

**To:** Gatekeepers  
**From:** CSBG Program Coordinator  
**Date:** 10/18/2023

**Please distribute to:** Executive Directors Fiscal Staff Homeless Services Program Staff  
Rental Assistance Program Staff

**Category:** Program Informational

**Message:** CSBG Fraud Alert from Office of Community Services (OCS)

Attention:

Back in June of 2019, the Office of Community Services (OCS) at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) sent a [Dear Colleague letter](#) warning CSBG State offices about potentially fraudulent activity by individuals claiming to represent CSBG. Unfortunately, this continues to be happening and I ask that you alert your staff to help protect your community members.

Individuals unrelated to CSBG are contacting people via telephone, email, social media, and text message offering CSBG funding or services in exchange for a fee. Note: OCS **does not** provide direct CSBG grants to individuals. Additionally, OCS **does not** initiate contact with individuals by phone, email, text messages, or social media channels to request personal or financial information.

If you are made aware of or receive any communication offering a CSBG grant or requesting a fee in exchange for additional funding, please report it to the Health and Human Services (HHS) Fraud Hotline at **1-800-447-8477**. For more information, please visit: [Grant Fraud and Scams](#). Additionally, please make Leeann Marx aware of this or have any reports of this activity in your area.

Sincerely,

**Leeann Marx**

Oregon Housing and Community Services

CSBG Program Coordinator

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