

# County Responses on the Use of the Social Services Block Grant



September 12, 2012

## Executive Summary

While not every state passes through the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funds to the counties, several do. The following information is a collection of county responses received by the National Association of Counties (NACo) and its affiliate, the National Association of County Human Services Administrators (NACHSA). It provides vignettes of the potential impact on some of their most vulnerable residents if SSBG funding were reduced or eliminated. NACo and NACHSA compiled information from over 70 counties in California, Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

SSBG provides great flexibility to states and counties. As a result, counties are able to use SSBG funds in those areas where they most need them. The use of funds varies not only among states, but also among counties within a state.

Despite the difference in the use of funds overall, Adult Protective Services (APS) emerged as the most common use of SSBG funds by far. Minnesota, North Carolina and Ohio are among the states where counties use SSBG the most for APS. Child Welfare Services was the second most common use of funds, followed by Services to Individuals with Disabilities.

Counties also reported that there is no other state or county program that could cover the loss of SSBG funds. In fact, SSBG is currently the only federally-funded program that can be used for APS. Congress created the Elder Justice Act as part of health care reform, but that program has never been funded.

Most counties reported that a loss of SSBG funds would lead to elimination or reduction of services, followed by lay-offs and institutionalization of individuals who are currently receiving in-home services. Some counties reported that they have already been forced to reduce services. Lay-offs will have a domino effect on services, since staff often provides direct services such as case management and needs assessments. Finally, several counties pointed out that institutionalization can be more expensive than in-home services, which defeats the purpose of cost savings.

## County Responses

### CALIFORNIA

**Services for Persons with Disabilities:** The Deaf Access Program (DAP) is the only state program providing a broad range of services to California's approximately 3.2 million people who are deaf and hard of hearing. The primary purpose of the program is to ensure equal access to county public social services. These services are provided through contracts with private, non-profit agencies throughout California. Among the services provided are sign language interpreting, advocacy, training in independent living skills, job placement, counseling, and education.

In the 2011/2012 fiscal year, approximately 52 percent of the \$5.2 million provided to the DAP were SSBG funds. The elimination of this funding would have a devastating effect on the DAP, and leave thousands of individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing without access to vital services. During the current fiscal year, it is estimated that approximately 175,000 people will receive DAP services. This

number would be reduced by half or more if federal funding were unavailable. Not only would individual clients suffer, but the solvency of some of the non-profit agencies that provide deaf and hard of hearing services could be threatened, due to their heavy reliance on DAP funding.

**Child Welfare Services:** SSBG funding provides flexibility to identify services that will allow children to return home with supervision and supports. To be effective, social workers need immediate access to resources until eligibility can be determined for other specific categorical services. These services are necessary to return the children home, while ensuring safety and stability including the ability to address any emergency circumstances. The absence of funding to support and refer children and their families can put children at risk of out of placement or can delay reunification.

#### Case Summary

C was raising three children by herself, including a son with major medical needs. She held her own until she lost her job with a container company at the Port of Oakland. The spark that led her to DCFS was lack of health insurance. Her middle son, age 11 at the time, was born with a disabling lung condition that requires regular medical intervention. Without a job, C had no health insurance, and she missed a doctor's appointment for her son. Knowing that ongoing medical treatment was critical for this young boy, the doctor called child protective services.

DCFS did not remove her children, but referred her family to a program in Alameda County that supports families. By being in the system, C's son was now eligible for Medicaid to support his special needs. Over the course of six months the family's advocate from one of the community based organizations visited the home at least weekly. She referred C to parenting classes and to therapy for both her and her son. She helped C apply for child support from her former husband. She helped her do a resume and look for jobs and they talked about how trauma impacts families.

C's case is closed now. She will not lose her kids. On her last court date, "I just started floating," she said. From her work with the provider she knows more about handling stress. All three of her children are doing well. It is not likely she will ever be in the child welfare system again.

