

Memorandum

To: Sharon Parrott, Counselor on Human Services to HHS Secretary
George Sheldon, Acting Assistant Secretary, ACF
Mark Greenberg, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, ACF
David Harris, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Services Policy, ASPE

From: Don W. Mathis, President and CEO, Community Action Partnership
Tim R. Warfield, Executive Director, National Association for State Community Services Programs

Date: July 13, 2011

Re: CSBG Network Efforts to Develop CSBG Policy Recommendations

In response to the invitation from the Administration for Children and Families to provide input on the future shape of CSBG our organizations convened a group of leaders from Community Action Agencies, State CSBG offices, state Community Action Associations and the national organizations. These leaders have been meeting in work groups to craft recommendations for ACF/HHS.

The CSBG Network has taken ACF's invitation for feedback seriously. We have been meeting since April 21 and in early June we made the draft of the efforts available for comments from the CSBG Network via websites, list serves and the CAPLAW conference. Community Action staff, State CSBG office staff and others provided thoughtful and useful comments to enhance our efforts. The majority of the comments were positive and affirmed the CSBG Network's desire to strengthen performance at the federal, state and local levels. Many of the comments centered on a need to continue the work and develop further detail in several areas. Additionally, details are needed to achieve real consensus and buy-in from the CSBG Network.

It is our desire to continue developing and refining the attached draft recommendations, but in order to do so we would first like to meet with ACF leadership very soon and discuss the recommendations, and possibilities for future efforts and timelines. We feel time is of the essence as the legislative process is moving forward. We want our efforts to be timely and useful to ACF and feel additional conversation at this juncture would be helpful in creating a plan. The Community Action Partnership and NASCSP have annual conferences coming up in August and September which provides us with unique opportunities to engage members of the CSBG Network in future discussions and work.

We look forward to hearing from you soon and discussing how the future efforts of CSBG can be secured for nearly 22 million vulnerable Americans. Don Mathis can be reached at 202-449-9774 or dmathis@communityactionpartnership.com; Tim Warfield can be reached at 202-624-5866 or warfield@nascsp.org.

cc: Dr. Yolanda Butler, HHS/ACF/OCS
Seth Hassett, HHS/ACF/OCS

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CSBG Working Group – April 21, 2011

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