

The Social Services Block Grant

March 9, 2017

Dear Member of Congress:

Representing a diverse coalition of groups serving vulnerable populations, the undersigned organizations support continued funding of the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG). We have strongly opposed previous attempts to cut SSBG and will oppose any efforts to do so in 2017.

SSBG is a major funder for state and local child abuse prevention services, child protective services (CPS) and it supplements services for adoptions and for services to infants, children and youth in foster care. In some states, it is a significant source of local funding for adult protective services.

Congress cut SSBG funding when TANF was enacted into law and when funding was needed for a 1998 transportation bill, with the assumption that at some point it would return to its former level of \$2.8 billion. *SSBG was never restored.* We are concerned that some members may again propose to use SSBG for deficit reduction or to fund specific human services programs. SSBG funding has already been used to cut the deficit and rather than using the funds for specific needs identified at the federal level, the strength of the current program lies in its flexibility to allow state and local governments to determine how best to use the funds to meet local needs.

The champions of SSBG have included the leadership from both parties. In past congresses SSBG has had bipartisan support on both the House Ways and Means committee and the Senate Finance Committee. We hope this will be true again.

SSBG is a vital and flexible funding source helping children, older adults and people with disabilities in a range of ways. The outcome results for SSBG are clear, in 34 states more caseworkers are available to investigate reports of child abuse and because of SSBG 36 states can provide services for victims of domestic violence and victims of elder abuse. It supports services for those adults in jeopardy of entering a nursing home or institution and helps to fill the numerous state and local budget gaps in areas as diverse as senior services, mental health services, and services to people with disabilities. SSBG supports children in need of child care, children and youth who have been abused and neglected, foster youth in need of transitional services, and a range of low income individuals and families. Cutting or further targeting SSBG will inevitably harm vulnerable populations.

The undersigned organizations urge you to protect SSBG.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Strong Families and Communities
Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention
Funds
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Art Therapy Association

American Federation of State, County and
Municipal Employees
American Professional Society on the Abuse
of Children
American Psychological Association

Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance
 Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare
 Association of Jewish Family & Children's Agencies
 Association of University Centers on Disability
 Center for Elder Care and Advanced Illness, Altarum Institute
 Center for the Study of Social Policy
 Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD)
 Children's Advocacy Institute
 Children's Defense Fund
 Children's Home Society of America
 Children's Leadership Council
 Child Welfare League of America
 Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
 Coalition on Human Needs
 Donaldson Adoption Institute
 Easter Seals
 Elder Justice Coalition
 Every Child Matters
 Family Focused Treatment Association
 First Focus Campaign for Children
 Foster Care to Success
 Futures Without Violence
 Generations United
 Healthcare Alternative Systems, Inc.
 Healthy Teen Network
 Jewish Federations of North America
 John Burton Foundation
 The Kempe Foundation
 LeadingAge
 Lutheran Services in America
 Meals on Wheels America
 Medicare Rights Center
 National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys
 National Adult Day Services Association
 National Adult Protective Services Association
 National African American Drug Policy Coalition, Inc.
 National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds
 National Alliance To Advance Adolescent Health
 National Association of Area Agencies on Aging
 National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
 National Association of Counsel for Children
 National Association of County Human Services Administrators
 National Association of Counties
 National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP)
 National Association of Social Workers
 National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
 National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD)
 National Center on Adoption and Permanency
 National Child Abuse Coalition
 National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care
 National Council on Aging
 National Crittenton Foundation
 National Foster Parent Association
 National Organization of State Associations for Children
 National Respite Coalition
 National WIC Association
 National Women's Law Center
 Network, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
 North American Council on Adoptable Children
 Partnership for America's Children
 Prevent Child Abuse America
 Ray E Helfer Society
 Voice for Adoption
 Woman's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER)
 Zero To Three
 Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

STATE AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Alabama

Successful Living Center, Alzheimer's Adult Day Care

Alaska

Alaska Behavioral Health Association
Alaska Children's Trust

Arizona

Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest
Our Family Services
SEAGO/Area Agency on Aging Region VI

Arkansas

Jacksonville Senior Wellness & Activity Center, Inc.

California

Alliance for Children's Rights
Angelus Plaza
Calaveras County Health and Human Services Agency
California Association of Food Banks
California Family Resource Center
California Foster Families, Inc.
Ceres Community Project
Child Abuse Prevention Center
Child Abuse Prevention Council of Sacramento
Children's Defense Fund--California
Children's Partnership
County Welfare Directors Association of California
ElderHelp, CA
First Place For Youth
Food For Thought
Foster Care Counts
FosterEd: Santa Cruz County
Fred Finch Youth Center

Home Start, Inc.

