

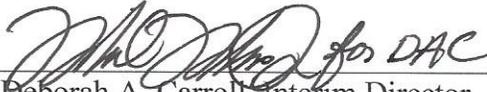
SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION

NAME OF BLOCK GRANT: Social Services Block Grant

GRANT YEAR: October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2015

ADMINISTERING AGENCY: Department of Human Services

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SUBMITTED BY:  for DAC SEP - 8 2014
Deborah A. Carroll, Interim Director Date

The activities described in this application shall be provided without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, family responsibility, matriculation, physical handicap or political affiliation.

The activities described in this application include only those programs under Title XXIII, Subtitle C, Section 2006, or Title XX of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (P.L. 97-35).

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FISCAL YEAR 2015
SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT
ANNUAL SERVICES PLAN AND APPLICATION**

1. INTRODUCTION

The Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), through an amendment of Title XX of the Social Security Act in 1981, provides federal financial assistance to states for the provision of services that are directed towards assisting families and individuals achieve economic self-sufficiency; preventing or remedying neglect, abuse or exploitation of children or adults; and preserving families and preventing institutionalization, when appropriate and possible.

In accordance with Section 2004 of the Social Security Act, the District of Columbia is submitting this Social Services Block Grant Pre-Expenditure Report. This report serves as an annual services plan and an application for funding, and, as such, outlines the intended use of federal payments that will be received during the period October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015. The plan provides information related to the administration of relevant services, including the types of activities to be supported and the categories or characteristics of individuals to be served.

For the past twenty-nine (29) years, SSBG funds have been used by the District to supplement, expand, and strengthen traditional services to families, children, and adult individuals in need. The services provided through the federal grant program continue to be a valuable safety net for a significant number of District residents who experience some form of financial, familial, social, or health related crisis.

A snapshot to substantiate the continued financial need is demonstrated in the graphic statistics presented in the *2014 Kids Count Website*,¹ information compiled and posted by The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness,² information from the U.S. Census Bureau, the D.C. Department of Health, and statistics from the Adult Protective Services Division of the Family Services Administration and the Office of Early Childhood Education provide the following profile of the social, economic, and physical well-being of children, their families, and adults in the District of Columbia.

The *Kids Count Data Book* uses an updated index of 16 indicators of child well-being, organized into four categories: Economic Well-Being, Health, Education, and Family and Community. The new methodology utilized to compile 2012 data reflects the tremendous advances in child development research since the first KIDS COUNT Data Book in 1990. *Kids Count* utilizes raw data and percentages because that is the best way to compare states to each other and to assess changes over time within a state. However, the focus of this publication on rates and percentages

¹ *The 2014 Kids Count Website produced by the Annie E. Casey Foundation provides state profiles of child well-being.*

² *The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness in Washington DC compiles and posts data taken from the Annual Point-in-Time Survey that measures the number of people who experience homelessness at some time during the year in the District.*

may mask the magnitude of some of the problems that are examined in the report. Albeit the Data Book includes data from the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, this data is not included in their state rankings. Because they are significantly different from any state, the comparisons are not meaningful. It is therefore more useful to look at these geographies over time, or to compare the District with other large cities of similar size, which has been considered in the statistics presented in this report.

Kids Count suggests some startling data as it relates to the impact of the economic crisis that the United States continues to face, comparing the data from pre and post recession children experienced gains in the Education and Health domains but setbacks in the Economic Well-Being indicators have demonstrated a substantial decline. This finding is further amplified by the statistic that in 2010, 11 percent of children had at least one unemployed parent and 4 percent have been affected by foreclosure since 2007.

With regard to older persons, the data presented herein substantiate the need for continued services and programs that address the elderly and other vulnerable populations. This comes as a poignant concern based on two emergent issues. First, as the “baby boomer” population wave continues to age and the desire is to maintain persons in the community as long as possible, the need for services and related intervention is expected to increase; and second, persons are living longer, as the nation observes the largest growing segment of the population are those persons 85 years and older.

During 2011, the U.S. Census Bureau released a new Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM). The SPM methodology shows a significantly higher number of older persons below poverty than is shown by the official poverty measure. For persons 65 and older this poverty measure shows a poverty level of 15.9% (an increase of over 75% over the official rate of 9.0%). Unlike the official poverty rate, the SPM takes into account regional variations in the cost of housing etc. and, even more significantly, the impact of both non-cash benefits received (e.g., SNAP/food stamps, low income tax credits, WIC, etc.) and non-discretionary expenditures including medical out-of-pocket (MOOP) expenses. For persons 65 and over, MOOP was the major source of the significant differences between these measures. It is important to note that the SPM does not replace the official poverty measure.³

To further demonstrate the extent to which Social Services Block Grant funds are vital to support services and programs for the community are represented in the following data;

These data represent the most current information available:

- According to the U.S. Census Bureau (July 1, 2013), the total population in the District was 646,449. Of this population, 18.5 percent lived below the poverty

³ Based on data from Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, "Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2012," P50-239, issued September, 2012, by the U.S. Census Bureau and related Census detailed tables on the U.S. Census Bureau web site and on "The Research Supplemental Poverty Measure," P60-241, issued November 2011.

level compared 14.9 nationally.

