



Office of Community Services

Mission Statement

The Office of Community Services (OCS) partners with states, communities, and agencies to reduce the causes of poverty, increase opportunity and economic security of individuals and families, and revitalize communities. Our social service and community development programs work in a variety of ways to improve the lives of many.

Programs

The OCS administers seven social service and community development programs. In 2022, this totaled almost \$6.29 billion in funding, inclusive of supplemental funding for economic relief and disasters.

Community Economic Development

Community Economic Development (CED) discretionary grants are awarded to nonprofit community development corporations in disinvested communities for purposes of creating new jobs for individuals with low-income, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families recipients.

Community Services Block Grant

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) supports services designed to ameliorate the causes and conditions of poverty by assisting individuals and families with low-incomes and communities with services based on local needs (i.e., employment, education, and adequate housing).

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides funds to states, tribes and tribal organizations, and territories to assist households with low-incomes in meeting their home energy costs.

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

The Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) provides funds to assist low-income households with water and wastewater bills. LIHWAP grants are available to states, territories, and federally and state-recognized tribes and tribal organizations that received fiscal year 2021 LIHEAP grants.

Rural Community Development

The Rural Community Development (RCD) provides discretionary grants to assist low-income communities in developing affordable and safe water and wastewater treatment facilities. RCD increases economic opportunities for low-income rural communities by ensuring they have basic water and sanitation, utilize technical assistance to leverage additional public and private resources, and promote improved coordination of federal, state, and local agencies and financing programs to benefit low-income communities.

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Social Services Block Grant

The Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) provides funding to states to increase economic self-sufficiency, prevent or address neglect, abuse, or the exploitation of children and adults, prevent or reduce inappropriate institutionalization, and secure referrals for institutional care, where appropriate.

Assets for Independence*

Assets for Independence (AFI) is a community-based approach that uses matched savings accounts (Individual Development Accounts or IDAs) as a tool for enabling individuals and families with low- incomes and to become economically self-sufficient. Program participants may use their savings, plus the matched amount, to buy a house, expand or start a business, or use their accounts for higher education expenses.

Program Funding (\$M)

Program	2022	2021	2020
Community Economic Development	21.4	20.4	20.4
Community Services Block Grant	755.0	745.0	740.0 ¹
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program	3800 ²	3712.8 ³	3740.0 ⁴
Low Income Household Water Assistance Program	0	1138.0 ⁵	0
Rural Community Development	11.0	10.0	10.0
Social Services Block Grant	1700.0	1700.0	1700.0
Assets for Independence ⁶	0	0	0
OCS Total	6287.4	7326.2	6210.4

¹ Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act appropriated an additional \$1 billion to CSBG.

² Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Supplemental: \$100 million to LIHEAP.

³ American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 appropriated an additional \$4.5 billion to LIHEAP.

⁴ Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Supplemental: \$900 million to LIHEAP.

⁵ Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 appropriated \$638 million to LIHWAP and American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 appropriated an additional \$500 million to LIHWAP.

⁶ No funds were appropriated for the AFI program for FY 2017. ACF has not made new grant awards for the AFI program since FY 2016. Organizations operating AFI projects funded in FY 2016 and prior are responsible for continuing to operate those projects through the end of the grant award project period.