

§ 9904. Establishment of block grant program

The Secretary is authorized to establish a community services block grant program and make grants through the program to States to ameliorate the causes of poverty in communities within the States.

(Pub. L. 97-35, title VI, §675, as added Pub. L. 105-285, title II, §201, Oct. 27, 1998, 112 Stat. 2730.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 9904, Pub. L. 97-35, title VI, §675, Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 513; Pub. L. 97-115, §17(a)(2), (b), Dec. 29, 1981, 95 Stat. 1609; Pub. L. 98-558, title II, §203(a)-(c), Oct. 30, 1984, 98 Stat. 2885; Pub. L. 99-425, title IV, §§403(a)(1), (b), 404(b), Sept. 30, 1986, 100 Stat. 968, 969; Pub. L. 101-501, title IV, §404(a), (b), Nov. 3, 1990, 104 Stat. 1252; Pub. L. 101-624, title XVII, §1772(h)(6), Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3809; Pub. L. 103-94, §6, Oct. 6, 1993, 107 Stat. 1005; Pub. L. 103-252, title II, §202(c)-(g), May 18, 1994, 108 Stat. 652-654, related to applications and requirements for community block grant program, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 105-285.

§ 9905. Distribution to territories**(a) Apportionment**

The Secretary shall apportion the amount reserved under section 9903(b)(1) of this title for each fiscal year on the basis of need among Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(b) Application

Each jurisdiction to which subsection (a) of this section applies may receive a grant under this section for the amount apportioned under subsection (a) of this section on submitting to the Secretary, and obtaining approval of, an application, containing provisions that describe the programs for which assistance is sought under this section, that is prepared in accordance with, and contains the information described in, section 9908 of this title.

(Pub. L. 97-35, title VI, §675A, as added Pub. L. 105-285, title II, §201, Oct. 27, 1998, 112 Stat. 2730.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Prior sections 9905 and 9905a were omitted in the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 105-285.

Section 9905, Pub. L. 97-35, title VI, §676, Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 516, related to establishment and functions of the Office of Community Services.

Section 9905a, Pub. L. 97-35, title VI, §676A, as added Pub. L. 98-558, title II, §203(d), Oct. 30, 1984, 98 Stat. 2885; amended Pub. L. 99-425, title IV, §403(a)(2)-(4), Sept. 30, 1986, 100 Stat. 968, 969; Pub. L. 101-501, title IV, §404(c), Nov. 3, 1990, 104 Stat. 1252, related to procedures for review of termination or reduction of funding.

§ 9906. Allotments and payments to States**(a) Allotments in general**

The Secretary shall, from the amount appropriated under section 9903(a) of this title for each fiscal year that remains after the Secretary makes the reservations required in section 9903(b) of this title, allot to each State (subject to section 9911 of this title) an amount that bears the same ratio to such remaining amount as the amount received by the State for fiscal year 1981 under section 2808¹ of this title bore to

¹ See References in Text note below.

the total amount received by all States for fiscal year 1981 under such section, except—

(1) that no State shall receive less than ¼ of 1 percent of the amount appropriated under section 9903(a) of this title for such fiscal year; and

(2) as provided in subsection (b) of this section.

(b) Allotments in years with greater available funds**(1) Minimum allotments**

Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), if the amount appropriated under section 9903(a) of this title for a fiscal year that remains after the Secretary makes the reservations required in section 9903(b) of this title exceeds \$345,000,000, the Secretary shall allot to each State not less than ½ of 1 percent of the amount appropriated under section 9903(a) of this title for such fiscal year.

(2) Maintenance of fiscal year 1990 levels

Paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to a fiscal year if the amount allotted under subsection (a) of this section to any State for that year is less than the amount allotted under section 9903(a)(1) of this title (as in effect on September 30, 1989) to such State for fiscal year 1990.

(3) Maximum allotments

The amount allotted under paragraph (1) to a State for a fiscal year shall be reduced, if necessary, so that the aggregate amount allotted to such State under such paragraph and subsection (a) of this section does not exceed 140 percent of the aggregate amount allotted to such State under the corresponding provisions of this chapter for the preceding fiscal year.