## **COLORADO**

### ***El Paso County***

The county has approximately \$4.6 million available from SSBG, which is spent as follows:

1. Child Welfare Services, \$4,513,000
2. Adult Protective Services, \$165,000
3. Child Care, \$12,000

Cuts to SSBG would result in reduction or elimination of services and layoffs.

### ***Elbert County***

The major uses of SSBG, in order, are:

1. Child Welfare Services
2. Adult Protective Services
3. Child Care

Cuts to SSBG would result in reduction or elimination of services, institutionalization of individuals who are receiving home services, and layoffs.

***Mesa County***

SSBG is used for adult protective services, child welfare services, services to individuals with disabilities, child care, and benefit eligibility determinations. Cuts to SSBG would result in reduction or elimination of services, institutionalization of individuals who are receiving home services, and layoffs.

***San Juan County***

SSBG is used for emergency services, which would have to be reduced or eliminated if SSBG were not available.

**IOWA**

***Lee County***

The major uses of SSBG, in order, are:

1. Services to Individuals with Disabilities
2. Adult Protective Services
3. Child Welfare Services
4. Child Care

***Washington County***

Washington County received SSBG in FY 2012, but the state did not appropriate funds to the counties for 2013. Local governments had to cover the losses.

***Woodbury County***

SSBG is used to provide services to individuals with disabilities. Cuts to SSBG would force the county to reduce or eliminate services.

**MINNESOTA**

***Anoka County***

Case Summary

B lives alone and suffers from a traumatic brain injury, as well as some cognitive deficits that impair his ability to handle finances. He is particularly vulnerable to financial cons. He has given thousands of dollars to lottery scams, as well as individuals who easily coerced him into signing checks and transferring funds to them. His property taxes were behind several years, and all of his bills were delinquent several months. Supported by SSBG funds, Adult Protection became involved and discovered that he was also not eating or managing his medications properly. His money is now protected, his bills are all caught up, and his property taxes are on a payment plan. He is currently receiving skilled nurse visits, a homemaker, meals on wheels, and a senior companion.

Case Summary

K is the mother to one child who is currently 20 months old. We received the case when he was six months old due to his mother being addicted to methamphetamine and being unable to care for him. Her child was placed in foster care while intense services were offered to her. K has participated in chemical dependency treatment for approximately 10 months, attended therapy, the county obtained

stable housing, assisted in expanding her support system by holding a family group decision making conference, completed extensive safety planning and visitation so that K's child could be returned safely without sacrificing the attachment her son has with her. The funding has also provided help to her in obtaining her GED and employment. Throughout the case K has relapsed on meth three times and extensive efforts continue to help her obtain and maintain her sobriety and safety for her child. K is now participating in the Enhanced Treatment Program. The social worker has been able to maintain weekly, sometimes daily, contact with family to support and hold the mother accountable.

### ***Faribault and Martin Counties***

We have had some very traumatic cases of child abuse and neglect which have had to be investigated; ongoing services provided are funded through SSBG.

#### Case Summary

We had a two-year old girl who was severely burned by her mother's boyfriend when he submerged her into scalding water. This girl was provided child protective services, including a child protection investigation and case management to ensure her safety and to ensure that she had all necessary services. Services were used to have her placed with her grandparents who are able to provide care for her and ensure all of her needs are met.

#### Case Summary

We are currently providing services to a 16 year old girl from Guatemala who was found on the interstate with an unknown male. It is believed that she is involved in human trafficking. With SSBG funds, we are utilizing services to ensure the safety of this young woman. She is currently in foster care and we are helping her to locate services including ESL classes, counseling, etc.

### ***Hennepin County***

In Hennepin County, SSBG is used primarily for child welfare services, followed by adult protective services. In fact, 38 percent of the county's allocation of our state Vulnerable Children and Adults block grant is comprised of SSBG funding. State funding for the block grant has been reduced 30 percent since 2002. We rely on SSBG to assess over 14,000 reports of child maltreatment annually.

