



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

***TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE APPROPRIATIONS, HUMAN SERVICES, AND
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEES***
September 21, 2020

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Secretary
Office of Policy and Management

FFY 2021 Allocation Plans for Federal Block Grants

Chairs Osten, Moore, Abrams, Walker, Abercrombie, and Steinberg, and Ranking Members Formica, Logan, Somers, Lavielle, Case, and Petit, and distinguished members of the Appropriations, Human Services, and Public Health Committees, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and to request your approval of the federal fiscal year 2021 federal block grant allocation plans.

Before you today are allocation plans for the Social Services (SSBG), Community Mental Health Services (CMHS), Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT), Maternal and Child Health Services (MCH), and Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grants. Together, these five block grants represent almost \$50 million in federal funding for Connecticut.

As always, we cannot be certain of the exact funding levels until Congress acts on the federal budget. Our best indications from the federal government are that allocations for two of the block grants (SSBG and PHHS) will be level funded, which is reflected in the estimated award amounts shown in the submitted plans. The SAPT and CMHS plans assume the funding levels included in the President's budget based on guidance from SAMHSA. In addition, because the final FFY 20 award for the MCH was not known at the time the allocation plan was submitted, the FFY 19 award amount was used to prepare the FFY 21 plan. All plans contain contingency strategies in case more or less funding is awarded to Connecticut than we estimated.

Agencies gave special attention to how block grant allocations could be used to respond to COVID-19 and support individuals faced with hardships as a result of the pandemic. Those specific measures are outlined within the allocation plans and as follows:

- The SSBG plan has allocated an additional \$600,000 under the elderly nutrition program to address anticipated demands for meal delivery services.
- Also under SSBG, an additional \$400,000 has been allocated for family planning services to ensure that these services remain available throughout the state.

- An allocation of \$308,433 is provided through the SSBG to the Department of Labor to support employment services to address increased employment needs.
- An allocation of \$800,000 is provided through the SSBG to the Department of Housing for case management services to support eviction prevention and housing stabilization activities.
- The MCHBG plan includes \$11,833 to provide personal protective equipment supplies for school based health centers.
- Funding for youth suicide prevention and mental health promotion remains intact within the CMHSBG as there are continued concerns about mental health during this time.

Please find attached to this testimony a chart showing federal block grant award trends over the past decade. This chart demonstrates that the awards for the five block grants have been fairly stable over the past ten years.

Representatives from the Departments of Social Services, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Public Health, and Children and Families will provide more specific information on each of the block grant allocation plans. I respectfully request that the committees support these plans and would like to again thank the committees for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Federal Block Grant Awards FFY 2011 - FFY 2021

