What Is It?

The Community Services Block Grant is the remaining remnant of the War on Poverty that is dedicated federal funding reserved for fighting poverty in America. The Community Services Block Grant program is designed to provide a range of services that assist people with low-incomes attain the skills, knowledge and motivation that is necessary to achieve self-sufficiency.

90% of CSBG funds go to the State’s network of Community Action Agencies (CAAs) that provide antipoverty services in all of Illinois’ 102 counties.

Why is CSBG Needed?

Poverty is a growing concern in Illinois. CSBG is the only funding a CAA has available that can be used to address these growing concerns. Without this funding CAAs would lose their ability to adapt to local poverty issues.

What Does CSBG Do?

Among the CSBG services that are provided to people who have incomes at or below 125% of poverty include:

- Helping and encouraging children and youth
- Supporting the working poor
- Helping low-income people in crisis
- Helping sustain and honor the elderly
- Strengthening families and the whole community

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* Numbers provided by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity