

Draft NASCSP Talking Points on the President's Budget

- For the last several years this Administration has eliminated the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program. In contrast, Congress has continued to fully support the CSBG program.
- The Administration's FY 07 budget is expected to eliminate roughly \$5.7 billion in funding for 18 community and economic development programs, including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program.
- The new budget will request \$3.71 billion for SACI, including \$87 million requested for salaries and expenses to administer this new program and an additional \$23 million for "one-time" start up costs. Funds for initial start up costs will go towards acquiring space for 10 regional offices to implement SACI.
- CSBG is very different from the other 17 programs the SACI program proposes to combine. The CSBG Network stimulates a combined focus of all available local, state, private, and Federal resources with the goal of enabling low-income families and individuals of all ages, in rural and urban areas, to attain the skills, knowledge, motivations and opportunities needed to become self-sufficient.
- The CSBG Network is a state-administered local network composed of almost 1,100 local Community Action Agencies (CAAs), and other eligible entities, which utilize the CSBG to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty on a community level.
- Because CAAs are community-based, each agency has the necessary flexibility to determine where and how to target and invest resources based on local experience and community input.
- The non-profit, faith-based, community-based organizations are a critical complement to the public sector's efforts towards helping to lift low-income Americans out of poverty and into self-sufficiency.
- Last year, NASCSP partnered with traditional Community Action Network partners, the National Governors Association and the Saving America's Communities Coalition led by the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO – see www.nado.org) to restore funding for CSBG. NASCSP plans to work with those partners again to educate the public and Congress on the negative implications of the SACI proposal as currently drafted, as well as the strengths of the CSBG program.