set of organizational standards, attach the complete list of alternative organizational standards.	
6.1c. Alternative Organizational Standards Changes: If using an alternative set of organizational standards: 1) provide any changes from the last set provided during the previous State Plan submission; 2) describe the reasons for using alternative standards; and 3) describe how they are at least as rigorous as the COE- developed standards <input checked="" type="radio"/> There were no changes from the previous State Plan submission	
Provide reason for using alternative standards	
Describe rigor compared to COE-developed Standards	
6.2. Implementation: Check the box that best describes how the state officially adopt(ed) organizational standards for eligible entities in the state in a manner consistent with the state's administrative procedures act. If "Other" is selected, provide a timeline and additional information, as necessary. <i>[Check all that apply and narrative where applicable]</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Regulation	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contracts with eligible entities	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other, describe:	
6.3. Organizational Standards Assessment: Describe how the state assess eligible entities against organizational standards this federal fiscal year(s). <i>[Check all that apply.]</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Peer-to-peer review (<i>with validation by the State or state-authorized third party</i>)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Self-assessment (<i>with validation by the State or state-authorized third party</i>)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Self-assessment/peer review with state risk analysis	
<input type="checkbox"/> State-authorized third party validation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular, on-site CSBG monitoring	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Web Form	
6.3a. Assessment Process: Describe the planned assessment process. The State implemented a web based Smartsheet application. Standards were input into Smartsheet. Eligible entities are required to attach documents to verify standards are met. A review of the Smartsheet is conducted by the State. A letter is sent by the State to entity listing the standards not met, and a date given for the entity to respond with documentation to meet standards. If the entity has not met standards after second review, additional T&TA will be provided. A TAP will be issued after 90 days, if entity has not met standards following T&TA.	
6.4. Eligible Entity Exemptions: Will the state make exceptions in applying the organizational standards for certain eligible entities due to special circumstances or organizational characteristics (as described in IM 138)? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
6.4a. Provide the specific eligible entities the state will exempt from meeting organizational standards, and provide a description and a justification for each exemption	

Total Number of Exempt Entities: 0			
CSBG Eligible Entity		Description / Justification	Delete
6.5. Performance Target: Provide the percentage of eligible entities that the state expects to meet all the state-adopted organizational standards for FFY(S) for this planning period			
Year One	95%	Year Two	0%
<i>Note: Item 6.5 is associated with State Accountability Measures 6Sa and prepopulate the Annual report, Module 1, Table D.2.</i>			

Section 7: State Use of Funds

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
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SECTION 7 State Use of Funds

Eligible Entity Allocation (90 Percent Funds) [Section 675C(a) of the CSBG Act]

7.1. Formula:

Select the method (formula) that best describes the current practice for allocating CSBG funds to eligible entities.

- ☐ Historic
- ☐ Base + Formula
- ☒ Formula Alone
- ☐ Formula with Variables
- ☐ Hold Harmless + Formula
- ☐ Other

7.1a. Formula Description: Describe the current practice for allocating CSBG funds to eligible entities.

The State allocates CSBG funds by the following formula: Using the latest Census data, the number of persons in poverty by county is divided by the state total of persons in poverty to get a percentage for each county. The percentage is multiplied by the 90 percent of the total state allocation to determine the amount of funds for each county. Each eligible entity receives the amount of funds for the counties it serves.

7.1b. Statute: Does a state statutory or regulatory authority specify the formula for allocating "not less than 90 percent" funds among eligible entities? ☐ Yes ☒ No

7.2. Planned Allocation:

Specify the percentage of your CSBG planned allocation that will be funded to eligible entities and "not less than of 90 percent funds" as described under Section 675C(a) of the CSBG Act.

In the table, provide the planned allocation for each eligible entity receiving funds for the fiscal year(s) covered by this plan.

Note: This information pre-populates the state's Annual Report, Module 1, Table E.2.

Year One	90.00%	Year Two	0.00%
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Planned CSBG 90 Percent Funds

CSBG Eligible Entity	Year One Funding Amount \$	Delete
AJFC Community Action Agency, Inc.	\$582,937	
Bolivar Community Action Agency	\$164,672	
Central Mississippi, Inc.	\$530,242	
Coahoma Opportunities, Inc.	\$169,063	
Hinds County Human Resource Agency	\$1,176,852	
Community Action of South Mississippi	\$1,162,910	
Lift, Inc.	\$892,520	
Mid-State Opportunity Inc.	\$748,706	
Multi-County Community Service Agency	\$915,574	
Northeast MS Community Services	\$522,558	
Pearl River Valley Opportunity Inc.	\$1,489,728	
Prairie Opportunity, Inc.	\$774,725	
South Central Community Action Agency Inc.	\$690,522	
Southwest Mississippi Opportunity Inc.	\$369,962	
Sunflower-Humphreys County Progress Inc.	\$199,801	
Warren Washington Issaquena Sharkey Community Action Agency Inc.	\$587,328	
Total	\$10,978,100	

CSBG Eligible Entity Year Two

CSBG Eligible Entity	Year Two Funding Amount \$	Delete
AJFC Community Action Agency, Inc.	\$0	
Bolivar Community Action Agency	\$0	
Central Mississippi, Inc.	\$0	

Coahoma Opportunities, Inc.		\$0
Hinds County Human Resource Agency		\$0
Community Action of South Mississippi		\$0
Lift, Inc.		\$0
Mid-State Opportunity Inc.		\$0
Multi-County Community Service Agency		\$0
Northeast MS Community Services		\$0
Pearl River Valley Opportunity Inc.		\$0
Prairie Opportunity, Inc.		\$0
South Central Community Action Agency Inc.		\$0
Southwest Mississippi Opportunity Inc.		\$0
Sunflower-Humphreys County Progress Inc.		\$0
Warren Washington Issaquena Sharkey Community Action Agency Inc.		\$0
Total		\$0

7.3. Distribution Process:
Describe the specific steps in the state's process for distributing 90 percent funds to the eligible entities and include the number of days each step is expected to take; include information about state legislative approval or other types of administrative approval (such as approval by a board or commission).

The Division of Community Services sends NOFAs to the eligible entities, usually the first week of July. The eligible entities submit subgrants to DCS within 60 days after the date of the NOFA. The fiscal and program staff review the subgrants for errors/additional information. After the reviews, the subgrants are routed through the Administrative Review Memorandum process to the Division Counsel and Division Director for their review and signature approval. The subgrants are then submitted to the Executive Directors Office (EDO) for final approval. The EDO requires all subgrants be submitted 30 days prior to the effective dates. Immediately after EDO approval, DCS staff packages and distributes the subgrants to eligible entities. The program year is from January through December. Entities have current year funds until the start of the new program year.

7.3a Distribution Method: Select the option below that best describes the distribution method the state uses to issue CSBG funds to eligible entities:

☐ Reimbursement

☒ Advance

☐ Hybrid

☐ Other

7.4. Distribution Timeframe:
Does the state plan to make funds available to eligible entities no later than 30 calendar days after OCS distributes the federal award? ☐ Yes
☒ No

7.4a. Distribution Consistency: If no, describe state procedures to ensure funds are made available to eligible entities consistently and without interruption.

Note: Item 7.4 is associated with State Accountability Measure 2Sa and may prepopulate the state's annual report form.

The Division of Community Services sends NOFAs to the eligible entities. The eligible entities submit subgrants to DCS within 60 days after the date of the NOFA. The fiscal and program staff review the subgrants for errors/additional information. After the reviews, the subgrants are routed through the Administrative Review Memorandum process to the Division Counsel and Division Director for their review and signature approval. The subgrants are then submitted to the Executive Directors Office (EDO) for final approval. The EDO requires all subgrants be submitted 30 days prior to the effective dates. Immediately after EDO approval, DCS staff packages and distributes the subgrants to eligible entities. Subgrantees are now able to request funds to operate their programs. The subgrants have an effective date of January 1- December 31 of each year, so funds from prior year are available.

7.5. Distribution of Funds Performance Management Adjustment:
Describe the state's strategy for improving grant and/or contract administration procedures under this State Plan as compared to past plans. Any improvements should be based on analysis of past performance, and should consider feedback from eligible entities, OCS, and other sources, such as the public hearing. If the state is not making any improvements, provide further detail.

Note: This information is associated with State Accountability Measure 2Sb and may prepopulate the state's annual report form.

The state continues to upgrade Virtual ROMA system which captures intake, determines client eligibility, and provides information on client progress. Eligible entities will be trained on new system functions. The state is revising the drawdown and cost reporting process to allow for better administration of funds.

Administrative Funds [Section 675C(b)(2) of the CSBG Act]

Note: This information pre-populates the state's Annual Report, Module 1, Table E.4.

7.6. Allocated Funds: Specify the percentage of your CSBG planned allocation for administrative activities for the FFY(s) covered by this State plan.

