

TITLE 481  
COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

CHAPTER 1-000 INTRODUCTION

1-001 Scope and Authority: These regulations govern the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Program. The Community Services Block Grant Program was created by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 and amended by Public Law 105-285, cited as the Coats Human Services Reauthorization Act of 1998.

1-002 Purposes and Goals: The purposes and goals of CSBG are to:

1. Provide assistance to states and local communities, working through a network of community action agencies and other neighborhood-based organizations for the reduction of poverty, the revitalization of low-income communities, and the empowerment of low-income families and individuals in rural and urban areas to become fully self-sufficient (particularly families who are attempting to transition off a state program carried out under part A of Title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.)); and
2. Accomplish the goals described in number 1 through:
  - a. The strengthening of community capability for planning and coordinating the use of a broad range of federal, state, local, and other assistance (including private resources) related to the elimination of poverty, so that this assistance can be used in a manner responsive to local needs and conditions;
  - b. The organization of a range of services related to the needs of low-income families and individuals, so that these services may have a measurable and potentially major impact on the causes of poverty in the community and may help the families and individuals to achieve self-sufficiency;
  - c. The greater use of innovative and effective community-based approaches to attacking the causes and effects of poverty and of community breakdown;
  - d. The maximum participation of residents of the low-income communities and members of the groups served by programs assisted through the block grants made under this program to empower residents and members to respond to the unique problems and needs within their communities; and
  - e. The broadening of the resource base or programs directed to the elimination of poverty so as to secure a more active role in the provision of services for:
    - (1) Private, religious, charitable, and neighborhood-based organizations; and
    - (2) Individual citizens, and business, labor, and professional groups who are able to influence the quantity and quality of opportunities and services for the poor.

1-003 Definitions: For use within CSBG, the following definition of terms will apply unless the context denotes otherwise:

Department: The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

Director: The Director of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

Eligible Entity: An entity that was eligible on October 26, 1998, the day before the date of enactment of the Coats Human Services Reauthorization Act of 1998, or designated by the process described in 481 NAC 2-011.

Poverty Line: The official poverty line established by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget based on the most recent data available from the Bureau of the Census.

Secretary: The Secretary of U.S. Health and Human Services, Office of Community Services.

1-004 Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity: An eligible entity must not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability or age. The eligible entity must make known that use of the facilities and services are available to all on a nondiscriminatory basis. The eligible entity must have procedures to make known their policy of nondiscrimination. Eligible entities and recipients must also adopt procedures which will make available to interested persons information concerning the location of services and facilities that are accessible to persons with disabilities.

1-005 Confidentiality: All eligible entities must adopt written policies to protect the confidentiality of all persons served, and all persons employed by the eligible entities. Confidentiality policies regarding persons served must be framed in the best interests of the client, and must include disclosure to the client of any potential sharing of information.

1-006 Access to Records: All eligible entities must adopt written policies that identify those records which are available to the public, those records which are not available to the public, and the conditions under which records may be made available. The Department's intent is that information regarding the eligible entity's policies, financial operations, and operating effectiveness must be available to the public under reasonable conditions.

1-007 Appeals Process: All eligible entities must have a written appeals process through which clients or potential clients may appeal denials of service or improper provision of service. The appeals process should extend at least to the eligible entity's governing board.

1-008 Child Support Services and Referrals: During each fiscal year for which an eligible entity receives a CSBG grant, the entity must:

1. Inform custodial parents in single-parent families that participate in programs, activities, or services carried out or provided under this program about the availability of child support services; and
2. Refer eligible parents to the child support offices of state and local governments.