#### Case Summary

Hennepin County has been assisted in its implementation of Signs of Safety for child protection through SSBG. Our use of the Signs of Safety tools and practices has improved our ability to communicate with parents and children involved in out-of-home placement. A child placed in foster care due to domestic violence shared with her case manager what she had seen and heard regarding violence in her home. The child's mother denied that her children had been affected by the domestic violence until she saw the pictures and words her child had shared. The parent was able to realize the impact the violence had had on her children and began to work on making sure her home was a safe place for her family.

### ***Mower County***

The vast majority of the vulnerable adults on behalf of whom we intervene do not have access to traditional funding sources. They either do not have Medical Assistance or our intervention with them is acute and our chances to bill for services are limited.

The county also has a significant elderly population for whom we are finding fewer and fewer natural supports to assist with their care. Thus we spend a great deal of time providing these supports and with less and less time available to our staff, we often have to avert and take the quick route to court and

appoint an unrelated support (Guardian/Conservator) to make decisions and assure care for the individual. This comes at a growing cost (our skyrocketing Guardian budget).

### ***Olmsted County***

SSBG is used to fund our mandated Adult Protection (AP) Team, whose mission is to ensure safety, justice and quality of life to our community's vulnerable adults (VA). To help accomplish that, our AP Team strives to partner with our community in a number of ways which improves understanding of what a VA is, what AP can do, and also build working relationships with those departments that have cause to work with our VA population in some capacity. Partnerships include Civil and Criminal County Attorneys, Victim Services, Mayo Clinic Geriatrics, Physicians, Medical Social Services, Law Enforcement, Veteran Services, and APS staff collaboration with ten counties in the region. In 2011, there were 103 maltreatment allegations; 51 of those were financial exploitation investigations. Total calls received were 1,278.

### **Case Summary**

Female age 67 is victim of financial exploitation by 44 year old son. There is a history from 2008 until January of 2012 of unauthorized credit card use by the son against the mom and he has been criminally charged. More than \$25,000 was charged without authorization of the mom. The son continues to manipulate the mom and get money from her while incarcerated. He also convinces her to pay \$4,000 to secure an attorney for him. The son instructs his mom to not speak with social workers. Due to memory issues, the mom does not recall this and is interviewed by APS. APS gathers medical documentation indicating that she is no longer capable of managing her finances due to memory impairment. The court is petitioned by APS for a professional to be named as conservator, as well as a family member to be named guardian in order to protect the mom from further maltreatment. This request was successfully granted by the courts resulting in the protection of this vulnerable adult from further maltreatment and the theft of her remaining assets.

### ***Ramsey County***

We received \$3.7 million in SSBG this year. We would cut a variety of services/programs across the board rather than a single one or two. We would have to reduce our staff by 27 positions, including staff in child protection and adult mental health. A number of contracts would also have to be reduced, including adult and child mental health services and meals on wheels.

### ***Washington County***

A significant decrease in SSBG would mark a large loss to the provision of Children's and Adult Protection Services in Washington County. The county receives over \$820,000 in SSBG funds annually.

With the law change in 2011 by the state legislature creating the Vulnerable Children's and Adult Act (VCAA), 89 percent of the SSBG allocation for Washington County is now directed to child protection services. The other 11 percent of the VCAA funds are allocated to Adult Protection Services. The new VCAA requires SSBG funds to be used only for child and adult protection services.

In 2013, about \$730,000 of the SSBG allocation (about 12 percent of the total children's services budget) is allocated to assist in funding child protection staff and services. The direct services for Child Protection that are funded in part by SSBG include:

- Two full-time child protection staff positions during business hours answer thousands of social services phone calls each year. Several hundred referrals of alleged child maltreatment are

accepted each year. Five full-time child protection staff positions and a senior social worker investigate over 150 child maltreatment reports as well as respond to several dozen child welfare reports each year. A full-time supervisor is also partially funded by SSBG funds.