- The US Census Bureau 2012 American Community Survey indicates that 32.5 percent of children under the age of 18 residing in the District lived in families with incomes below the federal poverty level in the previous twelve months. <http://www.census.gov>
- *2014 DC Kids Count* data indicates 29,000 (27 percent) of children residing in the District were living in poverty in 2013. Further, the *DC Kids Count* analysis of census data suggests that 32,000 (31 percent) of all children residing in the District of Columbia lived in high poverty areas in 2013. Further the reported data indicates that 43,000 (39 percent) of children lived with at least one parent who lacked secure employment.
- According to *Kids Count*, there were 56,000 (55 percent) children who resided in a single-parent family in 2013. This data demonstrates improvement wherein 2012 reported 63,000 children who lived with only one parent.

<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/106-children-in-single-parent-families?loc=10&loct=3#detailed/3/any/false/867,133,38,35,18/any/429,430>

The Children's Defense Fund Report (2013) indicates in 2013, 17,296 children applied for and were eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and 51,000 children applied for and were eligible for food stamps (SNAP). <http://www.childrensdefense.org>

- In 2012, the District of Columbia reported 47,745 (48%) of children living in low-income working families. <http://www.nccp.org>
- In 2013, 106,500 children were enrolled in Medicaid/CHIP in the District of Columbia. This represents a 13 percent increase from 2012 (77,929);
- In FY 12, 3,855 children received District-funded Medical Assistance. These recipients were primarily immigrant children who were not eligible for Medicaid;
- According to DC Kids Count 2014, 46,000 (42 percent) of children live in households with a high housing cost burden.
- Kids Count 2014 reports that 3,000 (10 percent) of teens in the District of Columbia are not enrolled in school and not working.
- The District of Columbia population age 65 and older was 11.4 percent compared to 14.1 percent nationally (U.S. Census, Current Population Survey, 2013).

- Homelessness in the District of Columbia increased by 12.9 percent according to The Community Partnership's 2014 Point in Time Count. The largest portion of this increase was in families with children seeking shelter. During the winter of FY13-14 over 700 families were placed in emergency shelter.
- The life expectancy in the District of Columbia is 75 years versus the national average of 78.9 (US Census Bureau, 2012)
- In 2010, over one-third of elderly residents in the District of Columbia live alone; compared to 29.3 percent of non-institutionalized elderly nationally living alone.
- In 2013, there were 838 new reports made to Adult Protective Services (APS). While this represents a slight decrease from the previous year, the forecast is that this will remain the same or be slightly higher in FY 15, because of the increase in the number of self-neglect referrals reported for investigation.
- In 2012, in the District there were 791 births to teen mothers who were under 20 years of age.

<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/7435-births-by-ward-and-maternal-age?loc=10&loct=3#detailed/3/any/false/867,133,38,35,18/2712,189,252,253,370,371,4088,214,1204/14516>

- In 2012, the District reported 9.6 percent of births were low birth weight compared to national statistics of 8.2 percent.

<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/7459-low-weight-births?loc=10&loct=3#detailed/3/any/false/867,133,38,35,18/any/14550,14551>

In 2011, the infant mortality rate in the District reached a historic low of 69 infant deaths, or 7.4 deaths per 1,000 live births, compared to a rate of 6.1 percent nationally. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs>

These data indicate that residents of the District of Columbia continue to be in need of basic government services and programs that assist families with children and vulnerable adults. Social services programs help ensure that low-income and at-risk populations receive assistance to protect them and help them move toward self-sufficiency. These populations are identified as high priority for the city, and it is critical that social services programs be maintained to address the needs of at-risk populations. These data also help to clarify the level of commitment needed to effectively address the issues. Therefore, the District will continue to use Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funds to serve the needs of its most vulnerable residents.

In fiscal year 2015, the SSBG funds will continue to be integrated with other funding for social services appropriated by the District of Columbia. SSBG funds will be targeted to a variety of

areas, including child protective services and foster care for children, adult protective services, homemaker services, case management, child care, teen parent assessment and teen pregnancy prevention, and shelter services for individuals and families that are experiencing homelessness.

