

A G E N D A

JOINT HEARING OF THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEES

SENATOR CAROL LIU AND ASSEMBLY MEMBER JIM BEALL, CHAIRS

The 2012/2013 Community Services Block Grant State Plan

*Tuesday, August 16, 2011
Room 3191, State Capitol*

I: Welcoming Remarks:

Senator Liu, Assembly Member Beall, and Members

II: Overview of the Plan:

John Wagner, Director, Department of Community Services and Development

III: Commentary:

Tim Reese, Executive Director, California Nevada Community Action Network

IV: Public Comment

BACKGROUND

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The 2012/2013 Community Services Block Grant State Plan

Since President Lyndon Johnson signed the Economic Opportunity Bill of 1964, Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) has been a part of the nation's War on Poverty. Each year, CSD delivers programs and services to more than 2 million low-income Californians to help them improve their lives and achieve self-sufficiency. The Department receives its primary funding from the federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and the U.S. Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program (DOE WAP).

Every two years, the state submits a plan for block grant expenditures. This year, the Department must plan for a 50 percent reduction in the block grant funding (see page 11 of the draft plan) -- \$31 million instead of the \$60 million currently received. However, it is not yet clear what the amount will be that the department will receive. The state plan reflects this uncertainty.

The Department has the authority to set aside up to five percent of the block grant to use to support "limited purpose agencies." Page 14 of the draft proposal lists the four NGOs currently receiving this discretionary funding: Del Norte Senior Center, the Community Design Center, Campesinos Unidos, and the Rural Community Assistance Corporation.

The department may use five percent of the funds for administration.

Activities of grantees:

- Foreclosure prevention
- Many partnerships and workgroups (e.g., Workforce Investment Boards, community mental health councils)
- Community and neighborhood-based initiatives
- Family Source Centers
- Family self-sufficiency projects (e.g., Riverside County)

Each grantee develops a two-year community action plan. These were due June 30. The block grant activities of each grantee are subject to review by a "tripartite board" – community action agency, clients, and business (and government).

Page 34 of the draft plan shows a pie chart of block grant expenditures by service category:

- Employment (17 percent), emergency services 16.5 percent), and education (16 percent) are the three highest categories of expenditure – these three categories account for half of all block grant expenditures.
- Expenditures on self-sufficiency (12 percent), nutrition (9 percent), and linkages (6 percent) are the next largest totals.
- Housing, income management, and health are the other major categories of expenditure. These three total 12 percent of block grant expenditures. "Other" expenditures make up the remaining 11 percent of expenditures.