



The state of Ohio will receive \$38,976,102 in additional Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Program dollars as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. The dollars represent approximately a 44% increase in CSBG funding during the next two-year period. Due to the large increase in funds, certain guiding principles are necessary to ensure that funds are used effectively, timely and with maximum accountability and transparency.

Guiding Principles

- CSBG ARRA funds will be provided to certified Community Action Agencies (CAAs) via the existing formula methodology.
- CAAs must have CSBG ARRA financial accounting and program reporting that is separate from federal fiscal year 2009 CSBG grant dollars.
- As with regular CSBG dollars, CAAs may use the CSBG ARRA dollars to provide services and activities addressing employment, education, better use of available income, housing, nutrition, emergency services and/or health to combat the central causes of poverty. However, CAAs are encouraged to the greatest extent practicable to use the CSBG ARRA dollars to support employment-related services and activities that create and sustain economic growth. Also critical ARRA activities that reduce poverty, revitalize low-income communities, and empower low-income families and individuals to become self-sufficient are strongly encouraged.
- CSBG ARRA activities involving employment activities should be coordinated with the local One Stop Career Centers.
- The Ohio Department of Development Community Development Division and its Office of Community Services (OCS) will reserve one percent (1%) of the state's CSBG stimulus dollars for benefits enrollment coordination activities relating to the identification and enrollment of eligible individuals and families in federal, state, and local benefit programs.
- CAA's are encouraged to become a member of the Ohio Benefit Bank to ensure that households are linked with all possible benefits and assistance.
- CAAs, to the greatest extent practicable, should link and coordinate activities to families and individuals receiving assistance with County Job and Family Services Offices to ensure that services are not duplicated.
- CAAs should coordinate activities with agencies implementing the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) as funded by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and/or ODOD. CAAs that are administering HPRP dollars must coordinate activities with CSBG stimulus funding.
- CSBG ARRA and regular CSBG dollars awarded to CAAs during federal fiscal years 2009 and 2010 may be used to assist families and individuals at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.
- CSBG ARRA dollars must be obligated by September 30, 2010. OCS will monitor and review CSBG ARRA dollar expenditures on a quarterly basis. To ensure timely expenditure of stimulus dollars. OCS reserves the right to reallocate CSBG ARRA funds to one or more CAAs that are exceeding expenditure and/or performance goals.

- OCS will encourage Community Action Agencies (CAAS) to use CSBG ARRA dollars for stipends and/or other incentives for unemployed/under-employed individuals to be trained in green energy/weatherization skills. This activity will be conducted in collaboration with the local providers of HWAP assistance in their service area.

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