



CALIFORNIA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES
TO END POVERTY

Contact: John Way
Tel: (707) 523-1155 x 4788
Email: John.Way@CAHumanDevelopment.org
Website: www.californiahumandevlopment.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Trump Administration's Proposal to Eliminate Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Funding

SANTA ROSA, California - February 16, 2018 - For the second year, the Trump Administration proposes to eliminate all funding for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), threatening the existence of about 1,000 local Community Action Agencies (CAAs) that serve about 16 million low-income people every year in 99 percent of the counties in the United States.

David Bradley, CEO of National Community Action Foundation, which represents Community Action Agencies said this: "Cutting CSBG, flexible local dollars that create opportunity for 16 million people across the country, a program with bipartisan support in Congress, abandons every community in America and burdens local communities. Congress, Republicans and Democrats in both the House and the Senate, will not accept this cut."

California Human Development (CHD), a Community Action Agency that serves low income individuals and families in 31 California counties, uses CSBG funding to provide valuable services to their clients. "CHD provided vital resources to the community during the recent wildfires and CSBG funds were partially responsible for allowing us to answer the call for action quickly," says Anita Maldonado, CEO. "That's just one example of how CSBG funds help communities. There are countless other ways that these valuable dollars are used on a daily basis to make a difference in the lives of the people we work with."

Community Action Agencies are unique agencies in their communities, each overseen by a governing board that represents public and private stakeholders and low-income community residents. While each agency may vary in size and scope, they all share a common mission of fighting poverty and promoting self-sufficiency at the community level. Local agencies respond to short-term crises that can topple a working family into poverty, and address chronic conditions that can trap multiple generations in dependency.

The locally-controlled organizations use their CSBG grants to develop extensive community partnerships, identify pressing local needs, and mobilize public and private resources to meet those needs. CAAs are nimble and respond quickly to emergencies, they are creative and fill service gaps, and they ensure cost-efficient use of funds on behalf of their communities and individual families.

"Communities across the country support the work of their Community Action Agencies through the Community Services Block Grant. The Trump Administration has taken care of Wall Street - it's time they stop being tone deaf to programs that Main Street supports," said Bradley.

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3315-Airway Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95403 · Voice: 707.523.1155 / Fax: 707.523.3776 · CaHumanDevelopment.org