

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
57 HOWARD AVENUE
CRANSTON, RI 02920

TITLE XX
SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT
JULY 1, 2015 – JUNE 30, 2016

In accordance with the requirements of the Social Services Block Grant under P.L. 97-35, a Pre-expenditure Report for the use of funds has been developed for the period July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016.

This report is available at 57 Howard Avenue, Cranston, for public review.

A public hearing will be held to consider the proposed amendments on Monday, June 15, 2015 at 1:00 PM at the Louis Pasteur Building, 57 Howard Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920 in the West Wing Conference room. Persons wishing to testify may do so by signing up at the Hearing or by submitting written testimony to Division of Community Services, Office of the Associate Director, 57 Howard Avenue, Cranston, Rhode Island 02920. The Hearing will begin at 1:00 PM and will conclude when the last speaker finishes testimony or at 3:00 PM, whichever occurs first. The seating capacity of the West Wing Conference Room will be enforced and therefore the number of persons participating in the Hearing may be limited at any given time by the hearing officer, in order to comply with safety and fire codes.

TITULO XX
SUBVENCION DE SERVICIOS SOCIALES
1 DE JULIO 2015 AL 30 JUNIO 2016

De acuerdo con los requisitos de subvención de la sección de Servicios Sociales bajo P.L. 97-35, se ha desarrollado un reporte de gastos previos, para la utilización de estos fondos por el período de julio 1, 2015 a junio 30, 2016.

Este reporte, está disponible en 57 Howard Avenue, Cranston, para revisión pública.

Si usted tiene algún comentario, por favor diríjalos a: Division of Community Services, Office of the Associate Director, 57 Howard Avenue, Cranston, Rhode Island 02920.

Melba Depeña Affigne
Director

Gina M. Raimondo
Governor

TITLE XX/SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT INTENDED USE PLAN

JULY 1, 2015 –JUNE 30, 2016

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
MELBA DEPEÑA AFFIGNE, DIRECTOR

June 1, 2015

Introduction

Title XX of the Social Security Act provides states with federal funds for social services. In 1981, Congress amended Title XX, making it a Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), thereby giving states considerable flexibility in the use of the federal dollars.

The Pre-Expenditure Report fulfills the statutory requirements of Title XX of the Social Security Act and regulatory requirements at 45 CFR Section 96.10 (1981).

Under the Act, states are required to make an annual report to the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), on the intended use of Title XX funds. The Pre-Expenditure Report must satisfy the statutory requirements of the Act by relating:

- a. The intended use of Title XX funds;
- b. Information on the types of activities to be supported; and
- c. Information on the categories or characteristics of persons to be served.

Services will be offered to help clients reach one or more of the five federal goals which have been identified by Congress for Title XX:

1. Achieving or maintaining economic self-support to prevent, reduce, or eliminate dependency.
2. Achieving or maintaining self-sufficiency, including reduction or prevention of dependency.
3. Preventing or remedying neglect, abuse or exploitation of children and adults unable to protect their own interests, or preserving, rehabilitating, or reuniting families.
4. Preventing or reducing inappropriate institutional care by providing for community-based care, home-based care, or other forms of less intensive care.
5. Securing referral or admission for institutional care when other forms of care are not appropriate or providing services to individuals in institutions.

I. State/Federal Fiscal Year

This Pre-Expenditure Plan covers the State Fiscal Year 2015, with a start date of July 1, 2015 and ending on June 30, 2016.

II. Letter of Transmittal

Attached

III. Public Inspection

The Intended Use Plan is posted on the Secretary of State's website along with an invitation for public input on the Plan. (See Appendices).

IV. Narrative

A. Administrative Operations

1. State Administrative Agency

The Rhode Island Department of Human Services (DHS) has been designated by the Governor as the agency responsible for the planning and administration of the Social Services Block Grant.

The Department of Human Services is a multi-service agency which administers a broad range of financial aid, medical assistance and social services programs under several funding sources. The Director is appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate (Title 40 of the General Laws of Rhode Island). The Director provides leadership in planning and directing all activities and functions of the Department; serves as liaison with all other state agencies and federal agencies; coordinates Department activities in respect to state and federal legislation; and responds to inquiries and requests regarding departmental activities from individuals and organizations outside of the Department. The Director is assisted by the Deputy Director in the discharge of her responsibility by Associate Directors and Administrators who head the divisions within the Department: (1) Division of Community Services, (2) Division of Management and Operations Services, (3) Division of Elderly Affairs, (4) Division of Veterans Affairs (5) Office of Child Support Services, (6) Office of Rehabilitation Services, (Division of Financial Management). They are responsible for establishing priorities, program standards and policies, insuring provision for training of staff within their programs and providing general assistance to staff in program areas under their supervision. Within the divisions, specific programs are headed by an Administrator (or equivalent title) that has day to day responsibility for program operation.

The Division of Community Services has overall responsibility for the operation of the Assistance Payment Programs (TANF and GPA), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Child Care and Social Service programs including the Social Service Block Grant.

2. State Offices/Departments

a. Department of Human Services

Services provided directly by the Department of Human Services consist primarily of casework counseling and case management and include the cost of planning and administration of all SSBG activities and some staff training. They also include the referral to and authorization of contracted services.

Health services assist people to attain and maintain better physical and mental health by helping them to identify and understand their health needs and resources available to them including the Rhode Island Medical Assistance Program, EPSDT and Residential Services. Housing services help people to obtain and retain adequate housing in the community, avert heating and utility shutoffs, mediate landlord/tenant problems, and address emergency shelter needs.

The Department's social workers play a key role in the area of Information and Referral Services linking people with appropriate community resources. Crisis intervention and follow-up activities are included in this component.

Specialized services are provided to individuals with physical or mental disabilities including individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

b. Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Transportation services are provided to the population 60 years or older for doctors' appointments, therapy, medical tests, adult day care, and congregate meal sites for lunches.

c. Department of Administration

The Office of Housing and Community Development funding is provided to community agencies for the establishment and operation of shelters for the homeless.

d. Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals

This program provides access to services and supports for Rhode Islanders with developmental disabilities, mental health and substance abuse issues, and chronic long term medical and psychiatric conditions. Funding is used for residential services to individuals with mental health and/or substance abuse issues who cannot be cared for at home and could not otherwise afford to have access to treatment.

e. Department of Children, Youth, and Families

The Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) is guided by a strong vision that all children, youth and families reach their fullest potential in a safe and nurturing environment. Funding will be used within the system of care which addresses the needs of children and families in Rhode Island who are involved, or at risk of being involved, with the child welfare, children's behavioral health and juvenile corrections system.

Funds to support the Block Grant (SSBG) are appropriated by the Rhode Island General Assembly to the Department of Human Services as a component of the total budget of the Department for the variety of services it provides. When expenditures are made for social service activities, federal and state resources are distributed concurrently. Federal funds received by the state are deposited in the General Fund. The estimate of the amount of federal reimbursement is considered one of the revenue sources when the State Budget is developed and is considered by the Legislature when appropriations are made.

3. Purchase of Service Agreements and Contracts

Service Agreements and Contracts are negotiated with a number of community agencies and organizations for the provision of specific services to include:

- Protective Services for Adults and Children that include emergency shelter services, emergency basic needs services such as clothing and furniture.
- Information and referral services 24/7 by phone and via website covering local healthcare and social services.
- Independent/Transitional Living Services providing services to unmarried pregnant girls.

- Family planning services that enable individuals of childbearing age to voluntarily limit their family size by providing counseling, information, and medical services. (Medical Services are provided through title XIX for persons eligible for that program).
- Comprehensive prevention, education and services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.
- Case Management
- Housing Services
- Day-Care Children
- Legal Services
- Education & Training
- Residential Treatment of dual-diagnosed people
- Prevention & Intervention
- Transportation

B. Fiscal Operations

A. Criteria for Distribution

In allocating funds to various programs, DHS considers funds available through SSBG, TANF transfer and other state and federal sources. These funds are allocated within federal regulations to reflect the needs of Rhode Islanders and the geography of the state.

B. Planning Process for Use and Distribution of Funds

The state agencies and private contractors to whom the funds are distributed verify the continuing needs that have been addressed by the funds. DHS communicates the scope of work to be accomplished by the agency or contractor and enters into an agreement or contract for the delivery of those services. This year, in anticipation of FFY2016 and FFY2017, DHS will review the federal goals of Title XX and determine how the department can best meet those goals with Social Services Block Grant funds either through current programming or by supporting new services.

Agencies that enter into a contract with the Department of Human Services (or have subcontracts under Title XX) may not charge a fee for Title XX services, except in connection with an approved co-payment system. An agency may charge for other services not funded by DHS.

All providers agree to meet the requirements of all applicable State and Federal law including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1965 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as well as the longstanding policies of nondiscrimination in all DHS programs and the Drug Free Workplace Regulations. All providers agree to comply with the requirements of the Governor's Executive Order No. 05-01 and the Federal Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988.

All providers agree to report to DHS and to submit economy, efficiency and program results, reviews, investigations and evaluations and audits which may be required on a quarterly fiscal basis with annual audits.

C. Financial Operations System

RI DHS uses the Direct Allocation method to assign contract and vendor costs. For salary and fringe benefits of program staff, RI DHS uses the time study methodology of cost allocation. The purpose of the time studies is to determine the amount of time that specific groups of employees spend in administering to the different benefit programs functioning within the Department of Human Services so that the costs may be properly allocated among the appropriate agencies.

The Office of the Auditor General (OAG) is the State of Rhode Island's legislative audit agency. They conduct financial and performance audits to provide independent and reliable information to the General Assembly on a variety of topics including the State's financial condition, its use of federal funds in compliance with federal law and regulations, and whether programs are operating efficiently and effectively. The Office of the Auditor General completed its single audit report for the year ending June 30, 2014. The auditor performed a statewide audit of the financial statements and a single audit of federal grants including the Social Services Block Grant. Copies of the entire audit and of these particular findings are available at <http://www.oag.ri.gov/reports/sa2014.pdf> or upon request from the Department of Human Services.

C. Program Operations

1. Program Services Related to Federal Goals

TYPE	SSBG FEDERAL GOALS				
	Achieve or maintain economic self-support to prevent, reduce or eliminate dependency	Achieve or maintain self-sufficiency including reduction or prevention of dependency	Preventing or remedying abuse or exploitation of children and adults unable to protect their own interests or preserving rehabilitating or reuniting families	Preventing or reducing inappropriate institutional care by providing for community-based care, home-based care or other forms of less intensive care	Securing referral or admission for institutional care when other forms of care are not appropriate or providing services to individuals in institutions.
Case Management Services	X	X	X	X	
Day-Care Children	X	X	X	X	X
Education & Training	X	X	X	X	X
Family Planning Services	X	X			

Housing Services	X	X			
Independent & Transitional Living	X	X	X	X	X
Information & Referral	X	X	X	X	X
Legal Services	X	X	X	X	
Prevention & Intervention	X	X	X	X	
Protective Services for Adults	X	X	X	X	X
Protective Services for Children	X	X	X		
Residential Treatment Services	X	X	X	X	X
Transportation Services	X	X		X	

2. Characteristics of Individuals to be Served

Services are available in every community in the State of Rhode Island. All persons in the State may apply for social services. There is no requirement of citizenship nor are there requirements related to duration of residence.

Although an individual or family may be eligible for most Block Grant Social Services, this does not mean that entitlement for a specific service exists. Additional eligibility requirements may be prescribed by the governing contracts and/or DHS Policy Manual. For example, transportation is only provided for the elderly or individuals with disabilities, and documentation of the disability is required.

Provision of services depends not only upon the need of the individual or family, but also upon the availability of funding and the capacity of the provider agency. Waiting lists may be established when a provider is at the limit of its capacity to respond.

The State provides a system and procedure for fair hearings under which applicants or recipients may appeal denial, reduction or termination of services or failure to act upon a request for service within a reasonable time.

3. Types of Activities to be Supported

The SSBG statutory goals are identified in the above table. The table below depicts the methods of delivery and the geographic area where the services will be provided:

	Public Delivery of Services	Private Delivery of Services	Geographic Area of Service Provision
Case Management Services	X	X	Statewide
Day-Care Children	X	X	Statewide
Education & Training		X	Statewide
Family Planning Services		X	Statewide
Housing Services	X	X	Statewide
Independent & Transitional Living		X	Statewide
Information & Referral	X	X	Statewide
Legal Services		X	Statewide
Prevention & Intervention		X	Statewide
Protective Services for Adults	X	X	Statewide
Protective Services for Children		X	Statewide
Residential Treatment Services	X	X	Statewide
Transportation Services	X	X	Statewide