

**STATE OF OREGON
Department of Human Services
Dr. Bruce Goldberg, Director**

**Social Service Block Grant
(SSBG)**

**Report of Intended Use For
Federal Fiscal Year 2007**

**For Time Period Beginning
October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007**

and

**Post Expenditure Report of Use
For Federal Fiscal Year 2005**

**For the Time Period Covering
October 1, 2004 to September 30, 2005**

**Submitted to
Children's Bureau
Administration for Children and Families
Department of Health and Human Services**

May 2006

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT**

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Use of Social Service Block Grant (SSBG) Funding in Oregon

On January 4, 1975, title XX of the Social Security Act authorized an entitlement to States for providing social services. Title XX gave States increased flexibility to offer a wider range of services to a broader population of adults and children. The statute also included requirements for planning, public participation, income eligibility, and administration. In 1981, Congress amended title XX to establish the SSBG program. States determine what services are provided, the eligible populations, the locations in which each service is provided, and whether the services are provided by State or local agency staff or through grants or contracts.

SSBG funds are allocated to States as block grants, based on State population, to support the delivery of social services. The SSBG encourages each State to furnish services directed at five statutory goals:

- Achieving or maintaining economic self-support to prevent, reduce, or eliminate dependency;
- Achieving or maintaining self-sufficiency, including reduction or prevention of dependency;
- Preventing or remedying neglect, abuse, or exploitation of children and adults unable to protect their own interests or preserving, rehabilitating, or reuniting families;
- Preventing or reducing inappropriate institutional care by providing for community-based care, home-based care, or other forms of less intensive care; and
- Securing referral or admission for institutional care when other forms of care are not appropriate or providing services to individuals in institutions.

By federal law, SSBG funds must be administered by the same state agency that administers child welfare and foster care/adoption programs. In

Oregon, the designated state agency is the Department of Human Services (DHS).

Oregon DHS has been undergoing several years of reorganization, growth and change. In 2004, Gary Weeks returned as the DHS Director. In 2005, Mr. Weeks left DHS and Bryan Johnston was appointed as Interim Director. Dr. Bruce Goldberg was appointed as DHS Director in late 2005.

The Oregon Legislature has consistently used SSBG funds to support DHS budget based programs that would have otherwise been funded with state general funds. To simplify the accounting and reporting procedures within the department, in 1990, DHS began allocating all SSBG funds to its Child Welfare division. SSBG is one of many federal and other (non-state) funding sources that support its Legislatively Approved Budget.

DHS has an intricate accounting system that preserves state funds by charging every possible cost to federal categorical entitlement funding sources. Expenditures that are not eligible for categorical reimbursement are analyzed and charged to the least flexible funding source for which it is an allowable cost. Finally, SSBG and state general funds are used to pay any remaining costs. While this method achieves the highest level of federal funding, it also makes it difficult to estimate where SSBG will ultimately be spent. Only expenditures which are allowable costs under the SSBG federal program requirements are applied to SSBG funding.

Services funded with SSBG are described on the following pages.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Service: Remedial Family Support Services (Family-Based Services)

Purpose: To help keep families together, preserve and strengthen family unity.

Objective: Increase the well-being of children in families with a high risk of child placement, family breakup or family conflict.

Activities/Services:

Services are provided in the areas of parenting skills, family therapy services, family resource workers, housekeeper services, and individual counseling. Additional services include consultation with workers, information and referral, and assistance with initial assessments.

Service components purchased through contracts or other arrangements include:

- **Parent Training Services.** Curricular materials designed especially for the child welfare population are used. Groups of parents learn functional skills to help them provide safe, nurturing environments for their children. Opportunities to practice new skills occur in structured "lab" settings with the entire family. Children placed in foster care are brought in to be with their parents during the "labs". Individual goals are developed to address the specific needs of each family.
- **Family Resource Workers (Homemakers)** are trained paraprofessionals who visit families in the home to teach, demonstrate and assist according to the family's needs. Areas in which Family Resource Workers may help include: household budgeting, housekeeping, nutrition, and childcare.
- **Intensive Family Services/High Impact (IFS/Hi)** provides short-term, intensive counseling to a specific population of parents who otherwise might be placed in out-of-home care. The focus is building on families' strengths and competencies.
- **Reunification Services** are designed to discover and build on family strengths with the outcome of strengthening families and avoiding out-of-

home placements when possible. A variety of interventions are used, including the Oregon Family Unity Model.