(c) Payments

The Secretary shall make grants to eligible States for the allotments described in subsections (a) and (b) of this section. The Secretary shall make payments for the grants in accordance with section 6503(a) of title 31.

(d) Definition

In this section, the term "State" does not include Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(Pub. L. 97-35, title VI, §675B, as added Pub. L. 105-285, title II, §201, Oct. 27, 1998, 112 Stat. 2730.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 2808 of this title, referred to in subsec. (a), was repealed by Pub. L. 97-35, title VI, §683(a), Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 519.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 9906, Pub. L. 97-35, title VI, §677, Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 516, contained nondiscrimination provisions, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 105-285.

§ 9907. Uses of funds**(a) Grants to eligible entities and other organizations****(1) In general**

Not less than 90 percent of the funds made available to a State under section 9905 or 9906

of this title shall be used by the State to make grants for the purposes described in section 9901 of this title to eligible entities.

(2) Obligational authority

Funds distributed to eligible entities through grants made in accordance with paragraph (1) for a fiscal year shall be available for obligation during that fiscal year and the succeeding fiscal year, subject to paragraph (3).

(3) Recapture and redistribution of unobligated funds

(A) Amount

Beginning on October 1, 2000, a State may recapture and redistribute funds distributed to an eligible entity through a grant made under paragraph (1) that are unobligated at the end of a fiscal year if such unobligated funds exceed 20 percent of the amount so distributed to such eligible entity for such fiscal year.

(B) Redistribution

In redistributing funds recaptured in accordance with this paragraph, States shall redistribute such funds to an eligible entity, or require the original recipient of the funds to redistribute the funds to a private, non-profit organization, located within the community served by the original recipient of the funds, for activities consistent with the purposes of this chapter.

(b) Statewide activities

(1) Use of remainder

If a State uses less than 100 percent of the grant or allotment received under section 9905 or 9906 of this title to make grants under subsection (a) of this section, the State shall use the remainder of the grant or allotment under section 9905 or 9906 of this title (subject to paragraph (2)) for activities that may include—

(A) providing training and technical assistance to those entities in need of such training and assistance;

(B) coordinating State-operated programs and services, and at the option of the State, locally-operated programs and services, targeted to low-income children and families with services provided by eligible entities and other organizations funded under this chapter, including detailing appropriate employees of State or local agencies to entities funded under this chapter, to ensure increased access to services provided by such State or local agencies;

(C) supporting statewide coordination and communication among eligible entities;

(D) analyzing the distribution of funds made available under this chapter within the State to determine if such funds have been targeted to the areas of greatest need;

(E) supporting asset-building programs for low-income individuals, such as programs supporting individual development accounts;

(F) supporting innovative programs and activities conducted by community action agencies or other neighborhood-based organizations to eliminate poverty, promote self-sufficiency, and promote community revitalization;

(G) supporting State charity tax credits as described in subsection (c) of this section; and

(H) supporting other activities, consistent with the purposes of this chapter.

(2) Administrative cap

No State may spend more than the greater of \$55,000, or 5 percent, of the grant received under section 9905 of this title or State allotment received under section 9906 of this title for administrative expenses, including monitoring activities. Funds to be spent for such expenses shall be taken from the portion of the grant under section 9905 of this title or State allotment that remains after the State makes grants to eligible entities under subsection (a) of this section. The cost of activities conducted under paragraph (1)(A) shall not be considered to be administrative expenses. The startup cost and cost of administrative activities conducted under subsection (c) of this section shall be considered to be administrative expenses.

(c) Charity tax credit

(1) In general

Subject to paragraph (2), if there is in effect under State law a charity tax credit, the State may use for any purpose the amount of the allotment that is available for expenditure under subsection (b) of this section.

(2) Limit

The aggregate amount a State may use under paragraph (1) during a fiscal year shall not exceed 100 percent of the revenue loss of the State during the fiscal year that is attributable to the charity tax credit, as determined by the Secretary of the Treasury without regard to any such revenue loss occurring before January 1, 1999.

