

Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) Post-Expenditure Report

**OMB Information Collection Request
0970-0234**

Supporting Statement Part A - Justification

November 2020

Submitted By:
Office of Community Services
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

SUPPORTING STATEMENT A – JUSTIFICATION

Summary

The Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) Post-Expenditure Report (OMB #0970–0234) was last approved by OMB in 2017 and expires January 31, 2021. ACF is seeking an extension of this information collection.

1. Circumstances Making the Collection of Information Necessary

The Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) program is authorized under Title XX of the Social Security Act, as amended, and is codified at 42 U.S.C. §1397 through §1397e. The implementing regulations for this and other block grant programs authorized by Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 are published at 45 C.F.R. Part 96. Those regulations include both specific requirements and general administrative requirements in lieu of 45 CFR Part 92 (the HHS implementation of the A-102 Common Rule) for the covered block grant programs. Requirements specific to SSBG are found in 45 C.F.R. §96.70 through §96.74.

The SSBG program provides funds to States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (hereinafter referred to as States) to support social services for adults and children in support of five statutory goals (42 U.S.C. §1397). Funds are allocated to the States on the basis of population as block grants for the administration of their social services programs.

Within specific legal limitations (42 U.S.C. §1397d), States have substantial discretion in the use of funds and may determine what services will be provided, who will be eligible, and how funds will be distributed among the various services. State or local SSBG agencies (i.e., county, city, and regional offices) may provide the services or purchase them from qualified agencies or organizations. States report recipients of SSBG-funded services as any individuals who receive a service funded, in whole or in part, by SSBG.

Before a State receives SSBG funds, it must submit an Intended Use Plan specifying the intended use of the block grant. Historically, there has been no specific format required for the Intended Use Plan, however, states must provide information on the types of activities to be supported, the characteristics of individuals to be served, and the estimated amount of SSBG funding that will be allocated to each service category (42 U.S.C. §1397c). ACF recommends that grantees use the post-expenditure reporting form to identify the funding estimates included in the Intended Use Plan. These funding estimates provided most commonly through the post-expenditure reporting form are referred to as the pre-expenditure report. States submit the Intended Use Plan annually to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Community Services (OCS). ACF intends to submit a revision to the SSBG Post-Expenditure Report information collection (0970-0234) to provide more specific information about and burden

related to the reporting requirements in the Intended Use Plan prior to the next due date (June 1, 2021).

States are also required to report expenditures of SSBG funds using a standard post-expenditure reporting form, which includes an annual total of adults and children served and expenditures in each of 29 service categories. Post-expenditure reporting requirements for SSBG are codified at 45 C.F.R. § 96.74. States must submit their annual Post-Expenditure Report within 6 months of the end of the period covered by the report, and must address:

1. The number of individuals (broken out by children, adults age 59 and younger, adults age 60 and older, and adults of unknown age) who receive services paid for in whole, or in part, with Federal funds under the SSBG.
2. The amount of SSBG funds spent in providing each service.
3. The amount of funds transferred into SSBG from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant.
4. The amount of carryover funds expended in the current fiscal year, and intended to be carried over into the next fiscal year.
5. The total amount of Federal, State and local funds spent in providing each service, including SSBG funds.
6. The method(s) by which each service was provided, showing separately the services provided by public and private agencies, or both.
7. Eligibility for services with each SSBG Service Category determined by the state.
8. State definitions of child, adult, and family as they relate to services provided by SSBG funds.
9. Assurances related to the appropriate use of TANF transfer funds, based on statute.

2. Purpose and Use of the Information Collection

Information collected on the Post-Expenditure Report is analyzed and described in an annual report produced by OCS. The report is available for grantees, federal partners, and stakeholders and provides information regarding State SSBG expenditures and service recipients. The report can be accessed on the SSBG website. Annual reports have been completed each year for the years 1998 – 2018. The 2019 annual report is currently being finalized. The information contained in this report is used to establish how SSBG funding is used for the provision of services in each State. The information collected is the only source of information on the use of SSBG funds by the States. It is also the only source of information on the number of recipients of services funded, in whole or in part, by SSBG.

In addition, the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA) requires all Federal agencies to develop long-term Strategic Plans defining general goals and objectives for their programs; to develop Annual Performance Plans specifying measurable performance goals for all of the program activities in their budgets; and to publish an Annual Performance Report showing actual results compared to each annual performance goal. Toward this end, two performance measures were developed to improve efficiency and accountability within

States' SSBG programs. The first of these measures aims to minimize administrative costs and maximize the amount of funds used for the provision of direct services. The second performance measure analyzes the degree to which States spend SSBG funds in a manner consistent with their intended use as required by the Federal law [42 U.S.C. §1397e (a)]. These performance measures require both pre-expenditure and post-expenditure data.

3. Use of Improved Information Technology and Burden Reduction

States enter the Post-Expenditure Report data on the SSBG Portal. The SSBG Portal is a secure web-based data collection platform. The SSBG Portal allows for efficient data submission without increasing the overall burden on States. It provides a user-friendly means for States to submit and access their Intended Use Plan, pre-expenditure data, and Post-Expenditure Report.

4. Efforts to Identify Duplication and Use of Similar Information

The Post-Expenditure Report is the only instrument for collecting data on actual expenditures for, and recipients of, the 29 SSBG-supported service categories. SSBG grantees may also use the same form to estimate SSBG expenditures at the beginning of the budget period. Grantees and SSBG staff use the comparison between the pre- and post-expenditure data to analyze and support effective planning and budget reconciliation.