- **Housekeeper Services.** This program provides in-home chore services such as house cleaning, food preparation, and clothes care. These services are provided to families in critical need, usually as a result of temporary medical crisis.
- **Supportive-Remedial Day Care** provides short-term time-limited respite day care services to prevent out-of-home placement for high-risk families or families with special needs children.

Categories of Individuals to be Served:

- Families that have emergency needs of health care, physical maintenance, or family care; families and children who are experiencing problems of social development and inter-personal relationships; families who need assistance in caring for children having physical or mental handicapping conditions; children who have been returned home from out-of-home care; and foster and adoptive families and subsidized guardians having difficulties with placements.

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

- Service:** County-Based Services
- Purpose:** To fund local, community-based preventive programs for children and youth at risk and their families.
- Objective:** To reduce the risk factors and build resiliency factors associated with juvenile delinquency, teenage pregnancy, drug and alcohol abuse, child abuse and neglect, readiness to learn, poverty, families ability to care for their own children, and access to child and respite care, at the community level through county-based planning and services.

Description:

State government services are prioritized toward achieving benchmarks that serve children and youth at risk. The Oregon Legislature transferred responsibility for children at lesser risk to local county governments. Local planning and service delivery can help overcome access barriers, build community supports and prevent the need for state government intervention.

Description of the Service:

Services may include outreach and assessment, service plan development, crisis intervention, crisis nursery care, respite care and parent support, family counseling and mediation, individual and group counseling, independent living skill training, transitional living services, alcohol and drug abuse intervention, detoxification and juvenile detention, diversion programs and other services defined in the local plans to meet the objectives listed above.

How Services are Delivered:

The Oregon Commission on Children and Families allocates funds to each county commission based on the number of children aged 0 -17 years old living in that county. Local county commissions on children and families develop a comprehensive service plan to build supports and mitigate risks for children and youth and their families. Specific strategies are developed and prioritized in each plan to achieve the objectives identified above. The

local commissions use a competitive process to select service providers best able to achieve identified outcomes. Funding is awarded to providers who utilize the most effective methods of addressing the local county service priorities. While services may vary from county to county, all are outcome based and designed to build supports that keep children, youth and families from needing more intensive intervention. Examples of services are listed above.

Categories of Individuals to be Served:

Children, youth 0 - 17 years old and their families who demonstrate a need for supports, and skills to keep from needing more intensive state services. The need for such support and services may include children, youth and their families who:

- Chronically act out
- Are out of parental control
- Are at-risk of child abuse and neglect
- Have alcohol and drug issues
- Need short-term crisis counseling
- Have a lack of parenting knowledge
- Other identified in local comprehensive plans

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Service: Child Protective Services

Purpose: To assess reports of suspected abuse or neglect and to provide protective services to families and children when the child has been abused, neglected, exploited, or abandoned.

Objective: To assure the child's welfare and safety through various protective strategies; to maintain family unity, insofar as consistent with the child's safety; to reduce those factors, causes, and stresses which led to abuse or neglect; to support and encourage cognitive, emotional, and behavioral adjustment which results in family maintenance or reunification; and to expedite permanency plans when it is determined that the child cannot safely return home.

Activities/Services:

Child Welfare Protective Services include:

- Screening of suspected child abuse reports.
- Information and referral.
- Assessment of reports of child abuse and neglect by observation, discussion of the report with the family, and collateral contacts and coordination with police, district attorney, medical providers, and mental health professionals.
- Emergency child placement in shelter homes certified by the Department or with other family members when it has been ascertained that the child has been abused/neglected and risk assessment indicates the child may be subjected to further injury if immediate, temporary custody is not provided.

- Development of a social service plan based on a diagnostic assessment.
- Ongoing in-home protective social services, which include regular visitation to provide counseling, parent training services, homemaker services, referral for medical and financial services designed to assure the child's safety and ameliorate the factors underlying abusive/neglectful behavior.

