



National Association for State Community Services Programs

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

WHO WE ARE

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), which funds Community Action, is the federal government's only **comprehensive** approach to ensuring struggling Americans have an opportunity to achieve economic security. Through CSBG, States mobilize a network of over 1,000 local organizations - which operate in **ninety-nine percent** of the nation's counties - to build healthy, sustainable, and strong communities.

WHAT WE DO

Comprised of States and local organizations, Community Action provides services based on the characteristics of poverty within a community. For one community, this might mean providing job placement and retention services; for another, developing affordable housing. In rural areas, it might mean providing access to health services or developing a rural transportation system. **Eighty-three percent** of CSBG funds provide direct services to individuals and communities. (See *FY 2009 CSBG Highlights*)

WHY CUTS TO CSBG ARE HARMFUL

CSBG is the cornerstone of the nation's efforts to ensure struggling Americans have an opportunity to enter the middle class. It is the seed capital for community investments by the public and private sectors, especially in rural areas. If CSBG is cut,

- ✓ Critical supports such as employment, education, and housing for **20.7 million** vulnerable Americans will be eliminated.
- ✓ There will be **\$11.9 billion** disruption to the national nonprofit infrastructure. This significant reduction could result in up to **78,000** community jobs being eliminated.
- ✓ State and local jobs would be eliminated. CSBG funds are used to pay for salaries of over 600 state employees, and Community Action employs approximately 109,000 people in local communities.
- ✓ There would be a significant decrease in capacity for other State and Federal programs. In many States, Community Action manages the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), raising additional funds from utilities for this vital program. Community Action administers the Weatherization Assistance Program and is able to mobilize funds for additional work on residences not directly related to energy savings that, for example, may keep an elderly couple in their home. It also administers the Women Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition program and the Community Development Block Grant to stretch federal dollars and provide a greater return on investment.
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DOJ funding for CAAs: In FY09, local agencies received \$19.5 million Department of Justice funds, and \$4 million DOJ ARRA funds.

Jobs for Vulnerable Americans: 681,000 people obtained stable employment over the last five years with the help of Community Action Agencies

Employment Supports: In FY09, Community Action provided more than 3.5 million employment supports to low-income working Americans

CSBG ARRA Jobs: For the July-September 2010 quarter of ARRA, CSBG was ranked 8th out of 200 programs in jobs created or saved (over 18,400 jobs)