



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE APPROPRIATIONS, HUMAN SERVICES,
AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEES**
September 28, 2015

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Secretary
Office of Policy and Management

FFY 16 Allocation Plans for Federal Block Grants

Senator Bye, Representative Walker, Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie, Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, 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 2016 federal block grant allocation plans.

Before you this morning are allocation plans for the Social Services (SSBG), Community Services (CSBG), Community Mental Health Services (CMHS), Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT), Maternal and Child Health (MCH), and Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) 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 the four of the block grants (PHHS, MCH, CSBG, and SSBG) will be level funded, which is reflected in the estimated award amounts shown in the submitted plans. Based on estimated funding levels provided by SAMHSA, SAPT assumes a minor increase of 0.06% in block grant funding while a minor decrease of 1.39% (\$67,100) is anticipated in CMHS. The proposed plans do contain contingency strategies in case more or less funding is awarded to Connecticut.

We would like to note that the CSBG plan level funds grants to community action agencies, except for the two new community action agencies covering the Greater Stamford and Greater Norwalk catchment areas, which will receive full year funding for the first time in FFY 16. While the table within the allocation plan makes it appear that some community action agencies may be getting a decrease in funding from FFY 15, this is because the FFY 15 expenditures included delayed

funding from FFY 14, which resulted in an artificial inflation of funding in FFY 15. Allocations for FFY 16 represent the base amounts entities should be receiving pursuant to the statutorily required formula (i.e. an average of the amounts received across FFY 14 and FFY 15).

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 do not anticipate any overall reduction in services.

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.

