



National Association for State Community Services Programs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jenae Bjelland
(202) 624-5850

February 21, 2006

President's Budget Overlooks Successful Performance and Results

Washington, DC – The President's FY 2007 budget accused the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Program of having no way to track its effectiveness as a program. This came as an unfortunate surprise to the CSBG Network, which utilizes a comprehensive and award winning outcome based management system called the Results-Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA).

National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSPP) Board Chair, Connie Greer said, "The state administrators of CSBG are committed to outcome measurement and performance management as a critical component of our effort to eliminate poverty. Our success and effectiveness at helping people move toward self-sufficiency is well documented and quantifiable."

The Results-Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA), a United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) initiative, was chosen as a semi-finalist for the prestigious Innovations in American Government Awards from the Institute for Government Innovation at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government in 2002. This award spotlights forward thinking and results-driven programs which devise imaginative and effective ways to meet urgent social and economic challenges.

In FY 2004, the twelve ROMA National Performance Indicators found the following:

- 103,057 Unemployed low-income people obtained a job (49 states)
- 3,313,789 Low-income participants obtained food assistance in support of employment stability (37 states)
- 378,120 Existing housing units were improved or preserved through construction, weatherization, or rehabilitation (46 states)
- 1,292,774 Transportation opportunities for low-income people (public transportation routes, rides, carpool arrangements, car purchase and maintenance) were created, expanded, or saved from elimination (39 states)
- 1,301,683 Senior citizens received services from community action and maintained an independent living situation as a result of services (46 states)
- 74,284 Youth experienced improved physical health, growth and development (40 states)

The CSBG is an essential anti-poverty program that is distributed to over 1,000 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) across the country. In FY 2004, \$594 million in CSBG funds were leveraged to create \$9.7 billion in funding. With those resources, CAAs assisted over 15 million individuals, including 6 million low-income families and 3.7 million children with housing, nutritional, educational and employment needs.

For more information on the CSBG, please visit www.nascsp.org.