Year One (0.00%)	5.00	Year Two (0.00%)	
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7.7. State Staff: Provide the number of state staff positions to be funded in whole or in part with CSBG funds for the FFY(s) covered by this State Plan

Year One	4.00	Year Two	
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7.8. State FTEs: Provide the number of state Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) to be funded with CSBG funds for the FFY(s) covered by this State Plan

Year One	4.00	Year Two	
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7.9. Remainder/Discretionary Funds Use: Does the state have remainder/discretionary funds, as described in Section 675C(b)(1) of the CSBG Act? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, provide the allocated percentage and describe the use of the remainder/discretionary funds in the table below.

Year One (0.00%)	5.00%	Year Two (0.00%)	0.00%
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Use of Remainder/Discretionary Funds(See Section 675C(b)(1) of the CSBG Act)

Note: This response will link to the corresponding assurance, Item 14.2.

If a funded activity fits under more than one category in the table, allocate the funds among the categories. For example, if the state provides funds under a contract with the State Community Action association to provide training and technical assistance to eligible entities and to create a statewide data system, the funds for that contract should be allocated appropriately between Items 7.9a. - 7.9c. If allocation is not possible, the state may allocate the funds to the main category with which the activity is associated.

Note: This information is associated with State Accountability Measures 3Sa and pre-populates the annual report Module 1, Table E.7.

Remainder/Discretionary Fund Uses	Year One Planned \$	Brief description of services/activities and/or activities
7.9a. Training/technical assistance to eligible entities	\$100,000.00	These planned services/activities will be described in State Plan Item 8.1.
7.9b. Coordination of state-operated programs and/or local programs	\$30,000.00	These planned services/activities will be described in State Plan Section 9, state Linkages and Communication.
7.9c. Statewide coordination and communication among eligible entities	\$250,000.00	These planned services/activities will be described in State Plan Section 9, state Linkages and Communication.
7.9d. Analysis of distribution of CSBG funds to determine if targeting greatest need	\$0.00	
7.9e. Asset-building programs	\$0.00	
7.9f. Innovative programs/activities by eligible entities or other neighborhood groups	\$145,000.00	Funds will be used for innovative projects/activities to include senior and youth projects.
7.9g. State charity tax credits	\$0.00	
7.9h. Other activities, specify in column 3	\$84,894.00	Funds will be used to serve additional clients.
Total	\$609,894.00	

Remainder/Discretionary Fund Uses	Year Two Planned \$	Brief description of services/activities
7.9a. Training/technical assistance to eligible entities	\$0.00	These planned services/activities will be described in State Plan Item 8.1.
7.9b. Coordination of state-operated programs and/or local programs	\$0.00	These planned services/activities will be described in State Plan Section 9, state Linkages and Communication.
7.9c. Statewide coordination and communication among eligible entities	\$0.00	These planned services/activities will be described in State Plan Section 9, state Linkages and Communication.
7.9d. Analysis of distribution of CSBG funds to determine if targeting greatest need	\$0.00	
7.9e. Asset-building programs	0	
7.9f. Innovative programs/activities by eligible entities or other neighborhood groups	\$0.00	
7.9g. State charity tax credits	\$0.00	
7.9h. Other activities, specify in column 3	\$0.00	
Total	\$0.00	

7.10. Remainder/Discretionary Funds Partnerships: Select the types of organizations, if any, the State Plans to work with (by grant or contract using remainder/discretionary funds) to carry out some or all of the activities in table 7.9.
[Check all that apply and narrative where applicable]

☐ The state directly carries out all activities (No Partnerships)

☒ The state partially carries out some activities

☒ CSBG eligible entities (if checked, include the expected number of CSBG eligible entities to receive funds) 16

☐ Other community-based organizations

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State Community Action association
<input type="checkbox"/>	Regional CSBG technical assistance provider(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National technical assistance provider(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Individual consultant(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tribes and Tribal Organizations
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other
<p>Note: <i>This response will link to the corresponding CSBG assurance, item 14.2.</i></p>	
<p>7.11. Use of Remainder/Discretionary Funds Performance Management Adjustment: Describe any adjustments the state will make to the use of remainder/discretionary funds under this State Plan as compared to past plans. Any adjustment should be based on the state's analysis of past performance, and should consider feedback from eligible entities, OCS, and other sources, such as the public hearing. If the state is not making any adjustments, provide further detail.</p>	
<p>Note: <i>This information is associated with State Accountability Measures 3Sb, and may pre-populate the State's annual report form.</i></p>	
<p>The State will partner with the State Association to provide technology training and regional workshops/trainings for our licensed social workers and training on Organizational Standards and Needs Assessment. The State will also assess eligible entities and provide T&TA through individual consultants in areas such as finance, marketing, fund-raising, etc.</p>	

Section 8: State Training and Technical Assistance

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Administration for Children and Families
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

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SECTION 8 State Training and Technical Assistance

8.1. Training and Technical Assistance Plan: Describe the State's plan for delivering CSBG-funded training and technical assistance to eligible entities under this State Plan by completing the table below. The T/TA plan should include all planned CSBG T/TA activities funded through the administrative or remainder/discretionary funds of this CSBG award (as reported in Section 7). The CSBG T/TA plan should include training and technical assistance conducted directly by the state or through partnerships (as specified in 8.3). Add a row for each activity; indicate the timeframe; whether it is training, technical assistance, or both; and the topic.

Note: This information is associated with State Accountability Measure 3Scand pre-populates the Annual Report, Module 1, Table F.1.

Training and Technical Assistance - Year One

	Planned Timeframe	Training, Technical Assistance, or Both	Topic	Brief Description of "Other"
1	Ongoing / Multiple Quarters	Technical Assistance	Organizational Standards - General	
2	Ongoing / Multiple Quarters	Both	Reporting	
3	Ongoing / Multiple Quarters	Training	Other	CSBG/LIHEAP Policy Manual Training
4	Ongoing / Multiple Quarters	Both	Technology	

Training and Technical Assistance - Year Two

	Planned Timeframe	Training, Technical Assistance, or Both	Topic	Brief Description of "Other"
1				

8.1a. Training and Technical Assistance Budget: The planned budget for the training and technical assistance plan (*as indicated in the Remainder/Discretionary Funds table in item 7.9*):

Year One	\$100,000	Year Two	\$0
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8.1b. Training and Technical Assistance Collaboration: Describe how the state will collaborate with the state association and other stakeholders in the planning and delivery of training and technical assistance.

The state association solicited input from eligible entities through a survey to identify training needs. The results will inform the planning and delivery of future Training and Technical Assistance (T&TA) efforts. In collaboration with the state association, the State coordinates an annual training conference for eligible entities, featuring sessions led by regional T&TA providers, OCS, NASCSP, and independent consultants. Additionally, the state association supports T&TA efforts by offering training for front-line staff. The State Office will also provide targeted training to agencies that do not meet specific requirements identified through monitoring or other assessment methods. Furthermore, DCS will work with the state association to develop and maintain the RPIC Training Report.

8.2. Organizational Standards Technical Assistance: Does the state have Technical Assistance Plans (TAPs) in place for all eligible entities with unmet organizational standards, if appropriate? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Note: 8.2 is associated with State Accountability Measure 6Sb. The state should put a TAP in place to support eligible entities with one or more unmet organizational standards.

8.2a. Address Unmet Organizational Standards: Describe the state's plan to provide T/TA to eligible entities to ensure they address unmet Organizational Standards. T&TA will be provided by the State and the State Association to assist entities in correcting deficiencies before a TAP is issued. The State will develop a TAP for entities experiencing challenges in meeting the organizational standards and require a response within 30 days of the date of the TAP.

8.3. Training and Technical Assistance Organizations: Indicate the types of organizations through which the State Plans to provide training and/or technical assistance as described in item 8.1, and briefly describe their involvement. *[Check all that apply.]*

- ☐ All T/TA is conducted by the state
- ☒ CSBG eligible entities (*if checked, provide the expected number of CSBG eligible entities to receive funds*) 1
- ☐ Other community-based organizations
- ☒ State Community Action association
- ☐ Regional CSBG technical assistance provider(s)
- ☒ National technical assistance provider(s)
- ☒ Individual consultant(s)
- ☐ Tribes and Tribal Organizations
- ☐ Other

8.4. CSBG-Funded T/TA Performance Management Adjustment: Describe adjustments the state made to the training and technical assistance

plan under this State Plan as compared to past plans. Any adjustment should be based on the state's analysis of past performance, and should consider feedback from eligible entities, OCS, and other sources, such as the public hearing. If the state is not making any adjustments, provide further detail.

Note: This information is associated with State Accountability Measures 3Sd may pre-populate the state's annual report form

Each year, the state association gathers feedback from eligible entities to identify training needs. The results of this survey guide the planning and delivery of Training and Technical Assistance (T&TA). Core elements of the training plan that have been consistently valued by the Community Action Agency (CAA) networks such as the Program and Fiscal Directors Committee will continue. The annual conference will expand T&TA opportunities, with a stronger focus on front-line staff development. In the coming year, DCS plans to increase training efforts in areas such as policy, case management, and the use of Virtual ROMA. These trainings will emphasize how accurate reporting can enhance service delivery, attract additional funding, and ultimately help reduce the causes and conditions of poverty.