- More families are served through our Truancy Intervention Program, about 360, with a staffing of three full time social workers. While most counties have downsized or eliminated their dedicated Truancy services to this target population, Washington County continues to provide this service and has one of the highest high school graduation rates of Minnesota counties. SSBG partially funds this service.
- Two full-time child protection staff positions also have partial SSBG funding to provide adoption and guardianship services to children and youth in the child protection system.

### ***Wilkin County***

We utilize SSBG to supplement the county funds for the Homemaker Program. Wilkin County is one of the few counties statewide that still provides these services to vulnerable elderly and disabled individuals and young families who are in need of support services in their homes. These services allow individuals to remain in their own home with a positive quality of life. We also utilize these services to provide support to young families who are struggling with parenting and skills of daily living.

## **NEW JERSEY**

### ***Atlantic County***

The major uses of SSBG, in order, are:

1. Adult Protective Services
2. Child welfare services
3. Services to Individuals with Disabilities
4. Planning

The loss of SSBG funds will have dramatic negative impact on the quality of life in the county. The county would have to reduce or eliminate services, institutionalize individuals who are receiving home services, or reduce staff.

### ***Monmouth County***

The major uses of SSBG, in order, are:

1. Services to Individuals with Disabilities,
2. Child Welfare Services
3. Adult Protective Services
4. Child Care

Additionally, the county uses funds for domestic violence, comprehensive assessments for adult services, and jail discharge planning. The loss of SSBG funds would result in reductions or elimination of services, institutionalization of individuals who are receiving home services and layoffs.

## **NEW YORK**

### ***Dutchess County***

The county uses SSBG to provide services in all funding categories on a first-come-first serve type of reimbursement. The loss of SSBG would result in reduction or elimination of services.

## **NORTH CAROLINA**

### ***Catawba County***

SSBG supports our work with child welfare, adult protective services and services to individuals with disabilities. It is our largest funding source for Adult Protective Services and Guardianship. With our census showing an increase in our aging population, we cannot turn our back on them. A loss of SSBG funds would reduce most or all preventive services, as agencies move to plug the holes left in mandated services, which would in turn force our residents into more costly care.

### Case Summary

HR is a 78 year old male who resides with his son and daughter-in-law. Son worked during the day and daughter-in-law stayed at home to supervise HR who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's type dementia. HR also liked to go out for walks during the day; however, when he went out on a walk one day while the daughter-in-law was in the bathroom, HR went out the door without his daughter-in-law's knowledge, and could not find his way home. Police were called to the home and the search took eight or nine hours until he was finally located. An APS report was made to law enforcement. The report was accepted as caretaker neglect and the social worker went out the same day to conduct the initial evaluation. HR had a great deal of family support. Son and daughter-in-law and two other daughters were doing the best that they could to provide for his care. HR was still very mobile but when caretakers' backs were turned he took flight. The social worker worked with the family to assist them in locating an alarm device to put on their front door to alert them when HR decided to leave, and also assisted family while working with law enforcement to obtain a GPS tracking device that would pinpoint HR's location quickly should he go on another unassisted walk. Finally the APS social worker assisted the family in referral to a structured day program several days a week to provide respite for the caregivers and to provide an outlet for HR to meet other individuals and participate in activities.

### ***Cleveland County***

The major uses of SSBG, in order, are:

1. Child Welfare Services
2. Adult Protective Services
3. Services to Individuals with Disabilities

The loss of SSBG funds would result in reductions or elimination of services, institutionalization of individuals who are receiving home services and layoffs.

### ***Dare County***

SSBG is pretty much the *only funding source for Adult Protective Services* in North Carolina counties; and APS reports are drastically increasing as our population ages.

### ***Gates County***

The major uses of SSBG, in order, are:

1. Adult Protective Services



2. Services to Individuals with Disabilities
3. Child Care
4. Child Welfare Services

The loss of SSBG funding would result in reductions or elimination of services, institutionalization of individuals who are receiving home services, and layoffs.

