

# Connecticut Association For Community Action (CAFCA)

*Partnerships that work. Results that matter.*



**2010 FEDERAL PUBLIC POLICY POSITION:**

## **PRESERVE THE COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT**

### ***What is the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)?***

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) is the core funding for Connecticut's Community Action Agencies (CAAs), our state's federally-designated anti-poverty agencies. It supports us as we assist Connecticut's low-income families toward self-sufficiency. CSBG funding and support empower CAAs to be effective and accountable. Serving every one of our state's 169 towns and cities, Connecticut's CAAs provide cost-effective services to poor and low-income working families. At this time of extremely limited resources, government must support such proven, transparent delivery of vital services. With CSBG, CAAs save the government from having to pay far greater costs in the future.

### ***What do CSBG Funds Accomplish in Connecticut?***

Through CSBG, Connecticut's CAAs provide comprehensive, coordinated services—capitalizing on the synergies of private, local, state, and federal resources. These services include employment and job training; early childhood services such as child care, school readiness, and Head Start; energy assistance and weatherization; Individual Development Accounts and financial counseling; eviction prevention, transitional housing, and shelters; food pantries and other emergency services; alternatives to incarceration; AIDS and substance abuse prevention; and many more. We effectively meet diverse local needs because we are guided directly by community leaders and service recipients.

Among the many service achievements made possible through CSBG in 2009, Connecticut's CAAs:

- ✓ Leveraged approximately \$25 in additional federal, state, and private funds for every \$1 of CSBG funding;
- ✓ Directly served nearly 300,000 people through dozens of independent and coordinated programs;
- ✓ Used Results-Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) to produce holistic positive results;
- ✓ Mobilized more than 700,000 volunteer service hours—the equivalent of about 330 full-time employees;
- ✓ Provided preschool activities for more than 7,400 children;
- ✓ Helped more than 6,500 people obtain employment; and
- ✓ Empowered nearly 15,000 people to be more financially literate and decrease energy costs.

### ***CSBG Funding is a Smart Investment!***

Low-income families are among our state's most vulnerable residents. They need access to affordable health care; quality full-day, full-year preschool; job training and education; and other critical services to help them move out of poverty. CAAs provide these services every day, empowering self-sufficiency across the state. We put people to work and save the government the social and fiscal costs incurred when families suffer complete financial crisis.

***For more information, please visit [www.cafca.org](http://www.cafca.org) or call (860) 832-9438.***

***Thank you for preserving the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)!***

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Connecticut's twelve Community Action Agencies (CAAs) are the state's federally-designated anti-poverty agencies. We are foundational partners in Connecticut's Human Services Infrastructure and constitute a comprehensive, integrated human service delivery system. With services directly benefiting nearly 300,000 people annually, Connecticut's CAAs achieve positive results that change lives and strengthen communities.