(3) Definitions and rules

In this subsection:

(A) Charity tax credit

The term “charity tax credit” means a nonrefundable credit against State income tax (or, in the case of a State that does not impose an income tax, a comparable benefit) that is allowable for contributions, in cash or in kind, to qualified charities.

(B) Qualified charity

(i) In general

The term “qualified charity” means any organization—

(I) that is—

(aa) described in section 501(c)(3) of title 26 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such title;

(bb) an eligible entity; or

(cc) a public housing agency as defined in section 1437a(b)(6) of this title;

(II) that is certified by the appropriate State authority as meeting the requirements of clauses (iii) and (iv); and

(III) if such organization is otherwise required to file a return under section 6033 of such title, that elects to treat the information required to be furnished by

clause (v) as being specified in section 6033(b) of such title.

(ii) Certain contributions to collection organizations treated as contributions to qualified charity

(I) In general

A contribution to a collection organization shall be treated as a contribution to a qualified charity if the donor designates in writing that the contribution is for the qualified charity.

(II) Collection organization

The term “collection organization” means an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of such title and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such title—

(aa) that solicits and collects gifts and grants that, by agreement, are distributed to qualified charities;

(bb) that distributes to qualified charities at least 90 percent of the gifts and grants the organization receives that are designated for such qualified charities; and

(cc) that meets the requirements of clause (vi).

(iii) Charity must primarily assist poor individuals

(I) In general

An organization meets the requirements of this clause only if the appropriate State authority reasonably expects that the predominant activity of such organization will be the provision of direct services within the United States to individuals and families whose annual incomes generally do not exceed 185 percent of the poverty line in order to prevent or alleviate poverty among such individuals and families.

(II) No recordkeeping in certain cases

An organization shall not be required to establish or maintain records with respect to the incomes of individuals and families for purposes of subclause (I) if such individuals or families are members of groups that are generally recognized as including substantially only individuals and families described in subclause (I).

(III) Food aid and homeless shelters

Except as otherwise provided by the appropriate State authority, for purposes of subclause (I), services to individuals in the form of—

(aa) donations of food or meals; or

(bb) temporary shelter to homeless individuals;

shall be treated as provided to individuals described in subclause (I) if the location and provision of such services are such that the service provider may reasonably conclude that the beneficiaries of such services are predominantly individuals described in subclause (I).

(iv) Minimum expense requirement

(I) In general

An organization meets the requirements of this clause only if the appropriate State authority reasonably expects that the annual poverty program expenses of such organization will not be less than 75 percent of the annual aggregate expenses of such organization.

(II) Poverty program expense

For purposes of subclause (I)—

(aa) In general

The term “poverty program expense” means any expense in providing direct services referred to in clause (iii).

(bb) Exceptions

Such term shall not include any management or general expense, any expense for the purpose of influencing legislation (as defined in section 4911(d) of title 26), any expense for the purpose of fundraising, any expense for a legal service provided on behalf of any individual referred to in clause (iii), any expense for providing tuition assistance relating to compulsory school attendance, and any expense that consists of a payment to an affiliate of the organization.

(v) Reporting requirement

The information required to be furnished under this clause about an organization is—

(I) the percentages determined by dividing the following categories of the organization’s expenses for the year by the total expenses of the organization for the year: expenses for direct services, management expenses, general expenses, fundraising expenses, and payments to affiliates; and

(II) the category or categories (including food, shelter, education, substance abuse prevention or treatment, job training, or other) of services that constitute predominant activities of the organization.

(vi) Additional requirements for collection organizations

The requirements of this clause are met if the organization—

(I) maintains separate accounting for revenues and expenses; and

(II) makes available to the public information on the administrative and fundraising costs of the organization, and information as to the organizations receiving funds from the organization and the amount of such funds.