Section 9: State Linkages and Communication

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SECTION 9 State Linkages and Communication

Note: This section describes activities that the state may support with CSBG remainder/discretionary funds, described under Section 675C(b)(1) of the CSBG Act. The state may indicate planned use of remainder/discretionary funds for linkage/communication activities in Section 7, State Use of Funds, items 7.9(b) and (c).

9.1. State Linkages and Coordination at the State Level:

Describe the linkages and coordination at the state level that the state intends to create or maintain to ensure increased access to CSBG services to low-income people and communities under this State Plan and avoid duplication of services (as required by the assurance under Section 676(b)(5)).

Describe additional information as needed.

Note: This response will link to the corresponding CSBG assurance, item 14.5. In addition, this item is associated with State Accountability Measure 7Sa andand pre-populates the Annual Report, Module 1, Item G.1.

- ☒ State Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) office
- ☒ State Weatherization office
- ☒ State Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) office
- ☐ Head Start State Collaboration offices
- ☐ State public health office
- ☐ State education department
- ☒ State Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) agency
- ☒ State budget office
- ☒ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- ☐ State child welfare office
- ☐ State housing office
- ☒ Other

The State has established working relationships with Dept. of Medicaid, Rehabilitation Services, Workforce Development, and internal department programs such as SNAP, Aging Programs, Youth Services, Child Support, TANF, etc. to address needs of the family. IRS, Energy Vendors, United Way, Salvation Army, Public Service Commission are other partnerships that the State maintains. Additionally, we meet with them periodically regarding programs and program changes. We invite partners to our annual conference. We conduct Energy Vendor meetings as needed.

9.2. State Linkages and Coordination at the Local Level:

Describe how the state is encouraging partnerships and collaborations at the state level with public and private sector organizations, to assure the effective delivery and coordination of CSBG services to transform low-income communities and avoid duplication of services (as required by assurances under Sections 676(b)(5) - (6))

Note: This response will link to the corresponding CSBG assurances, items 14.5 and 14.6., and pre-populates the Annual Report, Module 1, Item G.2.

DCS requires eligible entities to coordinate funding and services at the local level. Each entitys Community Action Plan must outline its coordination efforts with low-income individuals, community-based organizations, faith-based groups, and partners across the private, public, and educational sectors. The plan must also include information on the availability or lack of sufficient resources in the community. This approach ensures that eligible entities are actively collaborating with other service providers to prevent duplication of services and to identify and address service gaps. All CSBG-funded entities in the state administer LIHEAP and Weatherization (WX) programs. Additionally, some entities also manage programs such as the Emergency Solutions Grant, Rapid Re-Housing, Head Start, Early Head Start, and transportation services. To comprehensively meet family needs and assess the impact of their services, entities are expected to follow up with families to confirm that referrals resulted in service delivery. As part of the grant application process, entities are required to submit documentation demonstrating active partnerships and linkages before funding is approved.

9.3. Eligible Entity Linkages and Coordination

9.3a. State Assurance of Eligible Entity Linkages and Coordination: Describe how the state will assure that eligible entities will partner and collaborate with public and private sector organizations to assure the effective delivery and coordination of CSBG services to low-income people and communities and avoid duplication of services (as required by the assurance under Section 676(b)(5)).

Note: This response will link to the corresponding CSBG assurance, item 14.5, and pre-populates the Annual Report, Module 1, Item G.3a.

The State requires eligible entities to submit documentation on their partnerships with other service providers and organizations as part of their community action plan in their subgrants for funding. Eligible entities link families to resources within the entity and within the community. Outcomes from these linkages are reported as part of their NPIs.

9.3b State Assurance of Eligible Entity Linkages to Fill Service Gaps:
Describe how the eligible entities will develop linkages to fill identified gaps in the services, through the provision of information, referrals, case management, and follow-up consultations, according to the assurance under Section 676(b)(3)(B) of the CSBG Act.

Note: This response will link to the corresponding CSBG assurance, item 14.3b., and pre-populates the Annual Report, Module 1, Item G.3b.

Eligible entities are required as part of their community action plan to develop partnerships with local and state social service providers, religious organizations, local governments to fill gaps in the services the entity cannot provide. Referrals are made and follow-up is done to ensure services are delivered. The State assures this requirement by requiring entities to submit a list of the local and other partnerships to fill gaps in their service delivery, as part of their annual subgrant for funding.

9.4. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Employment and Training Activities:

Does the state intend to include CSBG employment and training activities as part of a WIOA Combined State Plan, as allowed under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (as required by the assurance under Section 676(b)(5) of the CSBG Act)? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Note: This response will link to the corresponding CSBG assurance, item 14.5.

9.4a. WIOA Combined Plan: If the state selected "yes" under item 9.4, provide the CSBG-specific information included in the state's WIOA Combined Plan. This information includes a description of how the state and the eligible entities will coordinate the provision of employment and training activities through statewide and local WIOA workforce development systems. This information may also include examples of innovative employment and training programs and activities conducted by community action agencies or other neighborhood-based organizations as part of a community antipoverty strategy.

9.4b. Employment and Training Activities: If the state selected "no" under item 9.4, describe the coordination of employment and training activities, as defined in Section 3 of WIOA, by the state and by eligible entities providing activities through the WIOA system.

MDHS has a Division of Workforce Development which participates in the statewide WIOA employment and training activities. Eligible entities coordinate their CSBG employment and training activities with the local WIOA.

9.5. Emergency Energy Crisis Intervention:

Describe how the state will assure, where appropriate, that emergency energy crisis intervention programs under Title XXVI (relating to Low-Income Home Energy Assistance) are conducted in each community in the state, as required by the assurance under Section 676(b)(6) of the CSBG Act).

Note: This response will link to the corresponding CSBG assurance, item 14.6.

The Community Action Plan (CAP) requires each eligible entity to demonstrate how they will respond to emergency situations. In addition, all eligible entities administer the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and are required to collaborate with local energy providers to address crisis situations, distribute energy-saving materials, and offer energy conservation workshops. To support emergency response efforts, the State designates a portion of discretionary funds for use during federally or state-declared disasters. State policies also provide clear guidance on managing emergency situations. The State ensures effective coordination of energy services by reviewing CAP submissions and monitoring agency performance.

9.6. Faith-based Organizations, Charitable Groups, Community Organizations:

Describe how the state will assure local eligible entities will coordinate and form partnerships with other organizations, including faith-based organizations, charitable groups, and community organizations, according to the state's assurance under Section 676(b)(9) of the CSBG Act.

Note: this response will link to the corresponding assurance, item 14.9.

The State requires eligible entities to submit documentation on their partnerships with other service providers and organizations, including faith-based, charitable and community organizations as part of their community action plan in their subgrants for funding. The documentation addresses referrals to and from each partner, and the services to be provided by the entity and the partner. Many of these organizations are represented on the eligible entity's board of directors.

9.7. Coordination of Eligible Entity 90 Percent Funds with Public/Private Resources:

Describe how the eligible entities will coordinate CSBG 90 percent funds with other public and private resources, according to the assurance under Section 676(b)(3)(C) of the CSBG Act.

Note: this response will link to the corresponding assurance, item 14.3c.

Eligible entities use their CSBG funds to leverage additional public and private resources, which assist with achieving outcomes within the framework of the national goals. CSBG resources are used to support the infrastructure of the entities to include sound governance, fiscal, programmatic, and personnel management. This results in greater accountability and capacity, thus enabling entities to leverage public and private resources through their community outreach and partnerships. As reported in the 2023 Leveraging Report, eligible entities leveraged \$3,661,351.04.

9.8. Coordination among Eligible Entities and State Community Action Association:

Describe state activities for supporting coordination among the eligible entities and the state community action association.

Note: This information will pre-populate the Annual Report, Module 1, Item G.5.

In FFY 2026, a percentage of CSBG discretionary funds will be contracted to the State Association to support training and technical assistance needs of the eligible entities, quality improvement, and other state-wide initiatives. The State meets with the State Association on a regular basis to discuss program requirements and updates. The State Association convenes an annual conference in which the State partners and provides training based on the topics outlined in the CSBG T&TA Plan.

9.9. Communication with Eligible Entities and the State Community Action Association:

In the table below, detail how the state intends to communicate with eligible entities, the state community action association, and other partners identified under this State Plan on the topics listed below. For any topic that is not applicable, select "Not Applicable" under Expected Frequency.

Communication Plan

Subject Matter	Expected Frequency	Format	Brief description of "Other"
Upcoming Public and/or Legislative Hearings	Annually	Email	
State Plan Development	Annually	Email	
Organizational Standards Progress	Annually	Letters/Hard Copies	
State Accountability Measures Progress	Annually	Email	

Community Needs Assessments/ Community Action Plans	Annually	Letters/Hard Copies	
State Monitoring Plans and Policies	Annually	Email	
Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) Plans	Annually	Email	
ROMA and Performance Management	Quarterly	Email	
State Interagency Coordination	Annually	Email	
CSBG Legislative/Programmatic Updates	Annually	Email	
Tripartite Board Requirements	Annually	Email	

9.10. Feedback to Eligible Entities and State Community Action Association:
Describe how the state will provide information to local entities and state community action associations regarding performance on state accountability measures.