2. STATEMENT OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Compatible with the goals of the federal Social Services Block Grant program, the District of Columbia's program goals are as follows:

- to assist families and individuals in achieving or maintaining economic self-sufficiency;
- to prevent or remedy neglect, abuse, or exploitation of children who are unable to protect their own interests, or preserve, rehabilitate, or reunite families;
- to prevent or remedy neglect, abuse, or exploitation of adults who are unable to protect their own interests;
- to prevent or reduce inappropriate institutionalization by providing for community-based care, home-based care, or other alternate care which is less intensive care than institutionalization;
- to provide home-based services as a support to families, disabled adults and the frail elderly to prevent institutionalization;
- to provide substitute care services to children who cannot remain home with their biological parents or relatives;
- to provide adoptive services to children who cannot return home or to their biological and adoptive families;
- to provide child care services to children of parents who are receiving training, working, or income eligible for training;
- and to provide child care services to children who are disabled or in the protective services or foster care program.

3. DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES TO BE SUPPORTED

The D.C. Department of Human Services (DHS) has the overall administrative responsibility for the planning, implementation, and monitoring of social services funded through a combination of appropriated funds and the Social Services Block Grant. These services include: child care, protective services for adults, homemaker services, services to homeless families, services to teen parents, and efforts to reduce teen pregnancy in the District.

Most child care and early education services have been transferred to the Office of Early Childhood Education (ECE), now part of Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSESSBG funds are added to other funding sources to support child care, protective services for children, foster care, and adoption services. DHS is also responsible for promoting other programs designed to maintain and improve the well-being of the citizens of the District of Columbia.

The Social Services Block Grant funded programs are administered within the organizational structure of the Department of Human Services. The mission of DHS is to provide comprehensive, quality human services to enhance life in the District of Columbia. In order to achieve this mission, DHS works to assure the provision of social services that will enable the maximum number of resident families and individuals to become or remain economically and socially self-sufficient. The Family Services Administration (FSA) and the Economic Security Administration (ESA) are administrations within DHS, and they are responsible for the effective management and implementation of services and programs.

The Office of Early Childhood Education (ECE), formerly called the Early Care and Education Administration, was transferred to the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) on April 1, 2008, as a result of the Public Education Reform Amendment Act of 2007. ECE continues to be the District of Columbia's State Child Care Bureau, and is responsible for administering the District's Child Care Subsidy Program.

In the District of Columbia, SSBG funds are one of the funding sources that provide the foundation for the provision of a wide range of social services and child welfare and supportive services to resident families, children, and individuals. Below is a description of the administrations and offices that are partially supported through SSBG funds.

A. FAMILY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

The mission of the Family Services Administration (FSA) is to provide social services and crisis intervention services to meet the needs of vulnerable populations in the District of Columbia, including: abused, neglected, and exploited adults; refugees; teen parents and teens at-risk of pregnancy; homeless individuals and families; and families and individuals in poverty. The goals are to reduce risk and promote self-sufficiency.

FSA continues to work to enhance collaborative efforts among programs supported by a variety of funding sources. For example, FSA currently collaborates with, among others, the D.C. Office on Aging, the Office of the Attorney General, the Department of Mental Health, and The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness to ensure that services for vulnerable adults are coordinated.

Services available from FSA are currently implemented through six (6) primary programs:

- Adult Protective Services;
- Teen Parent Assessment Program;

- Homeless Services,
- Parent Adolescent Support Services
- Strong Families;
- Community Services; and
- Refugee Resettlement Services.

Adult Protective Services

The Adult Protective Services (APS) program within FSA investigates allegations of adult abuse, neglect, self-neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults unable to protect themselves. APS provides intervention in accordance with the Adult Protective Services Act of 1984 (D.C. Law 5-156). The statute requires that APS investigations begin within ten (10) working days where the circumstances do not present the risk of life-threatening harm and within twenty-four (24) hours in cases alleging risk of life-threatening harm. The law further mandates that APS have the capacity to receive and investigate reports on a 24-hour, seven (7) day a week basis. APS serves, without regard to income, vulnerable, impaired clients eighteen years of age and older who are in need of protection.

The primary goals of APS are to prevent or remedy abuse, neglect, or exploitation of frail elderly or disabled adults, to prevent unnecessary institutional placement of adults, and to assist adults and families to live as independently as possible. The program through its collaborative and contractual relationships provides an array of social and protective services to their target population.

The APS law was amended in 2006 through the enactment of the Karyn Bauquin Act. This Act afforded APS the opportunity to address allegations and refer, where appropriate services to impaired, self-neglecting individuals residing in the District. These are individuals who are at risk of self-neglect because of physical or mental impairments and an inability to protect themselves. Most of these clients have Alzheimer, dementia and other memory loss diseases that impact judgment and decision-making abilities, and nearly 40 percent of all of the APS referrals received through August of 2012 were for self-neglecting adults. With regard to eligibility for services, the majority of these persons qualifies if they are physically or mentally impaired, and is unable to take action to protect their own interests, and have no one able or willing to assist.