***Greene County***

The major uses of SSBG, in order, are:

1. Adult Protective Services
2. Child Welfare Services
3. Services to Individuals with Disabilities

The loss of SSBG funding would result in reductions or elimination of services, institutionalization of individuals who are receiving home services, and layoffs.

***Halifax County***

SSBG funding is one of the most critical funding sources for agency operations, particularly in APS. The county also uses funds for child welfare services, services to individuals with disabilities and child care. As far as APS is concerned, SSBG is the main funding source for the staff salaries that provide case work and supportive services. Funding cuts would cause substantial personnel losses.

***Iredell County***

The major uses of SSBG, in order, are:

1. Services to Individuals with Disabilities
2. Adult Protective Services

The loss of SSBG funding would result in reductions or elimination of services, institutionalization of individuals who are receiving home services, and layoffs.

***Lincoln County***

All of the county's SSBG allocation is used to support our Adult Services programs. This includes those services with no other funding source other than county dollars. Services provided by social work staff, in order, are:

- In-Home Services- supporting/assisting aged or disabled adults to remain in their home or in the community safely and with the highest quality of life possible. Also, to assist individuals who can no longer remain at home but need assistance locating and adjusting to alternative living arrangements.
- Guardianship services - Increased supportive services to at-risk adults with declining health and/or other issues requiring agency intervention.
- Adult Protective Services – Assessments and intervention due to reports of neglect, abuse, or exploitation.

***Pender County***

The county uses SSBG for adult protective services. The loss of SSBG funding would result in reductions or elimination of services, institutionalization of individuals who are receiving home services, and layoffs.

***Perquimans County***

The county depends on SSBG for Adult Protective Services and has no other options to serve these individuals. Additionally, the county uses SSBG for services to individuals with disabilities and child welfare. If funds are cut or eliminated, individuals who are receiving services at home would have to be institutionalized and services would have to be reduced.

***Person County***

The major uses of SSBG, in order, are:

1. Child Welfare Services
2. Services to Individuals with Disabilities
3. Adult Protective Services
4. Crisis Intake Services

The loss of SSBG funding would result in reductions or elimination of services, institutionalization of individuals who are receiving home services, and layoffs.

***Polk County***

The major uses of SSBG in order are:

1. Adult Protective Services
2. Child Welfare Services
3. Child Care

The county would have to find a way to backfill the loss of funds, since these are mandated services, but there would still have to be reductions in services. Additionally, more elderly individuals may have to be institutionalized.

***Robeson County***

The major uses of SSBG, in order, are:

1. Adult Protective Services
2. Child Welfare Services
3. Services to Individuals with Disabilities
4. Child Care

The loss of SSBG funding would result in reductions or elimination of services, institutionalization of individuals who are receiving home services, and layoffs.

***Rockingham County***

We currently use SSBG to serve hundreds of individuals and families in various program areas including, but not limited to, Adult Protective Services, Guardianship /Representative Payee, At-Risk Adults and Children, and Child Welfare. Elimination of the SSBG funding would mean a loss of approximately \$557,789 in SFY 2012-2013. This funding loss would cripple our agency's ability to provide mandated services to our most vulnerable of citizens.

**Scotland County**

The major uses of SSBG, in order, are:

1. Child Welfare Services
2. Adult Protective Services
3. Services to Individuals with Disabilities
4. Child Care

Cuts to SSBG would result in eliminating or reducing services as well as layoffs.

**Robeson County**

The major uses of SSBG, in order, are:

1. Adult Protective Services
2. Child Welfare
3. Services to Individuals with Disabilities
4. Child Care

Cuts to SSBG would result in eliminating or reducing services as well as layoffs.

**Wake County**

The major uses of SSBG, in order, are:

1. Adult Protective Services
2. Child Welfare Services
3. Services to Individuals with Disabilities

Cuts to SSBG would result in eliminating or reducing services as well as layoffs.