(vii) Special rule for States requiring tax uniformity

In the case of a State—

(I) that has a constitutional requirement of tax uniformity; and

(II) that, as of December 31, 1997, imposed a tax on personal income with—

(aa) a single flat rate applicable to all earned and unearned income (except insofar as any amount is not taxed pursuant to tax forgiveness provisions); and

(bb) no generally available exemptions or deductions to individuals;

the requirement of paragraph (2) shall be treated as met if the amount of the credit described in paragraph (2) is limited to a uniform percentage (but not greater than 25 percent) of State personal income tax liability (determined without regard to credits).

(4) Limitation on use of funds for startup and administrative activities

Except to the extent provided in subsection (b)(2) of this section, no part of the aggregate amount a State uses under paragraph (1) may be used to pay for the cost of the startup and administrative activities conducted under this subsection.

(5) Prohibition on use of funds for legal services or tuition assistance

No part of the aggregate amount a State uses under paragraph (1) may be used to provide legal services or to provide tuition assistance related to compulsory education requirements (not including tuition assistance for tutoring, camps, skills development, or other supplemental services or training).

(6) Prohibition on supplanting funds

No part of the aggregate amount a State uses under paragraph (1) may be used to supplant non-Federal funds that would be available, in the absence of Federal funds, to offset a revenue loss of the State attributable to a charity tax credit.

(Pub. L. 97-35, title VI, §675C, as added Pub. L. 105-285, title II, §201, Oct. 27, 1998, 112 Stat. 2731.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 9907, Pub. L. 97-35, title VI, §678, Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 516, related to payments to States, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 105-285.

§ 9908. Application and plan

(a) Designation of lead agency

(1) Designation

The chief executive officer of a State desiring to receive a grant or allotment under section 9905 or 9906 of this title shall designate, in an application submitted to the Secretary under subsection (b) of this section, an appropriate State agency that complies with the requirements of paragraph (2) to act as a lead agency for purposes of carrying out State activities under this chapter.

(2) Duties

The lead agency shall—

(A) develop the State plan to be submitted to the Secretary under subsection (b) of this section;

(B) in conjunction with the development of the State plan as required under subsection (b) of this section, hold at least one hearing

in the State with sufficient time and statewide distribution of notice of such hearing, to provide to the public an opportunity to comment on the proposed use and distribution of funds to be provided through the grant or allotment under section 9905 or 9906 of this title for the period covered by the State plan; and

(C) conduct reviews of eligible entities under section 9914 of this title.

(3) Legislative hearing

In order to be eligible to receive a grant or allotment under section 9905 or 9906 of this title, the State shall hold at least one legislative hearing every 3 years in conjunction with the development of the State plan.

(b) State application and plan

Beginning with fiscal year 2000, to be eligible to receive a grant or allotment under section 9905 or 9906 of this title, a State shall prepare and submit to the Secretary an application and State plan covering a period of not less than 1 fiscal year and not more than 2 fiscal years. The plan shall be submitted not later than 30 days prior to the beginning of the first fiscal year covered by the plan, and shall contain such information as the Secretary shall require, including—

(1) an assurance that funds made available through the grant or allotment will be used—

(A) to support activities that are designed to assist low-income families and individuals, including families and individuals receiving assistance under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), homeless families and individuals, migrant or seasonal farmworkers, and elderly low-income individuals and families, and a description of how such activities will enable the families and individuals—

(i) to remove obstacles and solve problems that block the achievement of self-sufficiency (including self-sufficiency for families and individuals who are attempting to transition off a State program carried out under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act);

(ii) to secure and retain meaningful employment;

(iii) to attain an adequate education, with particular attention toward improving literacy skills of the low-income families in the communities involved, which may include carrying out family literacy initiatives;

(iv) to make better use of available income;

(v) to obtain and maintain adequate housing and a suitable living environment;

(vi) to obtain emergency assistance through loans, grants, or other means to meet immediate and urgent family and individual needs; and

(vii) to achieve greater participation in the affairs of the communities involved, including the development of public and private grassroots partnerships with local law enforcement agencies, local housing authorities, private foundations, and other public and private partners to—