Service components purchased through contracts or other arrangements include: homemaker and housekeeping services; emergency shelter care; and supportive services.

Categories of Individuals to be Served:

- Families and children who are, or are alleged to be, abused, neglected, exploited, or abandoned.

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

Service: Substitute Care Including Residential Care and Treatment

Purpose: To assure protective care and support to children who require 24 hour emergency shelter, foster care, residential care or treatment services due to conditions of individual and/or family dysfunction; including, abuse, neglect, exploitation, abandonment, emotional disturbance, physical or mental handicap, runaway and delinquency.

Objective: Provide appropriate substitute care to children removed from their homes in order to: (1) return such children home or to suitable permanent living situation at the earliest possible date, (2) divert children from further substitute care and/or institutional placement, (3) support rehabilitation and/or reunion of the child's family, and (4) reduce cultural assimilation related problems of refugee children.

Activities/Services:

Services are provided at the following settings: (1) family shelter homes, (2) foster care family homes, (3) family group homes; (4) professional shelter centers and (5) licensed private child-caring agencies.

Substitute care makes available a variety of purchased and staff provided services. Those provided by the department staff (including volunteers) are:

- Determination of eligibility for service.
- Assessment of family needs.
- Development of service plans.
- Individual and group counseling.
- Determination of need for and type of care resource.
- Selection of the most appropriate service for the child.

- Recruitment, certification/licensing of foster homes or residential programs.
- Placement and supervision of children in substitute care and residential treatment resources.
- Monitoring of care providers to assure compliance with the child's placement treatment plan and the administrative rules for certification or licensing.
- Assure permanency for children in foster care or subsidized guardianship, by providing intensive services to children in foster care to either: return them to parents; free and place them for adoption; or establish a guardianship placement.
- Screen foster care placements for eligibility and priority for service.
- Determine who has legal rights to child.
- Provide intensive casework and supportive services to parents, child, foster parents and guardians.
- Reunite children with parents and provide three months' follow-up services.
- Pursue adoption or guardianship planning for children who cannot be returned to parents.
- Free children for adoption either voluntarily or through court via the purchase of attorney services, including miscellaneous case costs for termination proceedings.
- Locate suitable adoptive home, prepare child for adoption, and make the placement.

Service components purchased through contracts and agreements include:

- Professional Shelter Care including evaluation services.
- Residential treatment services.
- Target Planning and Consultation services for hard-to-place children.
- Legal assistance for termination of parental rights cases.

These care and treatment services include skill training and self-maintenance for mentally handicapped and developmentally disabled children, individualized treatment for emotionally disturbed children and other specialized activities. These services are delivered in certified family foster homes and licensed private child caring agencies.

Categories of Individuals to be Served:

- Children who require substitute care and treatment services due to conditions of individual and/or family dysfunction including abuse, neglect, exploitation, abandonment, runaway, emotional disturbance, severe mental handicaps and delinquency.

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

Service: Employment Related Day Care Services

Day care services are subsidized for public assistance clients who have found employment and for potential clients diverted from becoming a recipient with the help of day care services.

Purpose: Many public assistance clients who have found employment are unable to stay employed without help in caring for their children. Without this help many of these families will return to the public welfare caseload. The federally mandated transitional day care program provides up to 12 months of subsidized care. To be eligible for this assistance a family must have been receiving public assistance for three of the last six months preceding employment. Oregon has expanded on the transitional program. By providing day care services to a broader range of clients many families are diverted from becoming public assistance clients. Oregon has also extended the period during which day care service will be provided, thus providing a longer period during which clients may transition into the job market.

Objective: By providing subsidized day care Oregon speeds up the period of transition into the labor force. This has reduced the number of families on public assistance as well as the time families spend on public assistance. With the current emphasis of moving assistance clients from welfare to work, Oregon has been a leader in promoting self-sufficiency. Aid to families with dependent children is expected to continue to fall.

Activities/Services:

A growing number of Oregon families receive day care services. The level of subsidy each family receives depends on a number of factors. A higher subsidy is provided as the number of children requiring day care increases.

