



National Association for State Community Services Programs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Network Touted as Critical Component in Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts

Washington, DC- The state administered Community Services Block Grant Network was acknowledged by the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions' hearing as a vital partner in the on-going Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

Senator Kennedy (D-MA) was quoted saying, "This far-reaching network of community action agencies is deeply committed to helping ensure the stability of all low-income individuals, families, communities, and states. With its swift and reliable expertise, the state administered CSBG network is a critical component of our current relief efforts, and should be acknowledged and applauded as a leader in these efforts."

At the request of the US Department of Health and Human Services, the National Association for State Community Services Programs collected data from the states which illustrates that the CSBG network responded with speed and flexibility to the needs of over 355,000 Hurricane Katrina evacuees by providing affordable housing, job training, reliable emergency services, and quality health care, among other critical recovery services. Thomas Green, Assistant Director of the Arkansas Office of Community Services, stated during the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions' hearing, "Under the direction of the state, the sixteen Arkansas community action agencies worked with their local communities to address the gaps in services that were being provided to evacuees."

"Our community-based organizations were quick to act and an important part of the cure for what was wrong with the Gulf Coast Region," Chairman Enzi (R-WY) said. "All over the United States the people of every region wanted to know what they could do to help. More often than not, they turned to their community-based organizations to determine what could be done as a community to address so great a need."

The state administered CSBG network of over 1,000 community action agencies have also begun to provide the long-term assistance that evacuees need as they relocate and re-establish themselves through self-sufficiency and family development programs.

NASCSP Board Chair, Connie Greer commented after the hearings, "With Congress' continued support, in partnership with other community-based and faith-based organizations, the CSBG network will continue its critical assistance to the Hurricane evacuees over the long-term as they relocate, re-establish themselves, and work toward total self-sufficiency."

Ms. Greer continued, "The state administered CSBG network has an impressive history of effective and efficient service provision. According to a recent CSBG Report, in 2004 the CSBG Network served over 15 million people, or approximately 6 million low-income families. That same year, the CSBG network served more than 3.7 million children, 1.7 million seniors, and 1.1 million disabled individuals. With Congressional assistance, the CSBG network will continue to serve our nation's most vulnerable populations with care, flexibility and reliability."

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

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