IVROP Project ACE

Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles

Lake County Office of Education

LeadingAge California

Meals on Wheels California

Meals on Wheels San Diego County

Meals on Wheels Yolo County

Monterey County Department of Social Services

Orange County Social Services

Prevent Child Abuse California

Safe Kids California

San Diego County Office of Education

San Francisco AIDS Foundation

Solano County Health & Social Services

SOS Meals on Wheels

Whistlestop's Meals on Wheels

Colorado

The Adoption Exchange

Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners

Colorado Counties, Inc.

Pikes Peak Area Council of

Governments/Area Agency on Aging

Sharing the Care Campaign of Northern

Colorado

Connecticut

Connecticut Alliance of Foster and Adoptive Families, Inc.

Connecticut Association for Human Services

Delaware

Delaware Adult Protective Services

Florida

Children's Home Society of Florida

Meals on Wheels South Florida

Monroe County Social Services
The Poverello Center, Inc.
West Palm Beach Housing Authority

Georgia

Athens Community Council on Aging
Fayette Senior Services, Inc.
Georgia Alliance to End Homelessness
Meals on Wheels Association of Georgia

Hawaii

Prevent Child Abuse Hawaii

Idaho

PATH Idaho

Illinois

Aging Care Connections, Illinois
CJE Senior Life Home Delivered Meals and
Kosher To Go
Gift of Hope, Grandparents and Others
Raising America's Children
Illinois Collaborative for Youth

Indiana

Children First Center Health Families
The Villages of Indiana, Inc.

Iowa

Lutheran Services in Iowa
Polk County Health Services

Kansas

Central Plains Area Agency on Aging
East Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging
Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging, Inc.
Kansas Association of Area Agencies on
Aging & Disabilities
Kansas Children's Service League
North Central-Flint Hills Area Agency on
Aging, Inc.
Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging

Kentucky

Children's Alliance Kentucky

Kentucky Youth Advocates

Louisiana

Cane River Children's Services
Educational and Treatment Council, Inc.
Gulf Coast Social Services
Kingsley House
Lighthouse Ranch for Boys
Louisiana Association of Children and Family
Agencies (LACFA)
MacDonell Children Services
Raintree Children & Family Services
Reilly Center for Children and Families,
Volunteers of America Greater Baton Rouge

Maine

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc.
Community Concepts, Inc.
Every Child Matters in Maine
Families and Children Together

Maryland

Adoptions Together/FamilyWorks Together
Advocates for Children and Youth
Montgomery County Department of Health
and Human Services
PeterCares House

Massachusetts

Association for Behavioral Healthcare
Children's League of Massachusetts
Community Servings
Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley
Elder Services of Worcester Area, Inc.
Massachusetts Home Care
SeniorCare

Michigan

Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan
Area Agencies on Aging Association of
Michigan
Living Independence For Everyone
Methodist Children's Home Society
Michigan's Children
Samaritas

Senior Resources of West Michigan
Spaulding for Children
Tri-County Office on Aging
United Methodist Community House
Valley Area Agency on Aging

Minnesota

AspireMN
Association of Minnesota Counties
Behavioral Health Services North, Inc.
Kandiyohi County Minnesota
Mille Lacs County Community and Veterans
Services
Minnesota Association of Area Agencies on
Aging
Minnesota Association of County Social
Services Administrators
Nobles County Community Services
Olmsted County Community Services
Olmsted County
Pope County Human Services
Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota
Ramsey County Board of Commissioners
Southeastern Minnesota Area Agency on
Aging
Washington County Community Services
Department, Stillwater
Yellow Medicine County

Mississippi

Oseola McCarty Youth Development Center
Pinebelt Association for Families

Missouri

Bonne Terre Senior Nutrition Center
L & C Ministries
Missouri Association of Area Agencies on
Aging
Missouri Kids First
Putnam County Senior Citizens Organization
Senior Citizens Community Center

Montana

Fergus County Council on Aging
Harlem Area Senior Citizens Center

The Parenting Place

Nebraska

Southeast District Health Department

Nevada

Children's Advocacy Alliance
Dreams Foundation, Inc.
Nevada Association for the Education of
Young Children
Senior Coalition of Washoe County

New Hampshire

Every Child Matters in New Hampshire
Home Healthcare Hospice and Community
Services
Rockingham Nutrition and Meals on Wheels
Program
St. Joseph Community Services, Inc.