Adult Protective Services continues to engage in collaborative relationships with other government agencies and community-based organizations serving frail elderly and disabled adults. The agency has maintained its partnership with the D.C. Office on Aging, which supports the APS Imprest Fund. This fund assists in providing emergency food, clothing, furniture, transportation, rodent, bed bug and other pest extermination, cleaning supplies, and heavy duty cleaning services. APS has entered into agreements with the District's Office of the Attorney General for dedicated legal representation and the Long-term Care Ombudsman for closer intervention when abuse or neglect is identified in an institutional setting. In FY 2014, APS continued its relationship with So Others Might Eat (Kuehner Place) in the form of a Memorandum of Agreement to provide emergency placement for seniors 60 years and older until

a permanency plan is established. APS continues to collaborate with numerous community-based organizations and other related agencies to provide services and improve the quality of life for vulnerable adults in the District of Columbia.

Homemaker Services: APS manages a homemaker services grant to provide basic in-home support services for adults who are neglected, abused, or exploited or at risk of abuse or neglect. Homemaker services, provided through a sub-grant to a community-based service provider, include but are not limited to: basic housekeeping assistance, personal care, home health care, assistance with management of personal affairs, home management tasks, and emergency care. Services are provided for clients who are not eligible for personal care services through Medicaid. The homemaker services are used to support an adult protective service care plan, and they allow elderly and disabled people to avoid unnecessary institutionalization.

The population served by SSBG funds includes frail elderly and disabled adults active in Adult Protective Services. If funds are available, homemaker services are also provided to low-income vulnerable adults with health problems to prevent neglect and to help them remain in their own homes. All clients must be residents of the District of Columbia.

Family Violence Prevention Services: APS also manages the Family Violence Prevention Services Grant. Under this initiative, appropriated funds are competed using a RFP process creating a sub-grantee relationship with community-based agencies that provide safe shelter, counseling and case management services, as well as information, education, and outreach to survivors of domestic violence in the District of Columbia.

The Adult Protective Services program is primarily funded by the Social Services Block Grant. SSBG grant funds are used to fund FSA positions for APS staff, purchase homemaker services, and monitor homemaker and family violence grantees.

Teen Parent Assessment Program

The Teen Parent Assessment Program (TPAP) assesses the living arrangements for teen parents on TANF who are under 18 years of age and who claim an exemption to the rule that they must reside with their parent or legal guardian in accordance with the requirements of the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 and the District's Public Assistance Temporary Act of 1997. The District's statute requires that a pregnant or parenting teen who applies for or receives Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) shall be referred to FSA for investigation to determine the adequacy of their living arrangements. Once assessments are completed, case management support services are provided to help the teen parents develop goals, stay in school, avoid additional pregnancies, and move toward self-sufficiency. Many of the teens included in this population have dropped out of school and have little understanding of the realities of living on their own and planning for self-sufficient futures. The risk of another pregnancy is high.

In addition to providing case management services to teens receiving TANF, this unit also works to reduce teen pregnancy in the District of Columbia. Program personnel provide information

and education through speaking engagements and workshops, through projects, and Reality Stores at schools and recreational centers. Social workers with the program also distribute informational flyers at community and health fairs, and they provide one-on-one support services to young people who contact their office or who are referred for follow-up. In an effort to further develop the whole individual, the TPAP staff in collaboration with the District of Columbia department of Behavioral Health have been trained to implement the model Transitioning to Independence (TIP) an evidence-based case management model that is a client-driven strategy to assist young people in addressing all facets of functioning (emotional, educational, etc.) as they are moving toward self-sufficiency. Positions in the Teen Parent Assessment Program are funded with SSBG funds.

Homeless Services

The Homeless Services Program ensures the provision of services to families and individuals who are homeless in the District of Columbia and do not have the resources to obtain housing. Services are provided through an agreement with a community-based non-profit agency that manages a network of shelter providers. Shelter services are aimed at assisting individuals through a continuum-of-care that has resulted in a system composed of transitional shelter and housing (66 percent), permanent housing (19 percent), and severe weather or temporary shelter (15 percent). In addition to shelter, supportive services in the areas of employment, health, education, mental health, substance abuse, transportation, childcare, and legal are provided to enable customers to develop a high degree of self-sufficiency.

DHS provides significant funding and maintains oversight responsibility for services provided by the shelter network for families and individuals who are homeless in the District. DHS also serves as the catalyst for the expansion of the continuum-of-care through a public/private inter-agency workgroup that focuses on collaboration, planning, and advocacy for services for residents who are homeless. Cooperating District government agencies include Departments of Mental Health, Health, Parks and Recreation, and D. C. Public Schools. Community-based service agencies, advocates, and the D.C. Housing Authority also participate in this workgroup. The City Administrator presides over this group.