**Wilkes County**

The major uses of SSBG, in order, are:

1. Child Welfare Services
2. Adult Protective Services

The loss of SSBG funding would result in reductions or elimination of services, institutionalization of individuals who are receiving home services, and layoffs.

**Wilson County**

This is the main funding source for adult services within the 100 County Departments of Social Services in North Carolina. In fact, most of our counties only use SSBG for adult services because there are simply no other funding sources. Without SSBG funds, our state's ability to provide services to abused, neglected and/or exploited seniors and disabled adults would be crippled to the point that these very services could become almost nonexistent in many North Carolina counties. Without SSBG the entire social safety net for senior and disabled people in North Carolina would be virtually wiped out!

## **NORTH DAKOTA**

### ***Barnes County***

SSBG is used for services to individuals with disabilities. The loss of SSBG funding would result in reductions or elimination of services, institutionalization of individuals who are receiving home services, and layoffs.

### ***Dakota Central (McLean, Mercer, Oliver, and Sheridan Counties)***

SSBG represents two percent of the Dakota Central counties' revenues. The major uses of SSBG, in order, are:

1. Child Welfare services
2. Child Care

The counties would be expected to backfill the loss of funds.

### ***Divide County***

SSBG is used for all programs, but the most common uses, in order, are:

1. Child Welfare
2. Adult Protective Services
3. Services to Individuals with Disabilities
4. Child Care

The loss of SSBG funding would result in reductions or elimination of services, institutionalization of individuals who are receiving home services, and layoffs.

### ***Grand Forks County***

The major uses of SSBG, in order, are:

1. Child Welfare Services
2. Adult Protective Services

The county would be expected to backfill the loss of funds.

### ***Griggs County***

The major uses of SSBG, in order, are:

1. Adult Protective Services
2. Child Welfare
3. Services to Individuals with Disabilities

The loss of SSBG funding would result in reductions or elimination of services, institutionalization of individuals who are receiving home services, and layoffs.

### ***Nelson County***

The major uses of SSBG, in order, are:

1. Adult Protective Services
2. Child Welfare
3. Services to Individuals with Disabilities

The loss of SSBG funding would result in reductions or elimination of services, institutionalization of individuals who are receiving home services, and layoffs.

### ***Stark County***

SSBG is used for all social services for the elderly, children and families. The loss of SSBG funds would result in reduction or elimination of services and layoffs.

## **OHIO**

### ***Champaign/Logan Counties***

In Champaign County, SSBG is used for the protection of children and is our resource to continue with our Adult Protective Services staff. We have already had to cut our APS worker to a part-time position (she carries multiple case types but is only about 50 percent APS). This has been extremely difficult for our community. SSBG is also used to provide contracted transportation services to those individuals who need to go to social service agencies or medical appointments within our county.

Logan County Children Services is a stand- alone agency. In Logan, SSBG is used to contract for Home Based Services to the senior citizens in our community, a transportation contract as well as fund our adult protective service worker (we are still fortunate to provide a full time staff member to meet this demand).

The massive budget cuts that have occurred over the past four years have had a serious effect on our local delivery of services. The loss of SSBG may potentially stop many of those limited services that we are still able to provide, affecting the most vulnerable of our communities - our children and our elderly.

### ***Clark County***

SSBG is a critical resource for adults and the elderly who are in need of protective services. These services include investigation, homemaker, and guardianship due to exploitation, self neglect and abuse. State funding received for adult protective services amount to approx \$6,000 annually. SSBG is the only source of funding we have to offset the upwards of \$300,000 we spend annually on the over 100 individuals that are identified in our community. It is also used to supplement child protection with mental health treatment and developmental disability services. It is also critical for providing transportation to need social service providers. The \$500,000-\$600,000 we receive annually has continually declined and is only 33 percent of what it was 30 years ago.