5. Impact on Small Businesses or Other Small Entities

This data collection does not impact small business or other small entities.

6. Consequences of Collecting the Information Less Frequently

States are required to submit an annual Post-Expenditure Report on the use of SSBG funds [42 U.S.C. 1397e]. States may also use the Post-Expenditure Report form to provide pre-expenditure data for the required annual Intended Use Plan. This information is critical for understanding the impact of SSBG funding and for assessing States on the two SSBG program performance measures.

7. Special Circumstances Relating to the Guidelines of 5 CFR 1320.5

There are no special circumstances for the Post-Expenditure Report.

8. Comments in Response to the Federal Register Notice and Efforts to Consult Outside the Agency

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) and Office of

Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR Part 1320 (60 FR 44978, August 29, 1995), ACF published a notice in the Federal Register announcing the agency’s intention to request an OMB review of this information collection activity. This notice was published on September 16, 2020, Volume 85, Number 180, page 57863, and provided a sixty-day period for public comment. During the notice and comment period, 2 broad comments were received. One set of comments was broadly in favor of expenditure reporting and the other did not provide substantive comments specific to this information collection.

In the 60-day Federal Register Notice, ACF proposed removing the previously approved burden associated with States’ voluntary use of the Post-Expenditure Report form to provide pre-expenditure data for their annual Intended Use Plans, with the intention of submitting a separate full request for the pre-expenditure data and Intended Use Plans. After reconsideration and internal discussions at ACF during the 60-day comment period, ACF has decided that since all information collection activities are directly connected, they should all be described and approved under the same OMB number. For this reason, ACF has decided to retain the additional burden associated with use of the Post-Expenditure Report form for the pre-expenditure data that will inform the Intended Use Plan and to submit a revision request in early 2021 to provide additional information about the Intended Use Plan. The change regarding the use of the Post-Expenditure Report for pre-expenditure data reporting has been noted in the 30-day Federal Register Notice. A 60-day Federal Register Notice will be published to solicit comments related to the upcoming revision package.

9. Explanation of Any Payment or Gift to Respondents

No payment or gift will be provided to respondents.

10. Assurance of Confidentiality Provided to Respondents

No assurance of confidentiality will be provided to respondents. All reported expenditure data are from State public financial records and all recipient data are aggregate counts, not individual case-level data. No personal identifiers will be collected. IRB review is not required for data reporting.

11. Justification for Sensitive Questions

None of the questions on the SSBG Post-Expenditure Reporting form are of a sensitive nature.

12. Estimates of Annualized Burden Hours and Costs

Information Collection Title	Total Number of Respondents	Total Number of Responses Per Respondent	Average Burden Hours Per Response	Total Burden Hours	Annual Burden Hours	Average Hourly Wage	Total Annual Cost
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Post-Expenditure Reporting Form	56	3	110	18,480	6160	\$62.45	\$384,692.00
Post-Expenditure Reporting Form for Pre-Expenditure Data (funding estimates for the Intended Use Plan)	56	3	2	336	112	\$62.45	\$6,994.40
Estimated Annual Burden Total:					6272	Estimated Annual Cost Total:	\$391,686.40

The estimated annual cost is based upon the average hourly salary for social and community service managers, job code 11-9151 based on May 2019 Occupational Employment Statistics from the Bureau of Labor and Statistics¹. The base wage is equal to the mean salary of \$32.28 per hour. The base wage was multiplied by two to calculate wage plus fringe benefits and overhead.

13. Estimates of Other Total Annual Cost Burden to Respondents and Record Keepers

States will not incur any additional costs.

14. Annualized Cost to the Federal Government

The annual cost to the Federal Government is shown in the following table:

AGENCY	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Average Annual Cost
Office of Community Services	\$41,853	\$43,182	\$44,511	\$43,182
Contractor Staff	\$156,123	\$168,255	\$179,930	\$168,103
Total	\$197,976	\$211,437	\$224,441	\$211,285

The dollar amounts displayed for the Office of Community Services represents a portion of two Federal staff salaries at a GS-12 level to perform the duties of a social services program specialist.

¹ <https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes119151.htm>

The dollar amount displayed for the Contractor Staff represents a team from Walter R. McDonald & Associates, Inc. who provides data collection and support annually for the Office of Community Services.

15. Explanation for Program Changes or Adjustments

No changes are proposed.

16. Plans for Tabulation and Publication and Project Time Schedule

States' Post-Expenditure Reports provide data for the annual report on SSBG expenditures and recipients. The report is shared with grantees, federal partners, and stakeholders through the SSBG website. The schedule for the annual report is as follows:

- States will submit the Post-Expenditure Report no later than 6 months after the end of their fiscal year. Grantees that report on a State Fiscal Year, which will end on June 30, will submit the Post-Expenditure Report by December 30. States that report on the Federal Fiscal Year, which will end on September 30, will submit their Post-Expenditure Reports by March 30 of the following calendar year.
- The OCS contractor develops a draft and submits to OCS for review in June, 3 months after States reporting on the Federal Fiscal Year submit their Post-Expenditure Reports.
- The second draft will be submitted for clearance within ACF in July.
- The final report will be submitted for review by ACF's Office of Administration in August.
- The annual report will be submitted for publication in September.

17. Reason(s) Display of OMB Expiration Date is Inappropriate

The expiration date for OMB approval will be displayed.

18. Exceptions to Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

No exceptions to the certification statement are necessary.