

# CT Community Action Agencies Will Cut Services in Response to Bush Budget

CT's Community Action Agencies are the federally-designated network of anti-poverty agencies in Connecticut. CT CAAs are foundational partners in CT's Human Services infrastructure (HSI) and form a statewide service delivery system that connects CT citizens to the services they need. CT CAAs know what works. We achieve positive results that change lives and strengthen communities.

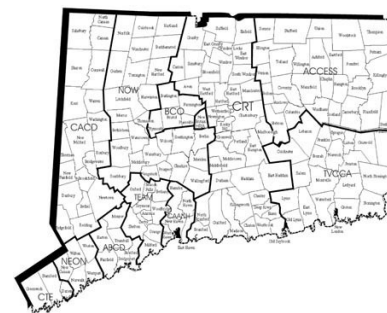
The elimination of the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), the "core" funding for Community Action Agencies (CAAs), will devastate Connecticut's Human Services Infrastructure and our ability to help low-income families make progress toward self-sufficiency. CAAs are effective and accountable agencies because of the resources provided through CSBG. CT CAAs currently receive about \$7 million in CSBG funds.

The elimination of CSBG would be devastating to the poor of the Connecticut; preventing CAAs from operating a variety of programs that help move our families out of poverty as well as invest in new initiatives that address barriers to self sufficiency. Consolidation of intake sites would restrict client access to services and serve fewer customers. Barriers to self sufficiency would remain in place as day care centers closed, case management services are cut, and financial literacy and asset development projects are curtailed or eliminated.

*Many CT CAA sites and services would be closed or eliminated. They include:*

- 1) **At least 15 CAA intake sites across the state would close**, forcing low-income families to travel great distances to receive services and create further barriers due to the lack of reliable public transportation in many areas of our state.
- 2) The reduction of intake and case management would **affect more than 285,000 low-income people** in a variety of services. People would no longer gain through referrals, direct services, and holistic case-management, families' access to services that help them move towards self-sufficiency and success.
- 3) **Connecticut would lose 727,000 volunteer hours** mobilized in our communities last year by CT CAAs, the equivalent of 400 full time employees, valued at \$12.4 million at \$17 per hour.
- 4) **Closing of all Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Programs**, which returned more than \$6.5 million in refunds into the Connecticut economy. Our use of precious staff resources will need to address emergency needs of our clients, rather than more prevention-based asset development strategies.
- 5) **Financial Literacy and Individual Development Accounts** would close. CSBG funds are used to administer these programs and accounts. This would affect about 600 families statewide who are building assets for their future.
- 6) The **East Hartford Shelter**, a forty bed program that serves families and single men, would close.
- 7) Many CAAs would close their supplemental **emergency food pantries**, affecting thousands of families.
- 8) **Homemaker Programs would close**, putting hundreds of disabled and elderly households at risk of ending up in more expensive nursing homes.

This proposed elimination of CSBG will severely impact critical services currently provided by CT CAAs. The loss of CSBG funds will also prevent our agencies from effectively addressing new and existing problems with innovative new programming.



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