New Jersey

Community Access Unlimited
Jewish Community Center of Central New
Jersey
Meals on Wheels of Salem County, Inc.
New Jersey Association of Area Agencies on
Aging (NJ4A)
Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey
Union County Advisory Council on Aging
Warren County Aging Services Advisory
Council

New Mexico

All Faiths
Los Alamos Retired & Senior Organization
New Mexico Voices for Children

New York

Adoption Center of Upstate New York
Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition of New
York
Behavioral Health Services North, Inc.
The Children's Agenda
LiveOn NY
Meals on Wheels of Chemung County, Inc.

Meals on Wheels of Syracuse
UJA-Federation of New York

North Carolina

Anson County Department of Social Services
Burke County North Carolina Department of Social Services
Cabarrus Meals on Wheels, Inc
Catawba County Social Services
Centralina Area Agency on Aging
Children & Family Resource Center, Inc.
Currituck County Department of Social Services
Dare County Department of Health and Human Services—Social Services Division
Edgecombe County Board of Commissioners
Graham County Department of Social Services
Halifax County Department of Social Services
Jones County Department of Social Services
Lincoln County Department of Social Services
Martin County Department of Social Services
Meals on Wheels Durham
Meals on Wheels North Carolina
Moore County Department of Aging
Pitt County Council on Aging
Pitt County Department of Social Services
Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina
Richmond County Aging Services
The North Carolina Association of County Directors of Social Services
Tyrrell County DSS
Watauga County Department of Social Services
Wilson County NC Board of Social Services

North Dakota

PATH North Dakota, Inc.

Ohio

Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners
Ashtabula County Children Services Board
Ashtabula County Department of Job and Family Services
Consortium Against Adult Abuse (C3A) 5-County Organization

Coshocton County Department of Job and Family Services
Direction Home Akron Canton
Guernsey County Meals on Wheels
Guernsey County Senior Citizens Center, Inc.
Hancock County Job and Family Services
Hardin County DJFS/PCSA
Jackson County Department of Job and Family Services
Job & Family Services - Marion County
Lorain County Children Services
Lorain County Department of Job and Family Services
Madison County Department of Job and Family Services
Meals on Wheels of Fairfield County
Morrow County Department of Job and Family Services
National Association of Social Workers, Ohio Chapter
Neighborhood Alliance
Ohio Area Agency on Aging, Region 3
Ohio Area Agency on Aging, Region 7
Ohio Area Agency on Aging, Region 9
Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies
Ohio Association of Senior Centers-OASC
Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services
Ohio Job and Family Services Directors Association
Policy Matters Ohio
Public Children Services Association of Ohio
Rose Centers for Aging Well
Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services
Seneca County Department of Job and Family Services
SourcePoint

Oklahoma

Areawide Aging Agency, Inc.
Prevent Child Abuse Oklahoma

Oregon

Oregon Adoption Resource Exchange (OARE)

Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging & Disabilities- O4AD
Oregon Post Adoption Resource Center (ORPARC)
Sustainable Cottage Grove

Pennsylvania

Center in the Park
MANNA (Metropolitan Area Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance)
Meals for Friends
Meals on Wheels of Lehigh County
Monroe County Meals on Wheels
Montco SAAC
Pennsylvania Association of County Human Services Administrators
Philadelphia Senior Center
Shenango Valley Meals on Wheels

Rhode Island

Foster Forward
Prevent Child Abuse Rhode Island

South Carolina

Calhoun County Council on Aging
Dillon County Council for the Aging
Hampton County Council on Aging
Senior Resources, Inc.
Union County Council on Aging
York County Council on Aging

South Dakota

Lutheran Social Services of South Dakota

Tennessee

Goodwill Homes Community Services, Inc.
Meritan, Inc.
Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee

Texas

Amigos Del Valle, Inc.
Christian Senior Services
Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston, Texas
Lena Pope

Meals on Wheels Association of Texas
Meals on Wheels of Johnson & Ellis Counties
Meals on Wheels Plus, Inc.
Meals on Wheels Texoma
Meals on Wheels, Inc. of Tarrant Co.
Medina Senior Center
Nutrition and Services for Seniors
Orange Community Action Association
Senior Connect
Texas Foster Family Association
Tri-County Senior Nutrition Project, Inc. DBA
Meals on Wheels Texoma

Utah

Children's Service Society
Crossroads Urban Center, Salt Lake City

Virginia

FeedMore
LeadingAge Virginia
Valley Program for Aging Services

Vermont

Age Well
Center on Aging
Porter Medical Center
Vermont Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Washington

Many Lights Foundation
Northwest Adoption Exchange
Senior Services for South Sound
Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Washington State Council on Aging

West Virginia

Appalachian Area Agency on Aging

Wisconsin

Waupaca County
Wisconsin Association of Family and Children's Agencies

Winnebago County Human Services
Department

Wyoming

Wyoming Children's Law Center, Inc.

Wyoming Community Foundation

Wyoming Kids First