### ***Clermont County***

We use SSBG for child protective services and adult protective services. SSBG is the major funding source for these two required services. The level of these services depends on this funding. If this funding is reduced, then services would be reduced and deaths could occur.

### ***Columbiana County***

Is the 22nd largest county in Ohio with a population of 107,000. Our county has no local funding source whatsoever to serve our elderly population. SSBG received by the local DJFS is the only source. We employ 1.5 FTE's devoted to handling elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. We are an Appalachian county which suffers from the brain drain so common to many communities in the Rust Belt. The young folks left for greener pastures elsewhere long ago and now the old folks are aging and there is no one local to check up on them. A very common scenario for us is the baby boomer kids have left the area

and mom or dad or both deteriorating both physically and mentally with no one to intervene. We receive those referrals on a daily basis. Often we must track down relatives and help them to work through doing what needs to be done. Who would do this if we could not? No one, that's who. In the current anti-tax environment, passing a "local levy" to handle this in our county is not an option.

### ***Coshocton County***

The major uses of SSBG, in order, are:

1. Child Welfare Services
2. Services to the Elderly
3. Services to Individuals with Disabilities
4. Adult Protective Services

The loss of SSBG funds would result in service reductions or elimination; institutionalization of elderly and disabled individuals who are receiving services at home; and layoffs.

### ***Crawford County***

We are very concerned about the possibility of the reduction or elimination of SSBG. We use this money in our county to protect a very fragile portion of our population--the elderly--from abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Without this money, our elderly population is at serious risk.

### ***Delaware County***

The county uses SSBG for child welfare services. A loss of SSBG funds would result in service reductions or elimination as well as layoffs.

### ***Knox County***

The state allocates a very small amount to APS (it's a placeholder in case funding becomes available). Also, Ohio counties that do not have a Children's Services Levy are heavily dependent on SSBG funding for the operation of Children's Services since Ohio only contributes about five percent of the total spent on child welfare by the counties. Probably the best way to describe what SSBG does for counties in Ohio is that it fills in the gaps in services in a number of programs spread throughout the social service spectrum. They are some of the last truly flexible funds that help us tailor social services to the individual needs of people in our counties.

### ***Licking County***

We receive about \$465,000 in SSBG every State Fiscal Year. We spend these funds in two key areas:

- **Adult Protective Services:** We target about \$85,000 to provide Intake/Investigation, Case Management and Services to Adults age 60+ who are abused, neglected or exploited.
- **Child Protective Services:** We target the balance (about \$ 385,000) for Services to abused and neglected children. While there are a variety of funding sources for Child Protective Services, SSBG allows us to serve those children who are non-IV-E eligible and supplements our meager state funds to assist with Intake/Investigations, Foster Care case management, etc.

### ***Lorain County***

As the 9th largest county in Ohio, Lorain receives nearly \$673,000 annually in SSBG funds. The State provides a little over \$8,000 to fund Adult Protective Services. Our APS program costs approximately \$500,000. The remaining SSBG allocation funds a homeless shelter and a battered women shelter. Our participation in funding these shelters is crucial to their existence.

Lorain County's APS workers investigated 370 reports of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation in 2011. In our county, we are seeing more cases of financial abuse of the elderly. In many cases, this abuse is by adult children who have lost jobs or homes, or who are substance abusers, and who now depend on their elderly parents' income. It is doubtful that APS services in our county could continue without SSBG.

#### ***Ross County***

Any cuts to SSBG would impact our provision of services to vulnerable children involved in the Child Welfare system and vulnerable senior citizens receiving adult protective services. In all likelihood, complete elimination of the SSBG would result in lay-offs of personnel in these critical service areas.

#### ***Sandusky County***

Our county's SSBG allocation is \$391,262. If SSBG was reduced or eliminated, we would probably have to cut at least a third of our Children's Services staff and the caseloads would more than double. We would no longer have a dedicated Independent Living worker, a parent aide or provide transportation services. We would be unable to provide any additional services or support beyond what's currently mandated. We predict that we would be unable to respond to anything that is not an emergency because we would be so short-staffed.

