

CSBG/IS DATA CORNER:

Community Services Block Grant Program GPRA Performance Measure Fiscal Year 2004

by Beenu Puri

Passed in 1993, the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) addresses accountability and performance by focusing on results of government programs. The act calls for measures that shift focus of decision-making and accountability from programs administered to program results, thereby increase the confidence in federal programs. Thus, results are measured against program goals to define a program's progress by providing results, increasing service quality and gaining customer satisfaction. The measures are also utilized by Congress to provide objective information on meeting statutory goals and to measure effectiveness and efficiency in relation to spending.

The three GPRA measures selected for the CSBG program reflect the broad purpose of the Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG) – to reduce or eliminate conditions of poverty among low-income families and the communities in which they live. Most human service programs are single-purposed and focused on one aspect of family or community life (such as housing, or nutrition, or employment). But CSBG is intended to promote coordinated anti-poverty initiatives among local community action agencies that marshal and combine various single-purposed resources into one overall strategy to move families and communities from dependency to self-sufficiency.

The GPRA measure on poverty conditions operates on two levels. One level captures the individual conditions of family and community poverty that are addressed by CSBG and other resources mobilized by community action agencies. The other captures the broader outcomes, such as economic self-sufficiency, that can only be achieved through coordinated action among programs/services both within such agencies and with partnering organizations in the community.

The unique ability of community action agencies to coordinate and manage extensive resources to bring to bear on the low-income communities they serve is captured by the GPRA measure on leveraged resources.

The number of volunteer hours GPRA measure emphasizes the program's ability to increase community resources and promote the investment of low-income individuals in actively fighting poverty in their communities.

Below you will find the measures submitted by the Office of Community Services for GPRA for FY 2004, which are taken from the *FY 2004 CSBG/IS Statistical Survey*.

	Poverty Conditions	Performance Measure
Improvement in employment conditions	189,180	Total:
Increase in Supports for Employment and Family Stability	3,754,228	Total:

Asset Enhancement and Utilization	Total:
597,788	
Community Poverty Conditions Reduced	Total:
2,284,577	
Community Participation by Low-Income People	Total:
371,032	
Independent Living for Low-Income Vulnerable Populations	Total:
1,749,643	
Emergency and Safety-Net Services	Total:
9,239,742	
Child and Family Development Among Low-Income People	Total:
820,636	

In total, community action has alleviated **19 million** conditions of poverty. These are just some of the many outcomes from the efforts of community action through funding from the Community Services Block Grant.

Performance Measure

Ensure that low-income people have a stake in their community.

Number of volunteer hours donated	44,058,304
Increase over previous year's hours donated	5%

Conditions in which low-income people live are improved.

Increase the amount of non-Federal dollars mobilized and coordinated to combat local conditions that keep people in poverty per \$1,000 of CSBG block grant dollars expended to support core state and local CSBG network activities. (Efficiency measure—Modified)

Ratio of non-Federal dollars leveraged per \$1,000 CSBG	\$4,760
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Look for a more comprehensive breakdown of outcomes and results of the program in the forthcoming *FY 2004 Community Services Block Grant Statistical Report* and the *Annual Report of Performance Outcomes from the Community Services Block Grant Program*. Publications will be available this Fall. In the meantime, please see the NASCSP Special Report on the FY 2004 GPRA Measures located on the "What's New" page at the NASCSP website, www.nascsp.org.