Note: This information is associated with State Accountability Measure 5S(iii). and will pre-populate the Annual Report, Module 1, Item G.6

Communication by letter or memo will be sent to eligible entities and the State Association regarding performance on the State Accountability Measures. Entities will be asked to respond within 30 days. Emails, phone calls, and one-on-one consultations are conducted as needed.

9.11. Communication Plan Performance Management Adjustment:
Describe any adjustments the state made to the Communication Plan in this State Plan as compared to past plans. Any adjustment should be based on the state's analysis of past performance, and should consider feedback from eligible entities, OCS, and other sources, such as the public hearing. If the state is not making any adjustments, provide further detail.

Note: This information is associated with State Accountability Measures 7Sb; this response may pre-populate the state's annual report form.

The State will conduct compliance reviews with the entities to address issues, policy, and training needs of the entities. A report will be sent to all entities for comment before final adjustments are made. The State continues to upgrade the Virtual ROMA system, which will allow for more electronic communication to and from the State. Smartsheet and Virtual ROMA 2 (current system) are used to provide information and communication to the entities, and they can provide feedback as well.

Section 10: Monitoring, Corrective Action, and Fiscal Controls

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Administration for Children and Families
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

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SECTION 10 Monitoring, Corrective Action, and Fiscal Controls

Monitoring, Corrective Action and Fiscal Controls (Section 678B(a) of the Act)

10.1. Specify the proposed schedule for planned monitoring visits - including full on-site reviews; on-site reviews of newly designated entities; follow-up reviews - including return visits to entities that failed to meet State goals, standards, and requirements; and other reviews as appropriate.

This is an estimated schedule to assist states in planning. States may indicate "no review" for entities the state does not plan to monitor in the performance period.

Note: This information is associated with State Accountability Measure 4Sa(i); this response pre-populates the Annual Report, Module 1, Table H.1.

	CSBG Eligible Entity	Monitoring Type	Review Type	Target Quarter	Start Date of Last Full Onsite Review	End Date of Last Full Onsite Review	Brief Description of "Other"
1	AJFC Community Action Agency, Inc.	Full On-site	Onsite Review	FY1 Q3	06/25/2025	06/27/2025	
2	Bolivar Community Action Agency	Full On-site	Onsite Review	FY1 Q3	04/29/2025	05/01/2025	
3	Central Mississippi, Inc.	Full On-site	Onsite Review	FY1 Q3	05/14/2025	05/16/2025	
4	Coahoma Opportunities, Inc.	Full On-site	Onsite Review	FY1 Q2	03/19/2025	03/21/2025	
5	Hinds County Human Resource Agency	Full On-site	Onsite Review	FY1 Q2	03/05/2025	03/07/2025	
6	Community Action of South Mississippi	Full On-site	Onsite Review	FY1 Q4	07/15/2025	07/17/2025	
7	Lift, Inc.	Full On-site	Onsite Review	FY1 Q1	12/10/2024	12/12/2024	
8	Mid-State Opportunity Inc.	Full On-site	Onsite Review	FY1 Q4	07/09/2025	07/11/2025	
9	Multi-County Community Service Agency	Full On-site	Onsite Review	FY1 Q3	06/17/2025	06/19/2025	
10	Northeast MS Community Services	Full On-site	Onsite Review	FY1 Q4	07/25/2023	07/27/2023	
11	Pearl River Valley Opportunity Inc.	Full On-site	Onsite Review	FY1 Q3	04/09/2025	04/11/2025	
12	Prairie Opportunity, Inc.	Full On-site	Onsite Review	FY1 Q3	04/09/2025	04/11/2025	
13	South Central Community Action Agency Inc.	Full On-site	Onsite Review	FY1 Q4	07/15/2024	07/17/2024	
14	Southwest Mississippi Opportunity Inc.	Full On-site	Onsite Review	FY1 Q2	02/05/2025	02/07/2025	
15	Sunflower-Humphreys County Progress Inc.	Full On-site	Onsite Review	FY1 Q3	06/16/2025	06/18/2025	
16	Warren Washington Issaquena Sharkey Community Action Agency Inc.	Full On-site	Onsite Review	FY1 Q3	06/23/2025	06/25/2025	
	CSBG Eligible Entity	Monitoring Type	Review Type	Target Quarter	Start Date of Last Full Onsite Review	End Date of Last Full Onsite Review	Brief Description of "Other"
1	AJFC Community Action Agency, Inc.						
2	Bolivar Community Action Agency						
3	Central Mississippi, Inc.						
4	Coahoma Opportunities, Inc.						
5	Hinds County Human Resource Agency						
6	Community Action of South Mississippi						
7	Lift, Inc.						
8	Mid-State Opportunity Inc.						
9	Multi-County Community Service Agency						

10	Northeast MS Community Services						
11	Pearl River Valley Opportunity Inc.						
12	Prairie Opportunity, Inc.						
13	South Central Community Action Agency Inc.						
14	Southwest Mississippi Opportunity Inc.						
15	Sunflower-Humphreys County Progress Inc.						
16	Warren Washington Issaquena Sharkey Community Action Agency Inc.						

10.2. Monitoring Policies:
Provide a copy of state monitoring policies and procedures by attaching and/or providing a hyperlink.

See Attachments Program, Fiscal Monitoring and Audit Attachment, and Compliance Monitoring Attachment

10.3. Initial Monitoring Reports:
According to the state's procedures, by how many calendar days must the State disseminate initial monitoring reports to local entities?

Note: This item is associated with State Accountability Measure 4Sa(ii) and may pre-populate the state's annual report form.

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**Corrective Action, Termination and Reduction of Funding and Assurance Requirements
(Section 678C of the Act)**

10.4. Closing Findings:
Are state procedures for addressing eligible entity findings/deficiencies and documenting the closure of findings, included in the State monitoring protocols attached above? ☒ Yes ☐ No

10.4a. Closing Findings Procedures: If no describe state procedures for addressing eligible entity findings/deficiencies, and documenting the closure of findings.

10.5. Quality Improvement Plans (QIPs):
Provide the number of eligible entities currently on QIPs, if applicable.

Note: The QIP information is associated with State Accountability Measures 4Sc.

0

10.6. Reporting of QIPs:
Describe the state's process for reporting eligible entities on QIPs to the Office of Community Services within 30 calendar days of the State approving a QIP

Note: This item is associated with State Accountability Measures 4Sa(iii).

The State will notify the Office of Community Services of serious deficiencies of an eligible entity. A report will be given to OCS monthly as to the actions and technical assistance provided by the State. If a QIP is requested from an eligible entity, OCS will be notified in writing of the QIP, a copy of the QIP, the due date, and the States approval or denial of the QIP within 30 days.

10.7. Assurance on Funding Reduction or Termination:
The state assures,"that any eligible entity that received CSBG funding the previous fiscal year 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 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)" per Section 676(b)(8). ☒ Yes ☐ No

Note: This response will link with the corresponding assurance under item 14.8.

Policies on Eligible Entity Designation, De-designation, and Re-designation

10.8. Eligible Entity Designation: Do the State CSBG statute and/or regulations provide for the designation of new eligible entities? ☐ Yes ☒ No

10.8a. New Designation Citation: If yes, provide the citation(s) of the law and/or regulation.

10.8b. New Designation Procedures: If no, describe state procedures for the designation of new eligible entities and how the procedures were made available to eligible entities and the public

The State will conduct a public hearing, after giving public notice of its intention to designate an agency. The public hearing shall include an evaluation of the administrative and programmatic capabilities of the agency or agencies under consideration for designation as the community action agency for the area. The State will submit its recommendation to the Governor's Office for designation. Special consideration will be given to any community action agency currently receiving CSBG funds and is contiguously located to the un-served service area. If no such agency exists, or if a geographic area of the state is not being served by an eligible entity, the Governor of the State of Mississippi may solicit applications from and designate as a community action agency: 1. A private non-profit organization that is geographically located in the un-served area, that is capable of providing a broad range of services to eliminate poverty and promote self-sufficiency, and that meets the requirements of the CSBG Act; 2. A private non-profit eligible entity that is geographically located contiguous to or within close proximity of the un-served area; 3. A private organization must comply with the tripartite board requirements, and submit to the State, a copy of its board of directors. 4. The board(s) of supervisors for the un-served area must approve a resolution to designate the organization as the community action agency for the county.

