

Community Services Block Grant

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Description: The stimulus bill provides \$1 billion for funding the Community Services Block Grant program. The CSBG program is a federally funded pass through grant program from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to be distributed to the states in accordance with historical distribution formats. The amount anticipated for the Wyoming CSBG program is \$5,305,963 with no portion of that amount available for administration at either the state or local level. The Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) administers the CSBG program through the Rural and Frontier Health Division, Community Services Programs (RFHD/CSP).

Wyoming receives an annual funding allocation of approximately \$3.5 million, which is distributed to local communities through local tripartite boards based on a poverty formula identified through the state's annual CSBG State Plan. Any project funded with CSBG dollars must be contracted with a community-based governing board in which 1/3 of the membership represents the local electorate, 1/3 of the membership is voted on by the local low-income community, and the remaining third is selected from among community leaders. All Wyoming counties (with the exception of Teton) and the Wind River Reservation have access to CSBG funding.

Although specifics are not yet known, it appears that stimulus money will be available over a two year period, beginning sometime between March and October of 2009, and will be limited to four categories of service: housing, healthcare, employment, and nutrition. While current CSBG funding regulations limit low-income clients to those who are within 125% of poverty, indications are that the stimulus money will be available to those within 200% of poverty. It also appears that 1% of the stimulus money can be used for identification and enrollment of eligible individuals, and that activities utilizing stimulus money must be separately contracted (including separate applications to initiate contracts) and separately tracked, vouchered, reported, and monitored.

In the absence of administration money for stimulus funds, the two person CSBG staff will conduct the distribution, application review, contracting, payment processing, tracking, monitoring, and reporting of stimulus money in addition to the ongoing duties of overseeing annual CSBG and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) programs. Within Wyoming communities, in the absence of administration money tripartite board coordinators will conduct application, distribution, contracting, payment processing, tracking, monitoring and reporting of stimulus funded activities within their jurisdiction.

Contact Information: Jim Rolf, Manager, Community Services Programs, Rural and Frontier Health Division; 6101 Yellowstone Road, Suite 510, Cheyenne, WY 82002, phone (307) 777-8652, Fax (307) 777-8545, e-mail jim.rolf@health.wyo.gov.