The Homeless Shelter Services Program ensures the provision of transitional and permanent housing, emergency shelter, and case management and support services to homeless families and individuals through a network of community-based programs that enables persons who are homeless to stabilize their lives. The current continuum-of-care by which homeless people are assisted includes:

- Homelessness prevention services for rent and utility assistance;
- Street outreach services for the chronically homeless and for those who are mentally-ill and homeless. Services include safe haven, drop-in centers, and referrals for emergency shelter and transitional housing;
- Severe weather shelter for singles;
- Temporary shelter for families and leased apartment units managed through the shelter network;

- 24-hour congregate transitional rehabilitative shelters for homeless single adults with a focus on employment, education, substance abuse, and other services;
- Long-term transitional housing for single adults with substance abuse recovery, mental health, and employment needs;
- Case management services to help individuals and families obtain the clinical and support services needed to stabilize their lives as they move from homelessness to permanent supportive housing or independent housing;
- Permanent supportive housing with services for individuals and families designed to assist with issues such as mental illness, substance abuse, and HIV/AIDS, and other barriers to self-sufficiency.

Funds transferred from TANF into the Social Services Block Grant are used to provide shelter services for families with children in the District. A position for oversight and monitoring of the community-based contractor is also funded with SSBG funds.

Parent and Adolescent Support Services

Parent and Adolescent Support Services (PASS) serve District of Columbia families of youth who are committing status offenses. Status offenses include truancy, running away, curfew violations and extreme disobedience, among other behaviors that are illegal for young people under the age of 18. The overarching goal of the program is to keep youths out of the juvenile justice and families out of the child welfare systems by addressing the underlying issues that contribute to the behaviors. PASS works cooperatively with families and service providers to reduce these challenging behaviors before child welfare and/or juvenile justice intervention is needed. PASS provides Functional Family Therapy (FFT) which includes intensive in-home family counseling to address the referring behaviors and improve family relationships. The case management staff has also been trained Transitioning to Independence model discussed above. PASS continues to receive referrals from city agencies, schools, service providers, as well as concerned family members, but the focus has primarily been on youth referred for truancy by four partner schools, and for diversion from truancy prosecution by the Office of the Attorney General and Court Social Services. In effect, PASS is doing both intervention/prevention work to address truancy and status offenses identified early as well as later-end truancy intervention for youths at immediate risk of prosecution.

In addition to expanding the truancy work, PASS launched a new partnership with the Department of Behavioral Health referred to as the Alternatives to the Court Experience (ACE) Diversion Program. ACE is comprised of PASS and DBH staff and community-based behavioral health service providers. The ACE program receives six youth who engage in truancy and delinquency diversions each week. PASS staff complete assessments of the youths and present the cases to the ACE Diversion Team (PASS and DBH leadership) who then select the appropriate behavioral health intervention to be implemented as the diversion service for the referred youth. Community-based behavioral health providers initiate requisite services, which include, among others, Functional Family Therapy (FFT), Multisystemic Therapy (MST), Community Based Intervention (CBI) and other services, where needed. ACE is the only

diversion program in the District of Columbia available for truancy and delinquency after youths have been arrested. In FY 14, the PASS Program will serve 350 youth. With the implementation and collaboration of the ACE initiative, the expectation is that this number will increase to 650 youth in FY 15.

Strong Families Program

The Strong Families Program provides comprehensive service delivery to strengthen families, foster healthy family development, and help families address many of the issues that create ongoing challenges in their lives. A fundamental goal of the program is to help prevent families from entering the child welfare, juvenile justice, or homeless systems by working with the families in a proactive manner. FSA staff is responsible for providing assessment and case management services. The Strong Families Program is funded with local appropriated funds.

Community Services

FSA is responsible for managing the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), a federal anti-poverty block grant which funds the operations of the state-administered network of local social services agencies. FSA provides monitoring and oversight of the designated Community Action Agency (CAA) and a network of community-based anti-poverty agencies that provide a range of services to reduce poverty in the District. Services include employment and job training programs; GED preparation and tutoring; housing and rehabilitation programs; nutrition programs for pre-school age toddlers, seniors and the homebound elderly; workshops on health and nutrition issues; and counseling services on substance abuse and substance abuse prevention.

FSA staff is responsible for monitoring the services provided under the CSBG and for completing the annual application for grant funds and the annual report submitted to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Office of Refugee Resettlement

FSA is responsible for managing the Refugee Resettlement Program through its Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). ORR manages the federal grants to assist refugees and asylees with assimilation into the United States. FSA provides monitoring and oversight for the community-based non-profit agency that provides support services and helps refugees prepare for employment. FSA staff members provide oversight and technical assistance and complete the reports required by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

B. FY 15 Overview of SSBG Services Utilization within the Family Services Administration

During fiscal year 2015, SSBG funds will continue to be utilized to support programs and services provided within the Family Services Administration. In fiscal year 2015, seventy-seven (77) percent of SSBG funds awarded to the District of Columbia by the federal government will be allocated to FSA programs in addition to the TANF funds transferred into SSBG.