10.9. Eligible Entity Termination: Do State CSBG statute and/or regulations provide for termination of eligible entities ☐ Yes ☒ No

10.9a. Termination Citation: If yes, provide the citation(s) of the law and/or regulation.
10.9b. Termination Procedures: If no, describe state procedures for termination of new eligible entities and how the procedures were made available to eligible entities and the public In accordance with the CSBG Act, States must assure that any eligible entity that received funding in the previous year through CSBG, will not have its funding terminated or reduced below the proportional share 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. Under Section 676C of the CSBG Act, "cause" is defined as: 1. A statewide re-distribution of funds due to: a. Results of the most recently available census data or other appropriate data; b. The designation of a new eligible entity; c. Severe economic dislocation. 2. Failure of the entity to fulfill its obligations under the CSBG subgrant agreement; 3. Ineffective or improper use of funds provided under the CSBG subgrant agreement; 4. Failure to provide assurance that the entity board will comply with the tripartite board requirements; 5. Voluntary relinquishment of the CSBG grant. If the State determines the entity has a specific deficiency, the State must notify the entity in writing of the deficiency and require the entity to correct the deficiency. The State must offer technical assistance, if appropriate, to the entity to correct the deficiency. The State will notify the Office of Community Services through a written report of the entity's deficiencies and the technical assistance provided by the State. If the State determines that technical assistance is not appropriate, OCS must still be notified. Examples of situations where technical assistance is not appropriate include but are not limited to: 1. A deficiency for which the State has previously provided technical assistance and the entity has failed to correct deficiency; 2. Multiple, widespread, and/or repeated deficiencies that cannot be addressed through technical assistance; 3. A deficiency that involves fraudulent reporting or use of funds, or other criminal activity. Section 678C(a)(4) of the CSBG Act gives states the discretion in the implementation of a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) by an eligible entity to address deficiencies. If the State determines an entity should be allowed to submit a QIP, the entity has 60 days to develop and implement its plan to correct deficiency. The entity must, however, submit the QIP to the State within 30 days of being notified of the deficiency. The State will review the QIP and issue a decision on whether to approve the QIP within 30 days of its receipt. If the State does not accept the QIP, the State must notify the entity of the reasons why the QIP cannot be approved. The State may issue a letter of intent to terminate or reduce funding. The entity may submit a request for a hearing within 30 calendar days of the State's letter to terminate or reduce funding. Upon receipt of entity's request for a hearing, the State must schedule an Administrative Hearing within 30 business days. If the State finds cause for termination or the reduction of funding, the State may begin process. The State must notify the entity and OCS in writing. The entity may request in writing, a federal review by the Secretary of DHHS of the State's decision to terminate or reduce funding, within 30 calendar days of the State's notification. If a request for a federal review has been made, the State may not terminate or reduce funding until DHHS responds to the request. DHHS has 90 days to complete its review. If no request for a federal review is made within the 30-day timeframe, the decision of the State is final. If the federal review is not completed within its 90 days, the decision of the State is final. If an eligible entity is terminated or relinquishes its grant, the State must provide in writing a closeout process to assist the entity in closing out the grant. The State will provide monthly reports to OCS during the entire process.
10.10. Does the State CSBG statute and/or regulations specify a process the State CSBG agency must follow to re-designate an existing eligible entity? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
10.10a. If Yes, provide the citation(s) of the law and/or regulation.
10.10b. If No, describe State procedures for re-designation of existing eligible entities. The State will conduct a public hearing, after giving public notice of its intention to designate an agency. The public hearing shall include an evaluation of the administrative and programmatic capabilities of the agency or agencies under consideration for designation as the community action agency for the area. The State will submit its recommendation to the Governor's Office for designation. Special consideration will be given to any community action agency currently receiving CSBG funds and is contiguously located to the un-served service area. If no such agency exists, or if a geographic area of the state is not being served by an eligible entity, the Governor of the State of Mississippi may solicit applications from and designate as a community action agency: 1. A private non-profit organization that is geographically located in the un-served area, that is capable of providing a broad range of services to eliminate poverty and promote self-sufficiency, and that meets the requirements of the CSBG Act; 2. A private non-profit eligible entity that is geographically located contiguous to or within close proximity of the un-served area; 3. A private organization must comply with the tripartite board requirements, and submit to the State, a copy of its board of directors. 4. The board(s) of supervisors for the un-served area must approve a resolution to designate the organization as the community action agency for the county.
Fiscal Controls and Audits and Cooperation Assurance
10.11. Fiscal Controls and Accounting: Describe how the state's fiscal controls and accounting procedures will a) permit preparation of the SF-425 Federal fiscal reports (FFR) and b) permit the tracing of expenditures adequate to ensure funds have been used appropriately under the block grant, as required by Block Grant regulations applicable to CSBG at 45 CFR 96.30(a).
The State requires eligible entities requesting CSBG funds to submit Monthly Cost Worksheets in Smartsheet application. These worksheets show expenditures such as Case Management, Supportive Services, and Administration (by cost category and line items). Entities are required to submit Claim Support Forms to request funds based on Current Needs. These forms are processed in the MDHS-Division of Community Services. The SF-425 Federal Financial Reports are processed in this Division of Budgets & Accounting. Documentation from the Virtual ROMA system is required to support program cost shown on the Cost Worksheets and Claim Forms as a means to adhere to mandates by the Division Office of Monitoring to monitor costs reported for the month. Procedural manuals are in place which covers financial and accounting rules and regulations which entities must comply with. Entities are required to have and submit an annual audit performed by an independent Certified Public Accountant. The State complies with the Single Audit Act Requirement. Entities subgrants are monitored no less frequently than every two (2) years by the Division of Monitoring. Periodic visits may be conducted by the Division of Community Services.
10.12. Single Audit Management Decisions: Describe state procedures for issuing management decisions for eligible entity single audits, as required by Block Grant regulations applicable to CSBG at 45 CFR 75.521.
<i>Note: This information is associated with State Accountability Measure 4Sd.</i>
The Director of Monitoring and the Supervisor of Single Audit Findings review audit findings and forward them to the Division of Community Services and the Monitoring Supervisor. Audit findings are placed on a spreadsheet and addressed during monitoring visits with the entity and addressed on the monitoring report.
10.13. Assurance on Federal Investigations: The state will "permit and cooperate with Federal investigations undertaken in accordance with Section 678D" of the CSBG Act, as required by the assurance under Section 676(b)(7) of the CSBG Act. <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
<i>Note: This response will link with the corresponding assurance, Item 14.7.</i>
10.13a. Federal Investigations Policies: Are state procedures for permitting and cooperating with federal investigations included in the state monitoring policies attached under 10.2? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
10.13b. Closing Findings Procedures: If no, describe state procedures for permitting and cooperating with federal investigations.
10.14. Monitoring Procedures Performance Management Adjustment:

Describe any adjustments the state made to monitoring procedures in this State Plan as compared to past plans? Any adjustment should be based on the state's analysis of past performance, and should consider feedback from eligible entities, OCS, and other sources, such as the public hearing. If the state is not making any adjustments, provide further detail.

Note: This item is associated with State Accountability Measure 4Sb and may pre-populate the state's annual report form.

The Division of Community Services will conduct desk reviews of entities and T&TA visits to identify potential problems before entities are monitored by the Division of Monitoring. If the entity has findings, the Division of Community Services will assist with resolution of the finding, and possibly use this in state training for all entities.

Section 11: Eligible Entity Tripartite Board

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Administration for Children and Families
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

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SECTION 11 Eligible Entity Tripartite Board

11.1. Tripartite Board Verification: Verify which of the following measures are taken to ensure that the state verifies CSBG Eligible Entities are meeting Tripartite Board requirements under Section 676B(a)(2) of the CSBG Act[*Check all that applies and narrative where applicable*]

- ☒ Attend Board meetings
- ☒ Organizational Standards Assessment
- ☐ Monitoring
- ☒ Review copies of Board meeting minutes
- ☒ Track Board vacancies/composition
- ☒ Other Provide board training

11.2. Tripartite Board Updates: Provide how often the state require eligible entities (which are not on TAPs or QIPs) to provide updates regarding their Tripartite Boards. This includes but is not limited to copies of meeting minutes, vacancy alerts, changes to bylaws, low-income member selection process, etc., [*Select one and narrative where applicable*]

- ☐ Annually
- ☐ Semiannually
- ☐ Quarterly
- ☒ Monthly
- ☐ As it Occurs
- ☐ Other

11.3. Tripartite Board Representation Assurance: Describe how the state will verify that eligible entities have policies and procedures by which individuals or organizations can petition for adequate representation on an eligible entity's Tripartite Board as required by the assurance under Section 676(b)(10) of the CSBG Act

Note: This response will link with the corresponding assurance, item 14.10.

The State has a Board Policy in place to ensure this requirement. The Board Policy is given to all entities and the State conducts reviews of eligible entity bylaws to ensure bylaws have policies for tripartite board representation. Agency board roster and minutes are reviewed monthly. Board bylaws are maintained and reviewed as needed unless the agency has updated them since the last review. In these situations, they are reviewed at that time. See attached board policy.

11.4. Tripartite Board Alternative Representation: Does the state permit public eligible entities to use, as an alternative to a Tripartite Board, "another mechanism specified by the state to assure decision-making and participating by low income individuals in the development, planning, implementation, and evaluation of programs" as allowed under Section 676B(b)(2) of the CSBG Act. ☐ Yes ☒ No

11.4a. Tripartite Board Alternative Mechanism: If yes, describe the mechanism used by public eligible entities as an alternative to a Tripartite Board.

