



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

***TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE APPROPRIATIONS, HUMAN SERVICES,
AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEES
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FFY 17 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 2017 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 Services (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 four of the block grants (PHHS, CMHS, SAPT, and SSBG) will be level funded, which is reflected in the estimated award amounts shown in the submitted plans. The CSBG plan assumes level funding based on the FFY 16 award, less a one-time increase included in that award year. In addition, because the final FFY 16 award for the MCH was not known at the time the allocation plan was submitted, the FFY 15 award amount was used to prepare the FFY 17 plan.

We would like to highlight two proposed changes in the FFY 17 plans that would benefit from additional clarity:

- (1) The FFY 17 CSBG plan provides grants to community action agencies at the base award amounts pursuant the statutorily required formula in §17b-888 of the Connecticut General Statutes. While the table within the allocation plan

makes it appear that some community action agencies may be getting a decrease in funding from FFY 16, this is due to a one-time increase in the FFY 16 award and delayed FFY 15 payments, resulting in an artificial inflation of estimated funding in FFY 16.

- (2) Two minor adjustments have been made in the TANF/SSBG funding line items.
 - a. Funding for Prevention & Intervention - Community Services and Other Services - Community Services is collapsed into one line item, SSBG Case Management - Statewide Procurement. This change was made to more accurately reflect the actual usage of the funds for case management services.
 - b. The services provided under the Residences for Persons with AIDS line item are removed from SSBG/TANF funding, and instead will be provided with state funding. In turn, shelter services previously funded with state dollars will now be funded with SSBG/TANF monies under the Protective Services - Emergency Shelters line item. This shift does not result in an increase or decrease of actual program funding, and ensures that SSBG/TANF monies are being expended on eligible populations (families with children).

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.

Federal Block Grant Awards FFY 2007-FFY 2017