#### ***Seneca County***

We use SSBG to perform adult and child protective services. Without the funds, we would have dramatically less staff ensuring that seniors and children are safe in our community.

#### ***Stark County***

SSBG funds make up a significant portion of funds available for both child and adult protective services. The loss of SSBG funds would mean a reduction of 34 employees from our Children Services division, a 92 percent reduction to adult protective services and the elimination of a variety of elderly services, such as adult day care, not available under other programs.

#### ***Washington County***

Washington County is located in the southeastern part of Ohio, bordering West Virginia, and is included in the group of the Appalachian counties in Ohio. We have no really large city in Washington County, our largest being Marietta, with a population of approx 14,000 people. Geographically, the county itself is rather large, consisting of over 640 square miles with a total population of 61,000 people.

Our agency has been using SSBG to help meet the needs of our aging population. We currently have a Household Chore program for individuals over the age of 63, who are disabled or on Medicaid, who are trying to remain at home but are unable to keep their homes clean and safe. The program is set up to provide 20 hours of household services a month to help do their laundry, clean their home, cook a meal or maybe take them to a doctor's appointment. We have been running this program for over 16 years and have served thousands of people.

We have also provided funds to our community's Senior Center to help cover the cost of the Adult Daycare program. We have provided seniors with Emergency Response telephone systems that they can hook up to their existing phone system giving them an emergency response button but not the monthly charge that comes with these types of systems.

We do not use our monies foolishly, we try very hard not duplicate services, we are out there every day trying to help and protect the citizens of Washington County and we take our jobs very seriously. If SSBG funds are taken away from our agency, I honestly do not know who will be there to do the job that we do. Our local law enforcement agencies are understaffed and overwhelmed, as are the County prosecutors. There are no local funds available. The agency's Household Chore program would close, all contracts with other agencies would be withdrawn and our Adult Protective Unit would basically cease to exist.

## **PENNSYLVANIA**

### ***Allegheny County***

The major uses of SSBG, in order, are:

1. Behavioral Health
2. Services to Individuals with Disabilities

The loss of SSBG funds would result in service reductions or elimination.

### ***Lancaster County***

The major uses of SSBG, in order, are:

1. Services to Individuals with Disabilities
2. Mental Health – Psychiatric Rehabilitation
3. Mental Health – Community Employment Services
4. Mental Health – Vocational Rehabilitation

## **VIRGINIA**

### ***Caroline County***

SSBG is used for child welfare services and teen pregnancy prevention programs in public schools. The loss of SSBG funds would result in service reductions or elimination.

### ***Essex County***

The major uses of SSBG, in order, are:

1. Child Welfare Services
2. Adult Protective Services
3. Adoption Subsidies, and adult services
4. Child Care
5. Services to Individuals with Disabilities

SSBG is also used for licensing, which is a state function but extremely important to local governments. The loss of SSBG funds would result in services elimination or reductions, institutionalization of individuals receiving home services, and layoffs.



**James City County**

The major uses of SSBG, in order, are:

1. Direct Service Delivery (i.e. case management, eligibility determination and needs assessment)
2. Adult Home-Based Companion Services
3. Respite Services for Foster Families
4. Family Preservation and Support

Direct services would be greatly affected. For example, if an agency is spending a total of \$48,000 a month for SSBG in Direct Services Staff administration, \$28,000 of it would be federal funding. Federal funding alone equates to \$336,000 per year. Without the funding, we would have to reduce staff considerably unless the Virginia Department of Social Services has plans to backfill the loss. In fact, we have already eliminated a half-time case management position and continue to manage vacancies as long as possible.

We have already reduced our Adult Services/Home Based (Companion) hours to accommodate the reduction we have had over several years. If these services continue to be reduced, we may see an increase in institutionalization as this population will not be able to remain in their homes and be independent as long as they could with the services.

**For more information contact:**

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