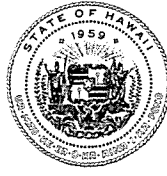


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IN REPLY, REFER TO:
OCS 23.1302

July 11, 2023

To: The Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Chair
The Honorable Chris Lee, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Technology

The Honorable Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair
The Honorable Andrew Takuya Garrett, Vice Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Labor and Government Operations

Date: Thursday, July 13, 2023
Time: 10:00 a.m., Conference Room 309 and Virtual

From: 
Jovania Domingo Dela Cruz, Executive Director
DLIR – Office of Community Services

**SUBJECT: INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING ON THE COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT
STATE PLAN FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEARS 2024 AND 2025**

The Office of Community Services (OCS) is pleased to present its State Plan for the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Program for Federal Fiscal Years (FFYs) 2024 and 2025. We have attached a copy of the Plan to our testimony. This Plan will be presented to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (U.S. DHHS) as part of OCS's application for CSBG funds. The CSBG program is the flag ship of our federally funded programs here at OCS, that are geared towards fulfilling OCS legislative mandate of helping economically disadvantaged individuals attain economic self-sufficiency.

CSBG is a formula-based block-grant program that supports Hawaii's four Community Action Agencies (CAAs) in their efforts to help alleviate poverty in our low-income communities. These agencies are:

1. Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council (HCEOC)
2. Honolulu Community Action Program, Inc. (HCAP)
3. Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. (MEO), and
4. Kauai Economic Opportunity, Inc. (KEO)

Under the CSBG Act, States must pass through no less than 90% of the CSBG grant award to the Community Action Agencies. Of the remaining 10%, the State government agencies can use up to 5% for administrative costs, with the remaining funds to be used for projects that support the statutory goals of the program, including training and technical assistance. States are required to conduct a full on-site review of each local Community Action Agency at least every three years.

For Federal Fiscal Year 2023, Hawaii received approximately \$3,980,000 in CSBG funds. Those funds were allocated through the CAAs approximately as follows:

- | | |
|----------|-------------|
| 1. HCAP | \$2,100,000 |
| 2. HCEOC | \$ 720,000 |
| 3. MEO | \$ 527,000 |
| 4. KEO | \$ 320,000 |

The Office of Community Services received \$199,000 to pay for personnel and other administrative costs associated with administering the program, including travel expenses for monitoring and training.

OCS made its proposed CSBG State Plan available for public comment on its website.

OCS continually works with the Community Action Agencies on developing the CSBG State Plan for FFYs 2024 and 2025. It is an on-going work in progress.

The CSBG State Plan reflects OCS's commitment to work with our Community Action Agency partners in each county to meet program goals and comply with relevant Federal and State rules and regulations to continue receiving this valuable resource. The plan will support the continuation of anti-poverty programs currently deployed as well as innovative new programs that the CAAs may develop over the course of the next several federal fiscal years.

The Community Action Agencies depend on this funding to support the administration of a diverse set of programs and activities needed to address poverty in their respective counties. Statewide, the Community Action Agencies reported serving a total of 36,174 individuals in FFY 2022. The CAAs will be sharing highlights of some of their key programs with you today.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the CSBG State Plan for FFY 2024 and 2025.

Attachment: Hawaii CSBG State Plan for FFY 2024-2025