

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROPOSED USE OF FY 2014 AND FY 2015 COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) FUNDS

- The Community Services Block Grant is a federal block grant program, created by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, which is used by states to fight poverty and address the needs of low income people. For FY 2014 and FY 2015, it is estimated that ND will receive approximately \$3,257,579 each year. No state funds are required to match the federal funds.
- Ninety-one percent of the State's allocation is passed through from the State to the Community Action Agencies.
- All 53 counties in the 8 regions of the state are served through the 7 Community Action Agency offices located in Minot, Devils Lake, Grand Forks, Fargo, Jamestown, Bismarck and Dickinson. A branch office of the Dickinson agency is located in Williston.
- Each Community Action Agency is unique in prioritizing needs and providing services and programs within their region based on unmet needs and the availability of other services.
- Local boards, composed of members who represent public officials, low income people and private or community organizations, administer the Community Action Agencies as they address the needs of low income people in their service area.
- CSBG funds can be used to provide direct services, develop new programs, and coordinate funding from other funding sources to deliver various low income programs such as Head Start, Weatherization, commodity food distributions, Energy Share, housing programs, etc.
- Programs provided through the CSBG include education, employment, income management, adequate housing, emergency needs, nutrition, self-sufficiency, and health services.
- Community Action Agencies are non-profit entities that establish linkages with other public and private entities in their service areas to address needs collaboratively.
- Under CSBG, Community Action Agencies report to the state on their fiscal and program activities, performance and outcomes and client and agency successes.
- In 2011, Community Action Agencies expended \$2,919,919. Those funds were leveraged with \$15,375,950 in regular federal, state, local and private resources.
- In 2011, more than 24,000 individuals, from over 12,800 low income families, received at least one CAA service or participated in at least one program provided by a CAA. Of the people served, 5,255 were seniors; 6913 were children; 6594 were people that lacked health insurance; and 3,167 people had some form of disability.