

BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM STATUS REPORT

July 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020

Department: Community Based Services (DCBS) Block Grant: Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

This report is submitted in compliance with KRS 45.357. This report on achievements may be compared to the Block Grant application currently on file with LRC.

Block Grant Manager: Marta Miranda-Straub 2/1/2021
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 Marta Miranda-Straub Date
 Commissioner

1. FINANCES	Federal Funds	General Funds	Trust/Local Match	Total
CSBG Annual Budget	\$12,425,343.00	\$104,268.00	\$0.00	\$12,529,611.00
CSBG Actual Expenditures	\$4,837,396.32	\$67,157.96	\$0.00	\$4,904,554.28
CSBG Encumbrances	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
CSBG Available Balance	\$7,587,946.68	\$37,110.04	\$0.00	\$7,625,056.72

FINANCES	Federal Funds	General Funds	Trust/Local Match	Total
CSBG-CARES Annual Budget	\$16,856,592.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16,856,592.00
CSBG-CARES Actual Expenditures	\$3,372,624.19	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,372,624.19
CSBG-CARES Encumbrances	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
CSBG-CARES Available Balance	\$13,483,967.81	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,483,967.81

2. RESULTS BUDGETED/ACHIEVED

OBJECTIVES	ACHIEVEMENTS
1. Provide, through contracts with 23 local Community Action Agencies (CAAs), needed services to clients whose income meets poverty guidelines on a statewide basis.	1. DCBS implemented contracts with all twenty-three (23) CAAs, serving one hundred and twenty (120) counties of the Commonwealth, for provision of appropriate required services based on their approved plans and budgets. Some agencies had carryforward monies remaining from the previous SFY contract period that was put on their current SFY contract

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	during the time period in question.
2. Conduct an annual fiscal audit under auspices of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services with actual audits being conducted by certified public accountant firms and approved by DCBS-Division of Administration and Financial Management (DAFM).	2. DAFM maintains contractual arrangements for personnel responsible for these duties.
3. Monitor CAAs for compliance with Standards of Performance as promulgated in Kentucky Administrative Regulation for Community Action Agencies and in accordance with plan and budget instructions and federal and state statutes.	3. For the period of July 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020, fifteen (15) CAAs CSBG contracts were monitored. Fourteen (14) of the agencies monitored had no findings for non-compliance. One (1) of the agencies monitored (Licking Valley CAA) had a finding and the agency's Corrective Action Plan (CAP) has been accepted/resolved. The CAP from July 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020, has been submitted and accepted.
4. Monitor CAAs for compliance with the Organizational Standards as determined by the Office of Community Services and promulgated in the Kentucky Administrative Regulation in accordance with state and federal statutes.	4. The Division of Family Support (DCBS) and Community Action Kentucky perform onsite organizational standard monitoring and desk reviews for each of the 23 local CAAs each fiscal year. Fourteen (14) of twenty-three (23) agencies were monitored from July 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020. All monitoring was conducted via desk review. One corrective action plan was issued and resolved in the allotted timeframe.
5. Obtain contract service reports to use for training and technical assistance.	5. Service and fiscal reports from each CAA are reviewed on a quarterly basis year-to-date. Information is maintained on the DCBS data system and reported as required to federal and state officials.
6. Provide training and technical assistance based on input from all contract agencies.	Community Action Kentucky (CAK) and DCBS provide training and technical assistance through different venues, including work sessions, annual conference, and regional trainings. Trainers or consultants with expertise in their fields are often selected to facilitate these sessions. CAK, in collaboration with DCBS, held the 2020 CSBG Fall Work Session on September 15-16, 2020. All twenty-three (23) CAAs were represented. The training included the following: Opening Session (welcome, CSBG Annual Report in Review, Cabinet Updates/Questions and Answers); Racial Equity – How to Start a Community Conversation; 2Gen and Whole Family Approach; and CSBG and Multiple Funding Streams (Head Start) Leveraged Funding. CAK staff conducted one-on-one trainings for several

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	<p>CAAs from January through December, 2020. Training topics included: ROMA, National Performance Indicators (NPIs) and services, CSBG Plan and Budget Proposals, CASTiNET (statewide software), etc. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all training and technical assistance was conducted virtually (calls, email, Microsoft Teams, etc.). These calls primarily centered around the allocation of CARES funding, programmatic requirements, and implementation.</p>
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3. AUTHORIZED CHANGES (from the Block Grant Plan in Finances and/or Objectives)

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law March 27, 2020, granting the state of Kentucky an additional \$16.8 million in Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding. CSBG funds are allocated to each of Kentucky’s 23 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) in order to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty throughout their communities. These additional CARES funds have been divided proportionately to CAAs and will be used to address a variety of needs created by the COVID-19 pandemic including, but not limited to, rent/mortgage and utility assistance payments, grocery vouchers, employment related assistance, and medical assistance (copays, transportation, PPE, etc.).

DCBS filed Ordinary and Emergency amendments for 922 KAR 6:010 on May 21, 2020, and the Ordinary amendment went into effect on October 28, 2020, in response to receiving CARES Act funding and federal guidance. CSBG Information Memorandum (1) 2020-157 authorized states to, “revise the income limit for eligibility ceiling from 125 to 200 percent of the federal poverty level for CSBG services furnished during fiscal years 2020 and 021, including services furnished with the state’s regular CSBG appropriations during those years,” via the CARES Act. In addition to raising the eligibility, the regulation amendment also granted the Cabinet the flexibility to waive the twenty percent in-kind match requirement for additional CSBG funds provided federally, in this instance for CSBG-CARES funds.

4. EVALUATION OF RESULTS

Using a compliance monitoring instrument based on state statutes, contractual requirements, minimum program and management standards, DCBS performed contract monitoring for 15 of the 23 CAAs from of July 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020. 14 of the agencies had zero findings. One agency was issued a Corrective Action Plan, which has been resolved.

DAFM based the federal award number on what was given in FFY19. The expenditures represent July 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020.

Implementation of uniform service definitions and a client service report/evaluation document have enabled Kentucky to compile service statistics consistent with both federal and state laws. Use of the data, as compiled by each of the CAAs on a monthly basis, enables the individual agencies to better evaluate their services and develop plans for service delivery.

5. ALTERNATIVES FOR IMPROVED SERVICE DELIVERY

Improved service delivery is continually sought primarily through ongoing training and technical assistance provided and planned for CAA staff. Contract requirements include a mandate for local CAA coordination with DCBS and other area service providers in order to avoid duplication of services. Additionally, CAA Boards are responsible for an ongoing process to evaluate local needs and assure that needs are met.