



# STATE OF COLORADO

John W. Hickenlooper, Governor

## Department of Local Affairs

Reeves Brown, Executive Director

### Division of Local Government

Chantal Unfug, Director

## CSBG Legislative Hearing before the JBC

Friday, June 20, 2014, 10:30-11am

JBC Hearing Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Legislative Service Building

200 East 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Denver, CO 80203

Presenter: Justin A. Hamel, Federal Grants Program Manager, DOLA

Today's CSBG Legislative Hearing is being held to comply with a requirement found in Title II-Community Services Block Grant Program, Section 201-Reauthorization, Subtitle B Section 676(a)(3) LEGISLATIVE HEARING, which states, "In order to be eligible to receive a grant or allotment under Section 675A or 675B, the State shall hold at least one legislative hearing every 3 years in conjunction with the development of the State plan." Today's Legislative Hearing before the JBC meets that requirement. It is being held as part of the process of developing Colorado's FFY 2015 State CSBG Application and Plan.

Here is some information about the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program in general and Colorado's administration of it in particular:

- Nationally, the CSBG program had its beginnings in 1981, but its antecedent program dates back to 1964 with the enactment of the Economic Opportunity Act. The CSBG Act of 1981 passed as part of the Omnibus Budget and Reconciliation Act of 1982.
- The purpose of the CSBG program, as stated in the CSBG Act (42 U.S.C. 9901et seq.), is "to provide assistance to States and local communities, working through a network of community action agencies and other neighborhood-based organizations, for the reduction of poverty, the revitalization of low-income communities, and the empowerment of low-income families and individuals in rural and urban areas to become fully self-sufficient."
- The Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) has been designated by Colorado's Governors since the commencement of CSBG funding by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in Colorado in the early 1980s to be the "responsible agency" for distribution of CSBG funds to eligible entities in the State.
- Colorado chose not to organize as a Community Action State, as many other states did early on, but rather chose to be a "waiver" state. Its CSBG-funded eligible entities were its county-level governments with their respective Boards of County Commissioners. Many of Colorado's counties today utilize staff in their human services departments to run their CSBG programs, under the guidance of a "Tripartite Board" composed of 1/3 elected officials currently serving in office or their representatives, 1/3 members who are persons chosen in accordance with democratic election procedures adequate to assure that these members are representative of low-income individuals and families in the neighborhood(s) served, and 1/3 members who are officials or members of business, industry, labor, religious, law enforcement, education, or other major groups and interests in the community served.

- Currently, Colorado’s CSBG eligible entities are made up of 62 of the State’s 64 counties, with Jackson County and Grand County both having elected to relinquish their respective shares of CSBG funding to the State and opting not to participate in the CSBG program.
- Under the terms of the CSBG Act, DOLA distributes 90% of the annual allotment of CSBG funds it receives from HHS to two two-county partnerships, three councils of governments, four community action agencies, one three-county multi-county service area and 27 single counties, totaling 62 counties all together across the State. For FFY 2014, the 90% figure amounted to \$5,196,538. A total of \$288,697 (5%) will be used to pay salary and administrative expenses for 2.45 DOLA FTEs and another \$288,697 (5%) will be used in a CSBG Discretionary Funds account to primarily make grants to non-profit organizations that serve income-eligible persons in various CSBG eligible activities around the state.
- CSBG funds may be used to fund services in the following Federal Objective areas; employment, education, income management--better use of available income, housing, emergency services, linkages, self-sufficiency, health and nutrition. As a group, Colorado’s CSBG eligible entities’ programs provide services in all nine areas.
- By Federal Law, CSBG funds must benefit persons at or below 125% of Federal poverty level income, which is determined annually. Below is a chart that shows such income levels for 2014.

## 2014 Poverty Guidelines

The following figures are the 2014 HHS poverty guidelines which were published in the [Federal Register](#) on January 24, 2014.

2014 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA		
Persons in family/household	Federal Poverty guideline	125% of Poverty
1	\$11,670	\$14,587
2	15,730	\$19,662
3	19,790	\$24,737
4	23,850	\$29,812
5	27,910	\$34,887
6	31,970	\$39,962
7	36,030	\$45,037
8	40,090	\$50,112

<p>For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$4,060 for each additional person.</p>
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Here are some statistics from Colorado's *2013 CSBG Information Survey*, an annual report submitted to the National Association of State Community Services Programs (NASCS), the 50 state CSBG agencies' national partner, and after compilation, forwarded to HHS and to Congress for review:

- Colorado CSBG agencies provided services to 115,630 low-income individuals in 56,015 families.
- Vulnerable populations served by Colorado CSBG agencies included: 23,509 children, 11,972 people with disabilities, 20,840 seniors and 26,797 people who lacked health insurance.
- For every \$1 of CSBG funding, the Colorado CSBG network leveraged \$30.39 from state (\$14.11), local (\$14.55) and private (\$1.56) sources, including the value of volunteer hours (\$0.17/hour).
- The Colorado CSBG network's core activities were supported by \$5,856,056 in CSBG funds. The network's funding from all sources totaled \$604,356,023. Including all Federal sources, the Colorado CSBG network leveraged \$113.03 per \$1 of CSBG funding.

The Colorado CSBG network addressed 142,030 conditions of poverty that create barriers to economic security. These barriers were measured by:

- Employment or Work Supports---3,647 barriers addressed. Low-income participants in CSBG network employment initiatives obtained supports which reduced or eliminated barriers to initial or continuous employment, acquired a job, obtained an increase in employment income, or achieved "living wage" employment and benefits.
- Economic Asset Enhancement and Utilization---476 barriers addressed. Low-income households achieved an increase in financial assets or financial skills as a result of CSBG network assistance.
- Child and Family Development---822 barriers addressed. Infants, children, youth, parents and other adults participated in developmental or enrichment programs facilitated by the CSBG network and achieved program goals.
- Independent Living for Low-Income Vulnerable Populations---27,349 barriers addressed. Low-income vulnerable individuals received services from the CSBG network and secured or maintained an independent living situation as a result.
- Family Stability---1,452 barriers addressed. Low-income participants obtained supports which reduced or eliminated barriers to family stability through assistance from the CSBG network.
- Emergency Assistance---96,402 barriers addressed. Low-income individuals and families received emergency assistance from the CSBG network.
- Community Opportunities and Resources---7,976 barriers addressed. Community opportunities or resources were improved or expanded for low-income people as a result of CSBG network projects or initiatives, or advocacy with other public and private agencies.
- Community Empowerment---3,906 barriers addressed. Community members and low-income people mobilized to engage in activities that support and promote their own well-being and that of their community as a direct result of CSBG network initiatives through maximum feasible participation.

Colorado's FFY 2015 CSBG program year runs from March 01, 2015 through February 29, 2016.

Approximately the same level of CSBG funding is expected in FFY 2015 as the \$5,773,932 received in FFY2014. This is because of the two-year budget agreement struck in 2014 between the leaders of the House and the Senate in Congress. No State match is required in the CSBG program.

An emphasis on training and technical assistance to staff of Colorado's CSBG eligible entities will be made by DOLA's staff during the FFY 2015 CSBG program year.

Approximately one-third of the CSBG eligible entities will be monitored on-site during the program year.

A Conference on Poverty for the state agencies and their CSBG eligible entities from Region VIII and Region X will be held from May 12-14, 2015 in Denver. The Colorado Community Action Association, DOLA's private sector partner in working with Colorado's CSBG eligible entities, will be the sponsor of this upcoming Conference, at which approximately 250 attendees are expected.

**I will be happy to take questions from the members of the JBC and the audience at this time.**