SSBG funds will continue to be used to provide direct services to clients and support planning and policy development efforts by assisting with the personnel and direct service costs of FSA.

During fiscal 2015, SSBG funds will be used to:

- Investigate reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults and provide adult protective services to reduce risk;
- Provide case management services for teens in need of support and guidance and support efforts to prevent teen pregnancy through public information, education, and outreach;
- Provide and monitor home-based services, such as homemaker and chore services, provided to frail elderly and disabled adults through a sub-grant with a community-based non-profit homemaker agency;
- Provide and monitor services for homeless families and individuals through a sub-grant to The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness;
- Provide and monitor case management services for homeless families and individuals through contracts to community-based agencies; and
- Manage and monitor the Family Violence Prevention Services grant.

The Family Services Administration staff and sub-grant agency staffs will provide the services discussed above, and they will continue to use SSBG funds to support these vital services in FY 2015. In fiscal year 2014, SSBG grant funds were used for services to client populations that included vulnerable adults, the frail elderly, individuals and families who were homeless, teen parents, and those who experienced domestic violence. The expectation is that these populations will still be the focus for use of SSBG funds in FY 15. The District of Columbia is submitting information to support the SSBG grant funded programs at the FY 2014 SSBG allocation estimate published on the website of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Community Services (www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/ssbg/docs/esalloc10.html). The FY 2015 estimate for the SSBG allocation for the District of Columbia is \$3,294,668.⁴

Plan for Services Based on FY 2015 SSBG Funding Estimate

Table 1 presented below projects FY 2015 services and expenditures based on the FY 2014 estimate for the SSBG allocation for the District of Columbia of \$3,294,668. This funding

⁴ This is based on the FY 2014 SSBG grant allocation for the District of Columbia as posted on the website of the U.S. department of Health and Human Services.

allows for the maintenance of the Adult Protective Services program and the Teen Parent Assessment Program at the same level as is in FY 2014. It will allow the Adult Protective Services program to fill two vacant positions, and the APS program will be able to use locally appropriated funds to provide direct services for vulnerable adults including: psychological assessments, nursing assessments, emergency safe placement, mental health outreach, and additional homemaker services.

The District of Columbia has approved locally appropriated funding to expand services for the homeless. In addition, funds transferred from TANF into the Social Services Block Grant will be used to fund services for homeless families. Homemaker services will be funded at a reduced level because funds need to be reallocated to cover increases in personnel costs for the other programs, but new locally appropriated funds for home-based services will allow for the maintenance of the homemaker and chore programs to keep vulnerable adults in their own homes to the extent possible. Homemaker or chore services will be available for the most vulnerable adults for short term periods throughout the year.

Table 1: SSBG Funded Services in the Family Services Administration with the Projected FY 2015 SSBG Funding Levels

SERVICE AREA	NUMBER OF CLIENTS	FY 2015 PROJECTED EXPENDITURES	FY 2015 PROJECTED FROM SSBG FUNDING ⁵
<i>Adult Protective Services – New cases investigated for abuse, neglect, self-neglect or exploitation</i>	850	\$3,218,196	\$2,307,259
<i>Adult Protective Services – Continuing Services</i>	250 ⁶	\$3,218,196	\$2,307,259
<i>Teen Parent Assessment Cases – case management services</i>	225 ⁷	\$169,609	\$0
<i>Teen Parent Assessment Program – Information and Education to reduce teen pregnancy</i>	1,000 ⁸	\$169,609	\$0
<i>Homemaker/Chore Services for frail elderly and disabled adults</i>	102 ⁹	\$261,724	\$53,299

⁵The number of cases projected for FY 2015 is based on APS cases investigated in Intake through August 31, 2014.

⁶The number of clients projected for FY 2015 is 250 based on cases receiving continuing protective services as of August 31, 2014. This number has continued to remain steady for the last two fiscal years.

⁷The number of clients projected for FY 2015 is remains the same as FY 14.

⁸The number of adolescents projected to receive information and education about teen pregnancy prevention is expected to decrease for FY 2015 because of the implementation of several initiatives (TIP, MST, ACE).

⁹The number of clients projected for FY 2014 is 110 based on homemaker and chore cases for frail elderly and disabled adults through August 31, 2014.

SERVICE AREA	NUMBER OF CLIENTS	FY 2015 PROJECTED EXPENDITURES	FY 2015 PROJECTED FROM SSBG FUNDING ⁵
<i>Homeless Services</i> for families and single adults.	14,713 ¹⁰	\$96,072,571	\$275,747
<i>Case Management Services</i> for homeless residents in supportive housing programs	2,297	\$4,941,000	\$0
Total SSBG expenditures in FSA			\$2,536,305
Total FSA SSBG expenditures with TANF transfer included			\$6,488,664 ¹¹

Plan for Services Based on Current SSBG Funding

Table 2 above projects FY15 services and expenditures based on the current FY14 level of funding. The current funding allows for the continuation of the full range of services that are currently being provided to children in foster care.

C. OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (ECE)

As the result of the Public Education Reform Amendment Act of 2007, the Office of Early Childhood Education (ECE, formerly Early Care and Education Administration) became a part of the new Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) on April 1, 2008. ECE provides leadership and coordination to ensure that all children in the District of Columbia have access to high quality early childhood development programs from birth to the time they enter kindergarten. ECE works to develop an effective early childhood education system by implementing high standards for programs and professionals, creating supports to meet standards, adhering to rigorous accountability measures, engaging community stakeholders, and securing strong financial supports.

To improve the quality of these services, ECE has been reorganized into three major divisions School Preparedness, Compliance and Integrity, as well as Analysis and Reporting. Information about each division is presented below.

¹⁰ There were 14,713 unaccompanied, single persons and persons in families served in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing between October 2011 and September 2012 according to *The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness. The 2013 Point in Time enumeration, conducted in January 31, 2013, revealed that there are 6,865 homeless persons in the District of Columbia on a given day. This was a three percent (3%) decrease from the count conducted in 2012. The full report may be found on the website of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments at mwcog.org. The enumeration is a one day point-in-time snap shot of persons served by the nine jurisdictions in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region that have received funding through the Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).*

¹¹ This figure includes the TANF transfer of \$3,952,359 into the Social Services Block Grant.

School Preparedness Division

The School Preparedness Division (SPD) focuses on connecting the dots between all early childhood development programs. The division supports the Pre-kindergarten and Head Start State Collaboration Unit, the Program Quality Unit (PQU), and the Professional Development Unit (PDU).

Compliance and Integrity Division

The Compliance and Integrity Division (CID) is responsible for administering assurance and compliance programs to prevent violations while enforcing relevant laws through guidance, education, and regulatory actions. The division supports the Child Care Licensing Unit, the Child Care Eligibility Monitoring Unit, and the Investigation Unit.

Analysis & Reporting Division

The Analysis and Reporting Division (ARD) ensures that all programs operate efficiently and effectively to support a high quality early learning environment for children.

Populations Served

ECE serves the following populations:

- Children six-weeks of age through 12 years and up to age 19 if the child has a disability and the family is eligible for and needs financial assistance to pay for child care.
- Children of pre-kindergarten age (three and four years old).
- Persons who work in early child care and education in the District of Columbia.
- Parents and guardians of children in the District who seek information on where to locate child care and guidelines for selecting child care.
- Parents and guardians of children in the District who seek information on parenting education.

SSBG Services within the Office of Early Childhood Education (ECE)

In FY 2015, the Office of Early Childhood Education will use SSBG funds to support direct child care services. Included in the group of providers receiving funds from the SSBG will be those incorporated as for-profit entities and who participate in the District's Child Care Subsidy Program. The children in for-profit sites will then be eligible for the Child and Adult Care Food

Program.

Plan for Services Based on Current SSBG Funding

Table 2 provides information about the number of clients that will be served and the projected expenditures for subsidized child care and early education services in the District during FY 2015. The current funding allows for continued support for scholarships for child care providers to improve the quality of care for children in the program.

Table 2: SSBG Funded Services in the Office of Early Childhood Education

SERVICE AREA	NUMBER OF CLIENTS	PROPOSED FY 2015 EXPENDITURE	FY 2015 PROJECTED FROM SSBG FUNDING ¹³
Direct child care services for eligible children six weeks through twelve years of age and up to age 19 if the child has a disability.	1600	\$77,181,718	\$219,784

D. SSBG ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

The Family Services Administration manages the Social Services Block Grant for the District of Columbia. There are no administrative expenses assessed against the SSBG grant. Administrative responsibilities for program planning, public information services, monitoring, preparation of pre and post expenditure reports, as well as procurement and contracting are performed by FSA, CFSA, and ECE staff.

4. FISCAL YEAR 2015 SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT SERVICE CATALOGUE AND EXPENDITURES

The fiscal year 2015 Social Services Block Grant funds will be utilized to continue to support the vulnerable populations in the District of Columbia. Funds will be used in the Department of Human Services to provide direct services and to provide for management and monitoring of services in the following areas:

- general case management services;
- protective services for adults;
- homeless services for families with children;
- homeless services for adults;
- home-based services (homemaker and chore); and
- staff and administrative support.

¹²Includes the number of children projected to receive child care in fiscal year 2015.

¹³Based on the FY 2014 SSBG grant allocation for the District of Columbia and the portion allocated to ECE.

SSBG Funding is used by the Office of Early Childhood Education in the Office of the State Superintendent of Education for direct child care services.