The amount of subsidy is decreased as family income goes up. In Oregon the subsidy is paid directly to the day care provider.

Categories of Individuals to be Served:

- Day care service subsidies are authorized by Department of Human Services staff to low income Oregonians who have found employment but require assistance in meeting their child care needs while on the job. Historical data show that these clients can more quickly go on to become self-supporting and productive members of the state's economy.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Service: Tribal Social Service Programs

Purpose: Provide effective, culturally relevant social services to Indian children and their families.

Objective: Jointly plan and provide social services to Indian children with Oregon Indian Tribal Organization social service agencies to better meet the social needs of Tribe members.

Description:

Geographical, cultural, language and other factors place special barriers to access of social services for members of Oregon Indian Tribal Organizations. Some Tribal members live on reservations and must leave the reservation to seek out State services, often at great distances. Where services are more readily available, they may not be culturally relevant or sensitive to the needs of Indians and require special program planning. Additionally, Indian social service agencies often do not have adequate funding to provide the accessible, appropriate and culturally relevant services needed by members of their Tribes.

Activities/Services:

- Description of Service:

To provide social services to children of Oregon Indian Tribal Organizations, various Tribal social service agencies and/or Councils to perform a needs assessment and develop, plan and deliver services to target populations within their Tribes with the assistance of DHS. Services include youth advocacy; delinquency; alcohol and drug abuse, family and mental health counseling; day care services; parent and foster parent training; child protective services and emergency placements; short-term, intensive residential care; and provision of culturally relevant child welfare related employee training.

- **How Services Are Delivered:**

Program planning for individual Tribes occurs jointly between the social services agencies associated with each Tribe and/or Tribal Councils and DHS. Services are provided directly by the Tribal agency or purchased on contract. DHS awards SSBG funds to Tribes based on inter-governmental agreements.

Categories of Children to be Served:

- Indian children and youth, ages 0 - 18.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Service: Adoption Services

Purpose: To find legal, permanent homes for children whose birth families are unable to care for them through the belief that the family is the best place for a child to grow and a well-planned adoption provides an opportunity for children who need an enduring, stable home.

Objective: To provide suitable homes for children who are legally free for adoption.

Activities/Services:

- Child welfare operates a comprehensive program for the placement of children who are in the permanent custody of the State. When adoption planning is identified as a goal for a child, steps are taken to free and place the child. A child is free for adoption when DHS has full legal custody gained through either voluntary relinquishment by parents or court action terminating parental rights.
- Adoption services include:
 - Acceptance of permanent custody of children for the purpose of adoption;
 - Recruitment and selection of potential adoptive homes;
 - Placement of children into adoptive homes; and
 - Supervision of the placements pending the filing of a legal adoption.
 - Services are provided by DHS field staff, contracted licensed adoption agencies, adoption exchanges, and federally funded projects.
- Child welfare administers an Adoption Assistance Program for special needs children. Special needs children are children of color, physically or mentally disabled, age eight years or older, members of a sibling group, and/or have significant emotional ties to an adoptive family while in their

care as a foster child. The Adoption Assistance Program includes special payments for non-reoccurring expenses, monthly maintenance payments, and/or eligibility for medical coverage through the Medicaid programs.

- Child welfare maintains a central record of all adoptions in Oregon of children under age 18. This information is used as the source of vital statistics for adoptions in Oregon and provides information essential to the Voluntary Adoption Registry.
- Child welfare operates a Voluntary Adoption Registry which provides a method for birth parents of an adoptee, adult adoptees (over age 18), adult genetic brother or sister of an adoptee, adoptive parents of a deceased adoptee, adult brother or sister of deceased birth parents of an adoptee, to contact each other if all parties involved desire. The registry allows DHS/Children, Adults and Families (CAF) to provide both "identifying" and "non-identifying" information to registered individuals. Identifying information is limited to the names and addresses of registered individuals. This information may be given out when the adoptee and one of the other parties have registered for the service. Non-identifying information is information that excludes the names and addresses of registered individuals. It generally deals with data about genetic, health, and social history concerning the adoptee, adoptive parents, birth parents, and/or members of the birth parent's family.
- Child welfare maintains an independent adoption program. An independent adoption is one for whom consent to the adoption is given directly from the birth parents to a petitioner. Adoptive petitioners are often located through the efforts of physicians, attorneys, friends, or church groups who do not take legal custody of the child. Relative and stepparent adoptions are considered independent adoptions. Since the petitioning family is unknown, child welfare administers a program to evaluate their potential as an adoptive family. Shortly after the family's attorney files a petition to adopt, the family is referred to a licensed adoption agency, on a rotating basis, to conduct a home study. When completed, the home study is sent to the court where a decision is made about the adoption.

