

Systems and Services in Support of Children and Families in Times of Disaster

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Josephine Bias Robinson



Office of Community Services

The mission of the Office of Community Services is to increase the capacity of individuals and families to become more self-sufficient and to help build, revitalize and strengthen their communities.

Key Programs:

These programs are the vehicle(s) for supplemental funding to be distributed to states for disaster assistance.

- Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)
- Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance and Program (LIHEAP)

Secondary Programs

- Assets for Independence
- Urban and Rural Community Economic Development
- Community Food and Nutrition*
- Compassion Capital Fund*
- Job Opportunities for Low Income Individuals*
- Rural Facilities Program*

We Are In This Together



- Helping in times of crisis, meeting emergency needs, and assisting with subsequent recovery are key missions of the community action tradition.
- State and local agencies that received OCS funding, particularly Community Action Agencies, provided critical frontline communication, coordination, services and support to low-income children and families in communities devastated and dislocated by Hurricane Katrina and Rita.

Partners in Response, Recovery & Revitalization

- State Departments of Human Services, Health & Welfare and Economic Opportunity
- Community Action Agencies
- Non-Profit Partner / Philanthropic Partners including Red Cross and United Way
- Department of Education (Local Schools and Recreation Centers)
- Faith & Community-Based Organizations (Shelters, Food Banks, Civic Organizations)
- HHS Regional Offices in coordination with other Departments (HUD, Transportation, Agriculture, Labor, etc.)
 - ACF Regional Administrators
 - HHS Regional Health Administrators

Guidance, Clarification & Flexibility For Recovery

- Provided guidance for determining eligibility of affected individuals and families for services funded by SSBG, CSBG & LIHEAP and the kinds of services and supports allowed;
- Clarified the newly created evacuee status for expediting access to benefits;
- Shared possible strategies for community action assistance to affected low-income individuals and families during the initial phases of relief and recovery;
- Identified flexibilities and available sources of support for expanded community action service; and
- Encouraged essential community action communication and coordination with key public and private emergency responders and service providers at all phases of crisis assistance and recovery.

