



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT**

***TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE APPROPRIATIONS, HUMAN SERVICES,  
AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEES***  
***September 3, 2014***

*Benjamin Barnes*  
*Secretary*  
*Office of Policy and Management*

FFY 15 Allocation Plans for Federal Block Grants

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Senator Bye, Representative Walker, Senator Slossberg, Representative Abercrombie, Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, and distinguished members of the Appropriations, Human Services, and Public Health Committees, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and to request your approval of the federal fiscal year 2015 federal block grant allocation plans.

Before you this morning are allocation plans for the Social Services, Community Services, Community Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Maternal and Child Health, and Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grants. Together, these six block grants represent over \$55 million in federal funding for Connecticut.

As always, we cannot be certain of the exact funding levels until Congress acts on the federal budget. Our best indications from the federal government, based on congressional actions to date, are that allocations to Connecticut for all six of the block grants will be level funded, which is reflected in the estimated award amounts shown in the submitted plans. All of the proposed plans do contain contingency strategies in case more or less funding is awarded to Connecticut.

We would like to note that the PHHSBG plan includes an additional \$1.2 million in FFY 14 Supplemental funding. In April 2014, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) informed states that they would be receiving Supplemental funding for FFY 2014, from the Affordable Care Act's Prevention and Public Health Fund. Connecticut was advised by CDC that we would be able to receive the additional amount noted above after the submission of a formal application by July 1, 2014, which we completed. It is estimated that these Supplemental funds will be formally awarded in late summer or early fall, and funds should be available for use starting October 1, 2014. We have incorporated the planned allocation of these funds within the PHHSBG plan.

Please find attached to this testimony a chart showing federal block grant award trends over the past decade. This chart demonstrates that awards for the six block grants have been fairly stable over the past ten years. All of the allocation plans before you this morning - with the exception of the MCHBG - do not anticipate any overall reduction in services. In the absence of an increased federal award, the MCHBG allocation plan will reflect minor programmatic reductions due to the declining availability of carry forward funding and increasing annual costs. Beginning this federal fiscal year, the State Healthy Start Program will no longer be supplemented by MCHBG funds; however, this federal funding is only a portion of the funding the program receives and services will continue to be provided in the absence of the block grant funding.

Representatives from the Departments of Social Services, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Public Health, and Children and Families will provide more specific information on each of the block grant allocation plans. I respectfully request that the committees support these six block grant allocation plans and would like to again thank the committees for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

### Federal Block Grant Awards FFY 2005-FFY 2015