Categories of Individuals to be Served:

- Children in permanent custody of child welfare for the purpose of adoption.
- Children who are the subject of an independent adoption petition.
- Children who are partially legally free (legal risk) for the purpose of adoption.
- Children who are in permanent custody of another state and are placed for adoption in Oregon.
- Adult adoptees and certain members of their birth families.
- Special needs children placed for adoption by child welfare or a private licensed agency.
- Potential adoptive families.

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

Service: Legal Assistance Services

Purpose: To obtain and provide specific legal services for permanency planning cases.

Objective: When appropriate, termination of parental rights to children will occur.

Activities/Services:

- Legal Assistance Services are part of the services provided by the DHS adoption program.
- Legal services are purchased from the Oregon Department of Justice and the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office for processing, filing and prosecuting termination of parental rights to children for whom termination of parental rights is appropriate under Oregon law.
- Legal consultation and training for child welfare employees for the purpose of processing and preparing parental termination cases are included in the above services.
- In addition, DHS is required by Oregon law to pay for publication of summons for termination of parental rights hearings, process server fees, and expert witness fees when the state's case is presented by the department of Justice.
- Mediation services are purchased from trained child welfare mediators through the Legal Assistance Services program for permanency planning cases where the child is a legal risk (partly legally free) adoptive placement, a termination of parental rights legal proceeding has been initiated and, the parent has indicated an interest in signing relinquishment of parental rights documents if some degree of openness in the adoption can be negotiated with the adoptive parents.

Categories of Individuals to be Served:

- Children in the permanent custody of DHS for the purpose of adoption.
- Biological parents of the above children.
- Potential adoptive parents.

Distribution of the Social Services Block Grant Report

DHS has historically placed a public notice in the largest paper in the state, the Oregonian, under the public notice section. Due to the lack of response and ineffectiveness of this past practice, DHS has developed alternative ways to distributing the SSBG report. This report will be distributed to all interested parties by direct mailing. A copy of this report will be placed on the DHS website, and stakeholders such as the Oregon Commission on Children and Families, the Citizen Review Board, the tribes of Oregon, and other human service providers will be sent a copy. Below is a list of stakeholders and interested parties who requested or were sent a copy of the SSBG report during the last twelve months, or will be sent a copy of this report.

Record of Distribution of SSBG FY 2007 Proposed SSBG state plan:

Marsha Werner – DC

Candace Kato-Nogaki – Region X

Terry Cross – NICWA

Geralyn Brennan – OCCF

Mickey Lansing -- OCCF

Angela Sherbo – JRP

Nancy Miller – OJD

Ramona Foley – DHS

Michael Serice – DHS

Angela Long – DHS

Mary McNevins – DHS

Rick Acevedo, DHS Director's Office

Kevin George – DHS

Randy Blackburn – DHS

Helen Hoang – DHS

Dana Ainam – Conf. Tribes of Grand Ronde

Michelle Bradach – Burns Paiute Tribe

Tom Long – Conf. Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Suislaw Indians

Nancy McCrary - Conf. Tribes of Siletz Indians

Marvin Garcia – Klamath Tribe

Rhonda Malone – Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians

James St. Martin – Conf. Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Jim Quaide – Conf. Tribes of Warm Springs

**REPORT OF INTENDED USE
Federal Fiscal Year 2007**

**For Time Period Beginning
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(Please see attached Excel document)

POST EXPENDITURE REPORT

Federal Fiscal Year 2005

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