Section 12: Individual and Community Eligibility Requirements

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
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SECTION 12 Individual and Community Income Eligibility Requirements

12.1. Required Income Eligibility:

Provide the income eligibility threshold for services in the state.

[Check one item below.]

☒ 125% of the HHS poverty line ☐ X% of the HHS poverty line (fill in the threshold) ☐ Varies by eligible entity

0% % *[Response Option: numeric field]*

12.1a. Income Eligibility Policy and Procedures: Describe any state policy and/or procedures for income eligibility, such as treatment of income and family/household composition.

Individuals requesting assistance must complete an application to determine eligibility. The application process involves a case management approach. This approach is an interaction between the client and a caseworker. The caseworker obtains vital information about the social and economic conditions of the household to identify needs. It also helps to identify households that are at risk or in crisis, so that a service plan can be developed to assist household to become stable and self-sufficient. Elderly and disabled individuals are not required to participate in case management. Applications are entered into the Virtual ROMA 2 system which determines income eligibility.

12.2. Income Eligibility for General/Short-Term Services:

Describe how the state ensures eligible entities generally verify income eligibility for those services with limited in-take procedures (where individual income verification is not possible or practical). An example of these services is emergency food assistance.

Eligible entities conduct outreach and provide referrals to individuals identified as low-income. Low-income families eligibility is reviewed and recorded in the Virtual ROMA 2 system. MDHS-DCS does not have a limited in-take procedure, all income is verified through the Virtual ROMA 2 client tracking system.

12.3. Community-targeted Services: Describe how the state ensures eligible entities' services target and benefit low-income communities for services that provide a community-wide benefit (e.g., development of community assets/facilities, building partnerships with other organizations).

Eligible entities ask for participation and partnership from other service providers and organizations that provide services to low-income communities. Low-income families are invited to participate in these meetings and events.

Section 13: Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) System

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SECTION 13 Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) System

13.1. Performance Measurement System:

Identify the performance measurement system that the state and all eligible entities use, as required by Section 678E(a) of the CSBG Act and the assurance under Section 676(b)(12) of the CSBG Act.

Note: This response will also link to the corresponding assurance, Item 14.12. and will pre-populate the Annual Report, Module 1, Item I.1.

- ☒ The Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) System
- ☐ Another performance management system that meets the requirements by Section 678E(b) of the CSBG Act
- ☐ An alternative system for measuring performance and results

13.1a. ROMA Description: If ROMA was chosen in Item 13.1, describe the state's written policies, procedures, or guidance documents on ROMA.

The State requires entities as part of their annual subgrant for funding to submit logic models and NPIs which follow the ROMA process. Guidance is provided in the NOFA package sent to entities.

13.1b. Alternative System Description: If an alternative system was chosen in Item 13.1, describe the system the state will use for performance measurement.

13.2. Outcome Measures: Indicate and describe the outcome measures the state will use to measure eligible entity performance in promoting self-sufficiency, family stability, and community revitalization, as required under Section 676(b)(12) of the CSBG Act.

Note: This response will also link to the corresponding assurance, Item 14.12.

- ☒ CSBG National Performance Indicators (NPIs)
- ☐ NPIs and others
- ☒ Others

The State requires eligible entities to address the NPIs in their Community action plans. Entity performance in meeting goals stated in their plans will be evaluated monthly by the State.

13.3. Eligible Entity Support: Describe how the state supports the eligible entities in using the ROMA or alternative performance measurement system.

Note: The activities described under Item 13.3 may include activities... listed in "Section 8: State Training and Technical Assistance." If so, mention briefly, and/or cross-reference as needed. This response will also link to the corresponding assurance, item 14.12.

The Community Action Plans (CAPs) submitted by eligible entities include their most recent community needs assessments, community engagement efforts, customer satisfaction results, logic models, and National Performance Indicators (NPIs). These plans emphasize the use of Results-Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) practices to support the aggregation of CSBG data and demonstrate the impact of CSBG funding within communities. Eligible entities use ROMA as a foundational framework for case management and agency accountability. Virtual ROMA 2, the statewide data system, is used to collect and manage this data. The State provides ongoing training and technical assistance (T&TA) on both Virtual ROMA 2 and ROMA goals. In collaboration with the state association, efforts are underway to increase the number of certified ROMA trainers, implementers, and advocates. All state-provided trainings are grounded in ROMA principles. Additionally, the state association has established a Program Directors Committee, which serves as a platform for program directors to share strategies and best practices for integrating ROMA more effectively within their agencies.

13.4. Eligible Entity Use of Data:

Describe how is the state plan to validate the eligible entities that are using data to improve service delivery?

Note: This response will also link to the corresponding assurance, Item 14.12.

As part of the Notice of Funding Availability, the State requires eligible entities to conduct a Community Strengths and Needs Assessment. The data collected is used in their community action plans to specify what services the entity will provide to the low-income families for the program year. Entities can pull reports from the Virtual ROMA 2 system on services provided and use this data to plan services for the next program year.

Community Action Plans and Needs Assessments

13.5. Community Action Plan: Describe how the state will secure a Community Action Plan from each eligible entity, as a condition of receipt of CSBG funding by each entity, as required by Section 676(b)(11) of the CSBG Act.

Note: this response will link to the corresponding assurance, Item 14.11.

In accordance with the assurance in 676(b)(11) of the CSBG Act, the State will secure from each eligible entity, as part of its annual application and as a condition of a financial award, a community action plan which provides a description of services to be provided. The community action plan includes information from the Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (CSNA) for the communities served. The CSNA provides information from several aspects of the communities to include public, private, and low-income sectors, partners, and other service providers. It provides for the ranking of services stated in the community action plan and assists with the allocation of funds for different services.

13.6. Community Needs Assessment:

Describe how the State will assure that each eligible entity includes a community needs assessment for the community served (which may be coordinated with community needs assessments conducted by other programs) in each entity's Community Action Plan, as required by Section

676(b)(11) of the CSBG Act.

Note: this response will link to the corresponding assurance, Item 14.11.

The State requires eligible entities to conduct a CSNA annually as part of their community action plan. The community action plan must include: a. A description of the CSNA to determine the services to be provided based on the needs of the community. b. A description of outcome measures to be used to monitor success in promoting self-sufficiency, family stability, and community revitalization. c. Through the use of logic models, the entity must state goals and objectives in measurable terms and projected in a timetable in which the goals and objectives will be accomplished. d. A description of how the entity will provide services during a disaster, on weekends, after hours, and during emergencies. e. An updated board of directors roster.

Section 14: CSBG Programmatic Assurances and Information Narrative

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SECTION 14 CSBG Programmatic Assurance and Information Narrative (Section 676(b) of the CSBG Act)

14.1 Use of Funds Supporting Local Activities

CSBG Services

14.1a. 676(b)(1)(A): Describe how the state will assure "that funds made available through 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 title IV of the Social Security Act, 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 (particularly 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 community, which may include 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 individual and family needs;
- (vii) to 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 -
 - (I) document best practices based on successful grassroots intervention in urban areas, to develop methodologies for widespread replication; and
 - (II) strengthen and improve relationships with local law enforcement agencies, which may include participation in activities such as neighborhood or community policing efforts;

MDHS-DCS ensures compliance with this assurance by making funds available to the sixteen (16) eligible entities. These entities use funds to support activities such as disaster assistance, job training, educational support, career development, volunteer efforts, nutritional support, health education and access, tax preparation assistance, mentoring, parenting development, childcare services, and other activities as needed for low-income families and individuals. A review of eligible entities program performance ensures these activities are accomplished and/or referred to other local and state providers. Program areas offered by entities include: Early childhood programs, economic development/education, emergency services, housing, income management, nutrition and health programs, independent living/aging programs, transportation, community improvement/quality of life programs, youth programs, and employment programs.

Needs of Youth

14.1b. 676(b)(1)(B) Describe how the state will assure "that funds made available through grant or allotment will be used -

- (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--
- (i) 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
 - (ii) after-school child care programs;

Entities are required as part of their community action plan to describe youth programs and activities they will sponsor to address the needs of youth. The state reviews the CAP annually to ensure these services are provided and reviews monthly progress reports to keep track of services/referrals provided. MDHS-DCS ensures compliance with this assurance by making funds available to eligible entities to conduct after school tutorial programs, summer programs, year round educational programs and activities, and summer reading programs for youth. These programs will promote educational excellence and youth development which prevents youth problems and crime. Support will be given to eligible families of the participants to ensure family needs are met through the case management process, and referrals made to other local providers.

Coordination of Other Programs

14.1c. 676(b)(1)(C) Describe how the state will assure "that funds made available through grant or allotment will be used -

(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)

Through case management, low-income families are assessed and referred to other DHS programs and local programs. Entities are required to develop

partnerships and pool resources with social service providers, local organizations, religious organizations to increase support and opportunities for low-income families and communities, and to avoid duplication of services. In order to fully address the needs of families and to evaluate the outcome of their work, entities must follow up with families to ensure services were provided by the organizations they were referred to. The State requires eligible entities to submit documentation on their partnerships with other service providers and organizations as part of their community action plan in their subgrants for funding. Eligible entities link families to resources within the entity and within the community.

