

**Community Block Grants****FY2001 Request: \$6,000,000**  
**Reference No: AMD 33488****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Health and Safety**Category:** Housing/Social Services**Location:** Statewide**Contact:** Pat Poland**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Contact Phone:** (907)269-4580**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2000 - 06/30/2005**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

The Block Grant Programs receive federal funding from several sources in order to provide grants to local governments and services to low income people which will improve their quality of life and remove obstacles to self-sufficiency.

<b>Funding:</b>	<u>FY2001</u>	<u>FY2002</u>	<u>FY2003</u>	<u>FY2004</u>	<u>FY2005</u>	<u>FY2006</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fed Rcpts	\$6,000,000						\$6,000,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$6,000,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$6,000,000</b>

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

**Operating & Maintenance Costs:**

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Additional Information / Prior Funding History:****Project Description/Justification:**

The Block Grant Programs receive federal funding from several sources in order to provide grants to local governments and services to low income people which will improve their quality of life and remove obstacles to self-sufficiency. The programs are administered by positions within the Community and Business Development component. We anticipate the state will receive approximately 9,000.0 in federal block grant funds in FY 2001. We are requesting authorization of 6,000.0, as we expect to have excess authorization remaining from previous appropriations.

The exact level of funding available annually for each of these programs is established by the U.S. Congress and cannot always be accurately predicted until July of each year. The state bases its estimates on prior year receipts as well as initial indications from the federal funding agencies.

All federal funds received are governed by plans the state prepares and submits annually to the appropriate federal agencies. These plans identify state priorities for funding, state administrative procedures for managing funds, and state policies and procedures for distributing funds. The state is required to seek public input during development of the plans, which is accomplished by holding community meetings and forums and through statewide public hearings.

Community Block Grants are comprised of several programs and federal funding sources:

1. Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG), funded by the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Community Services (DHHS-OCS), as authorized by Public Law 97-35.
2. Community Food and Nutrition Grant Program (CF&N), also from DHHS-OCS
3. Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funds from HUD, as authorized by Public Law 100-71.
4. Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as authorized by the Community Development Act of 1974, as amended.

**Community Services Block Grant Program**

These federal funds are used to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty throughout the state. Activities funded with CSBG include those that will assist the poor in:

- securing and retaining meaningful employment;
- attaining an adequate education;
- making better use of available income;
- obtaining and maintaining adequate housing;
- obtaining emergency assistance to meet immediate and urgent individual and family needs including the need for health services, nutritious foodstuffs, housing, and employment related assistance;
- removing obstacles which block achievement and self-sufficiency and achieving greater participation in the affairs of community.

CSBG funds have traditionally been used in Alaska to support alcohol and drug abuse prevention programs, including: education and training; fetal alcohol syndrome prevention; child development programs; planning and research activities; energy conservation strategies; and similar programs. The Village Participation Conference and the Rural Providers Conference are also supported with CSBG funds.

A minimum of 90 percent of the CSBG program funds received by the state are required by federal statute to be passed through to community action agencies to provide services to low-income persons throughout the state. The state has one community action agency to which these funds are passed, which is RurAL CAP Inc.

**Community Food and Nutrition Grant Program**

These funds are awarded annually for the purpose of coordinating the activities of homeless providers throughout the state and advocating for the homeless.

**Emergency Shelter Grant**

ESG funds are awarded on a competitive basis annually to local governments and non-profit organizations that provide services to the homeless. Funds support renovations and minor repairs of homeless shelters; payment of operational costs of shelters such as insurance, fuel, electricity; and homeless prevention activities.

**Community Development Block Grant Program**

The CDBG program provides grants of up to \$200,000 each to municipalities for infrastructure development and capital projects, planning activities, and special economic development activities which benefit low and moderate income persons.

The priority for CDBG funding is those projects that address identified health and safety needs and which combine and coordinate other funds. All incorporated cities and boroughs are eligible to apply with the exception of the Municipality of Anchorage.

Typically the state awards a minimum of 30 to 35 new CDBG grants annually to municipalities through a competitive grant application process. Examples of projects funded include:

- community centers;
- health clinics;
- solid waste disposal system upgrades;
- bulk fuel storage facilities;
- generators and electrification projects;
- fire protection equipment; docks; water and sewer projects;
- erosion control projects;
- comprehensive land use plans;
- overall economic development plans;
- ADA compliance for public facilities;
- tourism development projects;
- fisheries development projects;

Once grants are awarded, the block grant staff works closely with the community to coordinate all activities and see the project to completion.

**Match**

Municipalities requesting CDBG funds are requested to match CDBG requests dollar for dollar with 25 percent of the match as cash and up to 75 percent as in-kind contributions. The ESG program requires a dollar for dollar match only if over \$100,000 is awarded. Neither the CSBG nor the CF&N grant programs have match requirements. There are no federal match requirements for the state to meet to receive these funds.