

The Social Services Block Grant

May 31, 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 Retired Americans
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
 B'nai B'rith International
 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 Long-Term Care
 Ombudsman Programs
 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 Hispanic Council on Aging
 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 Chil-
 dren
 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

STATE AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Alabama

Southeast Alabama Senior Community Service
Employment Program
Successful Living Center, Alzheimer's Adult
Day Care

Alaska

Alaska Behavioral Health Association
Alaska Children's Trust

Arizona

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

Arkansas

Area Agency on Aging of Western Arkansas
Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Arkansas
Area Agency on Aging of Southwest
Arkansas, Inc.
East Arkansas Area Agency on Aging
Jacksonville Senior Wellness & Activity
Center, Inc.
Mississippi County Senior Center
White River Area Agency on Aging

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.
California Office of the State Long-Term Care
Ombudsman
Ceres Community Project
Child Abuse Prevention Center

Child Abuse Prevention Council of
Sacramento
Children's Defense Fund--California
Children's Partnership
City of San Marcos Senior Activity Center
County Welfare Directors Association of
California
ElderHelp of San Diego
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 and Senior Outreach
Services
Meals on Wheels California
Meals on Wheels of the Monterey Peninsula
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
SeniorServ
Serving Seniors
Solano County Health & Social Services
SOS Meals on Wheels
Whistlestop's Meals on Wheels

Colorado

The Adoption Exchange
Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners

City and County of Denver Department of
Human Services
Colorado Association of Family and Children's
Agencies
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
LifeBridge Community Services
Mansfield Senior Center

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
Spalding County Senior Nutrition
Twiggs County Senior Center

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
Guardian Angel Community Services
Illinois Collaborative for Youth
Voluntary Action Center

Indiana

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

Iowa

Lutheran Services in Iowa
Polk County Health Services

Kansas

Aging Projects, Inc.
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
Rice County Council on Aging
Wyandotte/Leavenworth Area Agency on
Aging & Disability Resource Center

Kentucky

Children's Alliance Kentucky
Kentucky Youth Advocates
Southwest Community Ministries

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
St. Tammany SALT Council

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

Antrim County Commission on Aging
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
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

Southwest Health and Human Services

Washington County Community Services
Department, Stillwater

Yellow Medicine County

Mississippi

Ashley Parker, LLC

Mississippi Chapter of the National
Association of Social Workers

Mississippi Family Caregiver Coalition

NAMI - 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 Division of Senior and Disability
Services

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

Adult Protective Service- Nebraska
Southeast District Health Department

Nevada

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

New Hampshire

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

New Jersey

Community Access Unlimited
Family and Children Services
Hudson County Protective Services, Inc.
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

City Meals on Wheels
Community Place of Greater Rochester
LiveOn NY
Meals on Wheels of Chemung County, Inc.
Meals on Wheels of Rockland
Meals on Wheels of Syracuse
NYC/HRA Adult Protective Services

North Carolina

Anson County Department of Social Services
Buncombe County Health & Human 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
Senior Services, Inc. of Forsyth County
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
Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging
Consortium Against Adult Abuse (C3A) 5-County Organization
Coshocton County Department of Job and Family Services
Cuyahoga County Division of Senior and Adult Services Advisory Board
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

Multnomah County, Adult Protective Services
Oregon Adoption Resource Exchange (OARE)
Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging & Disabilities- O4AD
Oregon Post Adoption Resource Center (ORPARC)
Sustainable Cottage Grove

Pennsylvania

The Center at Journey's Way
Center in the Park
Lutheran Settlement House
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
The South Philadelphia Older Adult Center Advisory Council

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

First Tennessee Human Resource Agency
Goodwill Homes Community Services, Inc.
Meritan, Inc.
Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee
RISE Foundation, Inc.
Southwest Human Resource Agency

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
Office of the Texas State Long-Term Care
Ombudsman
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
Norfolk Department of Human Services
Portsmouth Department of Social Services
Valley Program for Aging Services

Vermont

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

Washington

Homage Senior Services
Many Lights Foundation
Northwest Adoption Exchange
Senior Life Resources NW
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

Interfaith Older Adult Programs
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