State Use of Discretionary Funds

14.2 676(b)(2) Describe "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."

Note: The State describes this assurance under "State Use of Funds: Remainder/Discretionary," items 7.9 and 7.10

Eligible Entity Service Delivery, Coordination, and Innovation

14.3. 676(b)(3) "Based on information provided by eligible entities in the state, a description of..."

14.3a. 676(b)(3)(A) Describe "the service delivery system, for services provided or coordinated with funds made available through grants made under 675C(a), targeted to low-income individuals and families in communities within the state;

The service delivery system used to deliver CSBG services is provided by eligible entities to meet identified needs of eligible families and communities, and to achieve outcomes based on the six national goals. Service delivery systems vary from entity to entity, just as the communities and people served. Commonalities to the service delivery system include: a. Community outreach to ensure awareness of opportunities for low-income people; b. Holistic, family-oriented approaches to assessing and addressing needs; c. Use of multiple and convenient access points for direct service delivery; d. Provision of multiple and wide-ranging services in order to address the causes and effects of poverty; e. Common, entity-wide consumer intake forms and processes and f. Use of community partnerships and referral processes to make the most of efficient use of available resources.

Eligible Entity Linkages - Approach to Filling Service Gaps

14.3b. 676(b)(3)(B) Describe "how linkages will be developed to fill identified gaps in the services, through the provision of information, referrals, case management, and followup consultations."

Note: The state describes this assurance in the state linkages and communication section, item 9.3b.

Eligible entities are required as part of their community action plan to develop partnerships with local and state social service providers, religious organizations, local governments to fill gaps in the services the entity cannot provide. Referrals are made and follow-up is done to ensure services are delivered. The State assures this requirement by requiring entities to submit a list of the local and other partnerships to fill gaps in their service delivery, as part of their annual subgrant for funding.

Coordination of Eligible Entity Allocation 90 Percent Funds with Public/Private Resources

14.3c. 676(b)(3)(C) Describe how funds made available through grants made under 675C(a) will be coordinated with other public and private resources."

Note: The state describes this assurance in the state linkages and communication section, item 9.7.

Eligible entities use their CSBG funds to leverage additional public and private resources, which assist with achieving outcomes within the framework of the national goals. CSBG resources are used to support the infrastructure of the entities to include sound governance, fiscal, programmatic, and personnel management. This results in greater accountability and capacity, thus enabling entities to leverage public and private resources through their community outreach and partnerships. As reported in the 2023 Leveraging Report, eligible entities leveraged \$3,661,351.04.

Eligible Entity Innovative Community and Neighborhood Initiatives, Including Fatherhood/Parental Responsibility

14.3d. 676(b)(3)(D) Describe "how the local entity will use the funds [made available under Section 675C(a)] 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 parenting."

Note: The description above is about eligible entity use of 90 percent funds to support these initiatives. States may also support these types of activities at the local level using State remainder/discretionary funds, allowable under Section 675C(b)(1)(F). In this State Plan, the State indicates funds allocated for these activities under item 7.9(f).

Local entities hold community events or in-office sessions to promote family and parenting in which various activities, information sharing, and referrals are done to assist families with the skills needed to strengthen their ability to provide for their families and be more engaged in the lives of their children. Eligible entities use funds to develop, implement, and support initiatives such as fatherhood, healthy marriage, and family development activities designed to enhance the quality of family life and strengthen families. Entities are encouraged to partner with other local or state service providers to convene teen, fatherhood and parental summits and training as part of family development activities. These activities will facilitate dialogue and provide valuable data for entities to use in planning services and projects to address challenges expressed by the low-income population.

Eligible Entity Emergency Food and Nutrition Services

14.4. 676(b)(4) Describe how the state will assure "that 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."

Entities are required as a part of their community action plan to address the provision of food and supplies to CSBG eligible households. The state reviews their plans annually to ensure these services will be provided and reviews monthly performance reports to keep track of the services provided. Eligible entities are required to partner with their local DHS Economic Assistance offices to refer clients for expedited SNAP benefits in emergency situations. If SNAP benefits cannot be provided that same day, entities must provide nutrition assistance by giving food vouchers to meet emergency

nutritional needs. Entities are required to coordinate with local soup kitchens and food banks to meet emergency nutritional needs.

State and Eligible Entity Coordination/linkages and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Employment and Training Activities

14.5. 676(b)(5) Describe how the state will assure "that the state and 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, and [describe] how the State and the eligible entities will coordinate the provision of employment and training activities, as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, in the state and in communities with entities providing activities through statewide and local workforce development systems under such Act."

Note: The state describes this assurance in the state linkages and communication section, items 9.1, 9.2, 9.3a, 9.4, 9.4a, and 9.4b.

State Coordination/Linkages and Low-income Home Energy Assistance

14.6. 676(b)(6) Provide "an assurance that the state 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."

Note: The state describes this assurance in the state linkages and communication section, items 9.2 and 9.5.

Federal Investigations

14.7. 676(b)(7) Provide "an assurance that the state will permit and cooperate with Federal investigations undertaken in accordance with section 678D." Yes

Note: The state addresses this assurance in the Fiscal Controls and Monitoring section, item 10.13.

Funding Reduction or Termination

14.8. 676(b)(8) Provide "an assurance 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)." Yes

Note: The state addresses this assurance in the Fiscal Controls and Monitoring section, item 10.7.

Coordination with Faith-based Organizations, Charitable Groups, Community Organizations

14.9. 676(b)(9) Describe how the state will assure "that the state and 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."

Note: The state describes this assurance in the state Linkages and Communication section, item 9.6.

Eligible Entity Tripartite Board Representation

14.10. 676(b)(10) Describe how "the state 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."

Note: The state describes this assurance in the Eligible Entity Tripartite Board section, 11.3.

The State has a Board Policy in place to ensure this requirement. The Board Policy is given to all entities and the State conducts reviews of eligible entity bylaws to ensure bylaws have policies for tripartite board representation. Agency board roster and minutes are reviewed monthly. Board bylaws are maintained and reviewed as needed unless the agency has updated them since the last review. In these situations, they are reviewed at that time. See attached board policy.

Eligible Entity Community Action Plans and Community Needs Assessments

14.11. 676(b)(11) Provide "an assurance that the state will secure from each eligible entity in the 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."

Note: The state describes this assurance in the ROMA section, items 13.5 and 13.6.

State and Eligible Entity Performance Measurement: ROMA or Alternate system

14.12. 676(b)(12) Provide "an assurance that the state and 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 678E(b), or an alternative system for measuring performance and results that meets the requirements of that section, and [describe] outcome measures to be used to measure eligible entity performance in promoting self-sufficiency, family stability, and community revitalization."

Note: The state describes this assurance in the ROMA section, items 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, and 13.4.

Validation for CSBG Eligible Entity Programmatic Narrative Sections

14.13. 676(b)(13) Provide "information describing how the state will carry out the assurances described in this section."

Note: The state provides information for each of the assurances directly in section 14 or in corresponding items throughout the State Plan, which are included as hyperlinks in section 14.



By checking this box, the state CSBG authorized official is certifying the assurances set out above.

Section 15: Federal Certifications

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Administration for Children and Families
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

Form Approved
OMB No:0970-0382
Expires:08/31/2027

SECTION 15 Federal Certifications

15.1. CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

Certification for Contracts, Grants, Loans, and Cooperative Agreements

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions. Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

The box after each certification must be checked by the state CSBG authorized official.

15.1. Lobbying

After assurance select a check box:



By checking this box, the state CSBG authorized official is providing the certification set out above.

15.2. CERTIFICATION REGARDING DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE REQUIREMENTS

This certification is required by the regulations implementing the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988: 45 CFR Part 76, Subpart, F. Sections 76.630(c) and (d)(2) and 76.645 (a)(1) and (b) provide that a Federal agency may designate a central receipt point for STATE-WIDE AND STATE AGENCY-WIDE certifications, and for notification of criminal drug convictions. For the Department of Health and Human Services, the central point is: Division of Grants Management and Oversight, Office of Management and Acquisition, Department of Health and Human Services, Room 517-D, 200 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20201.

Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace Requirements (Instructions for Certification)

1. By signing and/or submitting this application or grant agreement, the grantee is providing the certification set out below.
2. The certification set out below is a material representation of fact upon which reliance is placed when the agency awards the grant. If it is later determined that the grantee knowingly rendered a false certification, or otherwise violates the requirements of the Drug-Free Workplace Act, the agency, in addition to any other remedies available to the Federal Government, may take action authorized under the Drug-Free Workplace Act.
3. For grantees other than individuals, Alternate I applies.
4. For grantees who are individuals, Alternate II applies.
5. Workplaces under grants, for grantees other than individuals, need to be identified on the certification. If known, they may be identified in the grant application. If the grantee does not identify the workplaces at the time of application, or upon award, if there is no application, the grantee must keep the identity of the workplace(s) on file in its office and make the information available for Federal inspection. Failure to identify all known workplaces constitutes a violation of the grantee's drug-free workplace requirements.
6. Workplace identifications must include the actual address of buildings (or parts of buildings) or other sites where work under the grant takes place. Categorical descriptions may be used (e.g., all vehicles of a mass transit authority or state highway department while in operation, state employees in each local unemployment office, performers in concert halls or radio studios).
7. If the workplace identified to the agency changes during the performance of the grant, the grantee shall inform the agency of the change(s), if it previously identified the workplaces in question (see paragraph five).
8. Definitions of terms in the Nonprocurement Suspension and Debarment common rule and Drug-Free Workplace common rule apply to this certification. Grantees' attention is called, in particular, to the following definitions from these rules:

Controlled substance means a controlled substance in Schedules I through V of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812) and as further defined by regulation (21 CFR 1308.11 through 1308.15);.

Conviction means a finding of guilt (including a plea of nolo contendere) or imposition of sentence, or both, by any judicial body charged with the responsibility to determine violations of the federal or state criminal drug statutes;

Criminal drug statute means a Federal or non-Federal criminal statute involving the manufacture, distribution, dispensing, use, or possession of any controlled substance;

Employee means the employee of a grantee directly engaged in the performance of work under a grant, including: (i) All direct charge employees; (ii) All indirect charge employees unless their impact or involvement is insignificant to the performance of the grant; and, (iii) Temporary personnel and consultants who are directly engaged in the performance of work under the grant

and who are on the grantee's payroll. This definition does not include workers not on the payroll of the grantee (e.g., volunteers, even if used to meet a matching requirement; consultants or independent contractors not on the grantee's payroll; or employees of subrecipients or subcontractors in covered workplaces).

Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace Requirements

Alternate I. (Grantees Other Than Individuals)

The grantee certifies that it will or will continue to provide a drug-free workplace by:

(a) Publishing a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the grantee's workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violation of such prohibition;

(b) Establishing an ongoing drug-free awareness program to inform employees about--

(1) The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace;

(2) The grantee's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace;

(3) Any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs; and

(4) The penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violations occurring in the workplace;

(c) Making it a requirement that each employee to be engaged in the performance of the grant be given a copy of the statement required by paragraph (a);

(d) Notifying the employee in the statement required by paragraph (a) that, as a condition of employment under the grant, the employee will - -

(1) Abide by the terms of the statement; and (2) Notify the employer in writing of his or her conviction for a violation of a criminal drug statute occurring in the workplace no later than five calendar days after such conviction;

(e) Notifying the agency in writing, within 10 calendar days after receiving notice under paragraph (d)(2) from an employee or otherwise receiving actual notice of such conviction. Employers of convicted employees must provide notice, including position title, to every grant officer or other designee on whose grant activity the convicted employee was working, unless the Federal agency has designated a central point for the receipt of such notices. Notice shall include the identification number(s) of each affected grant;

(f) Taking one of the following actions, within 30 calendar days of receiving notice under paragraph (d)(2), with respect to any employee who is so convicted - -

(1) Taking appropriate personnel action against such an employee, up to and including termination, consistent with the requirements of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; or

(2) Requiring such employee to participate satisfactorily in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved for such purposes by a federal, state, or local health, law enforcement, or other appropriate agency;

(g) Making a good faith effort to continue to maintain a drug-free workplace through implementation of paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f).

The grantee may insert in the space provided below the site(s) for the performance of work done in connection with the specific grant:

Place of Performance (Street address, city, county, state, zip code)

Check if there are workplaces on file that are not identified here.

Alternate II. (Grantees Who Are Individuals)

(a)The grantee certifies that, as a condition of the grant, he or she will not engage in the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance in conducting any activity with the grant;

(b)If convicted of a criminal drug offense resulting from a violation occurring during the conduct of any grant activity, he or she will report the conviction, in writing, within 10 calendar days of the conviction, to every grant officer or other designee, unless the Federal agency designates a central point for the receipt of such notices. When notice is made to such a central point, it shall include the identification number(s) of each affected grant.

[55 FR 21690, 21702, May 25, 1990]

15.2. Drug-Free Workplace Requirements

After assurance select a check box:



By checking this box, the state CSBG authorized official is providing the certification set out above.

15.3. CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS

Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters - - Primary Covered Transactions

Instructions for Certification

1. By signing and submitting this proposal, the prospective primary participant is providing the certification set out below.

2. The inability of a person to provide the certification required below will not necessarily result in denial of participation in this covered transaction. The prospective participant shall submit an explanation of why it cannot provide the certification set out below. The certification or explanation will be considered in connection with the department or agency's determination whether to enter into this transaction. However, failure of the prospective primary participant to furnish a certification or an explanation shall disqualify such person from participation in this transaction.

3. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when the department or agency determined to enter into this transaction. If it is later determined that the prospective primary participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency may terminate this transaction for cause or default.

4. The prospective primary participant shall provide immediate written notice to the department or agency to which this proposal is submitted if at any time the prospective primary participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.

5. The terms covered transaction, debarred, suspended, ineligible, lower tier covered transaction, participant, person, primary covered transaction, principal, proposal, and voluntarily excluded, as used in this clause, have the meanings set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of the rules implementing Executive Order 12549. You may contact the department or agency to which this proposal is being submitted for assistance in obtaining a copy of those regulations.

6. The prospective primary participant agrees by submitting this proposal that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly

enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the department or agency entering into this transaction.

7. The prospective primary participant further agrees by submitting this proposal that it will include the clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusive-Lower Tier Covered Transaction," provided by the department or agency entering into this covered transaction, without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions

8. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that is not proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals. Each participant may, but is not required to, check the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Nonprocurement Programs.

9. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.

10. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph 6 of these instructions, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency may terminate this transaction for cause or default.

Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters - - Primary Covered Transactions

(1) The prospective primary participant certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it and its principals:

(a) Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded by any Federal department or agency;

(b) Have not within a three-year period preceding this proposal been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, state or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of federal or state antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;

(c) Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (federal, state or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1)(b) of this certification; and

(d) Have not within a three-year period preceding this application/proposal had one or more public transactions (federal, state or local) terminated for cause or default.

(2) Where the prospective primary participant is unable to certify to any of the

statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

**Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion - -
Lower Tier Covered Transactions**

Instructions for Certification

1. By signing and submitting this proposal, the prospective lower tier participant is providing the certification set out below

2. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was entered into. If it is later determined that the prospective lower tier participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other

3. The prospective lower tier participant shall provide immediate written notice to the person to which this proposal is submitted if at any time the prospective lower tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or had become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.

4. The terms covered transaction, debarred, suspended, ineligible, lower tier covered transaction, participant, person, primary covered transaction, principal, proposal, and voluntarily excluded, as used in this clause, have the meaning set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of rules implementing Executive Order 12549. You may contact the person to which this proposal is submitted for assistance in obtaining a copy of those regulations.

5. The prospective lower tier participant agrees by submitting this proposal that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the department or agency with which this transaction originated.

6. The prospective lower tier participant further agrees by submitting this proposal that it will include this clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-Lower Tier Covered Transaction," without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.

7. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that it is not proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals. Each participant may, but is not required to, check the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Nonprocurement Programs.

8. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.

9. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph five of these instructions, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is proposed for debarment under 48 CFR part 9, subpart 9.4, suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from

participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.

Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion - - Lower Tier Covered Transactions

(1) The prospective lower tier participant certifies, by submission of this proposal, that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.

(2) Where the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

15.3. Debarment

After assurance select a check box:



By checking this box, the state CSBG authorized official is providing the certification set out above.

15.4. CERTIFICATION REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL TOBACCO SMOKE

Public Law 103227, Part C Environmental Tobacco Smoke, also known as the Pro Children Act of 1994, requires that smoking not be permitted in any portion of any indoor routinely owned or leased or contracted for by an entity and used routinely or regularly for provision of health, day care, education, or library services to children under the age of 18, if the services are funded by Federal programs either directly or through state or local governments, by Federal grant, contract, loan, or loan guarantee. The law does not apply to children's services provided in private residences, facilities funded solely by Medicare or Medicaid funds, and portions of facilities used for inpatient drug or alcohol treatment. Failure to comply with the provisions of the law may result in the imposition of a civil monetary penalty of up to \$1000 per day and/or the imposition of an administrative compliance order on the responsible entity by signing and submitting this application the applicant/grantee certifies that it will comply with the requirements of the Act.

The applicant/grantee further agrees that it will require the language of this certification be included in any subawards which contain provisions for the children's services and that all subgrantees shall certify accordingly.

15.4. Environmental Tobacco Smoke

After assurance select a check box:



By checking this box, the state CSBG authorized official is providing the certification set out above.

THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT OF 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13)

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.