During fiscal year 2015, funds will be disbursed to the Family Services Administration (FSA), and the Office of Early Childhood Education. The largest portion of SSBG funds will be allocated to FSA because SSBG is the primary funding source for the Adult Protective Services. In addition, some of the SSBG funding is also allocated to the Homeless Program in FSA. Projected expenditures included with the program descriptions earlier in this plan are based on the FY 2014 SSBG allocation for the District posted on the website of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Community Services. The District may need to reallocate the distribution of SSBG funds in FY 2015 to provide adequate funding for FSA programs. The projected FY 2015 distribution of SSBG funds appears in Table 3.

Table 3: Projected Distribution of SSBG Funds for Fiscal Year 2015

Administration or Office	Percent Distribution of FY 2015 SSBG Funds	Value of Distribution in Dollars
Family Services Administration	94%	\$3,732,575
Office of Early Childhood Education	6%	\$ 219,784
Total SSBG Funds	100%	\$3,952,359

5. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF INDIVIDUALS TO BE SERVED

While eligibility criteria will be consistent with the discrete requirements of each service or program, the primary criteria for participation in SSBG services or programs are based on clients' level of need and residency. All services provided by the District agencies that receive SSBG funds are limited to families, adults, or children who are residents of the District of Columbia.

The District provides a combination of social and supportive services that are designed to meet the special needs of children, the elderly, those who are emotionally and physically disabled, families with emergency or crisis needs, and TANF and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) families and individuals.

Most SSBG services shall be provided without regard to income. These services include protective services for children and adults, homemaker services for frail elderly and disabled adults active in adult protective services, foster care for children, and adoption services.

Home-based and child care services will be provided on a priority basis to recipients of TANF or SSI, children and adults in need of protective services, and children committed to the foster care system without regard to income. However, there will be an income requirement for adults not active in adult protective services but who receive homemaker services to help them remain in

their own homes. The income eligibility will be based on relevant Federal and District laws, regulations, policies and procedures. Clients receiving homemaker services are asked to make a donation toward the cost of the service based on income, but service is never denied to anyone if a donation is not or cannot be made.

The only service funded under the SSBG which requires a client fee for services is child care. The client fee will apply only to income-eligible families whose income is 62 percent or above the median income (adjusted for family size). A sliding fee scale will be applied to a family whose income is between 62 and 106 percent of the median income, and no parent will pay more than 20 percent of the actual cost of any type of child care services.

6. GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS SERVED

Social Services Block Grant funds will be used to support social services in the District of Columbia, an urban community of approximately 646,449 residents (U.S. Census, Current Population Report, 2013). The geography of District of Columbia is divided into four quadrants that cover eight wards and 61.05 square miles. The demographic profile suggest that the population is 50 percent African American, 43.4 percent white, 3.9 percent Asian, and 0.7 percent other races (American Indians and Alaskan Natives; Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders). The population in the District of Columbia who identify themselves of Hispanic origin is 10.1 percent. These individuals are distributed across three ethnic groups (Mexican, Cuban and Puerto Rican).

With regard to age, individuals 65 years of age and older comprise 11.4 percent of the population in the District of Columbia.¹⁴ Given the dynamics of the aging “Baby Boomers,” these statistics are expected to significantly increase over the next five to fifteen years. This increase is expected to be even greater among the elderly 85 years and older, as this is the fastest growing segment of the aging population.

The District of Columbia’s per capita income is the second highest in the nation.²¹ However, given the economic plight currently faced by our nation, a significant number of persons are experiencing poverty, home foreclosure, homelessness, as well as job loss. This recipe has precipitated an increased need to rely on direct social services for sustenance. This is related to the high crime and poverty rates that exist in these wards, factors that are closely related to increased health problems, educational disadvantages, and family and neighborhood disintegration.

Overall, clients active with Adult Protective Services, teen parents, individuals and families who are homeless, and clients receiving subsidized child care reside throughout the District of Columbia. The SSBG funding appropriated to the District is instrumental in producing good outcomes while improving the quality of life for vulnerable populations.

¹⁴Source U.S. Census Bureau: *State and County Quick-Facts*. Data derived from *Population Estimates, Census of Population and Housing, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, State and County Housing Unit Estimates, County Business Patterns, Non-employer Statistics, Economic Census, Survey of Business Owners, Building Permits, Consolidated Federal Funds Report*.

¹⁵U. S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis

7. **CONCLUSION**

The data and discussion presented herein substantiates the need and highlights the multiple use and intent of the Department of Human Services, and the Office of Early Childhood Education to utilize FY 15 Social Services Block Grant. This initiative is viewed as a vital resource to fund basic social services programs. As such, utilization of the SSBG funds is yet another opportunity to improve the quality of life for low-income and vulnerable residents of the District of Columbia.