



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) is a capped entitlement program that provides funds to assist States with the provision of social services to adults and children. Funds are appropriated in proportion to each State's population.

States have substantial discretion in the use of SSBG funds and may determine what services are provided, who is eligible to receive them, and how funds are used. States and local agencies may provide the services directly or purchase them from qualified agencies, organizations, or individuals. States also may use these funds to support staff training, licensing activities, planning and evaluation, and other administrative functions.

States are required to report SSBG expenditures using a standard postexpenditure report, which collects data on the total number of adults and children served and the amount expended for each service category. States report as recipients individuals who receive a service funded at least partially by the SSBG. This report analyzes the postexpenditure reports for 2002.

Highlights of this report are listed below.

- The SSBG 2002 appropriation was \$1.7 billion.
- The States reported SSBG expenditures of \$2.647 billion, of which 36 percent (\$955 million) was transferred from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant (TANF).
- More than 14 million (14,279,975) individuals received services that were funded at least partially by the SSBG. More than one-half of these recipients were children (55%).
- Approximately 12 percent of SSBG expenditures was reported for child protective services, 12 percent for special services for individuals with disabilities, and 10 percent for child foster care services.
- SSBG-supported services benefited an estimated 5 percent of the total United States population -- 10 percent of all children and 3 percent of all adults.
- In 42 States, more than 2 million (2,839,077) children received child day care services funded at least partially by the SSBG. SSBG expenditures for child day care were \$205 million.

Analyses of these annual State data are described in greater detail in the five chapters of the *Social Services Block Grant Annual Report 2002*.

Chapter 1. Introduction. This chapter provides a history of the SSBG and the States' responsibility to report on their use of SSBG expenditures.

Chapter 2. State Planning Approaches. This chapter provides examples of the planning that States undertake and the various ways they administer the SSBG appropriation.

Chapter 3. Expenditures. This chapter summarizes findings on State SSBG expenditures and provides analyses of expenditures by State and by service.

Chapter 4. Service Recipients. This chapter summarizes findings on the recipients of services funded in whole or in part by the SSBG and provides analyses of recipients by State and by service.

Chapter 5. Services. This chapter provides a detailed analysis of each service category funded by the SSBG.

Appendices include a copy of the postexpenditure reporting form and instructions, a data page for each State, and supplementary data tables.

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Administration for Children and Families • 370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W. • Washington, D.C. 20447