

**COLORADO COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG)**



**AMERICAN RECOVERY and REINVESTMENT ACT**

**OUTCOME REPORT**

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## **COLORADO COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (CSBG) RECOVERY ACT OVERVIEW**

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provided the Colorado Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Community Action Program (CAP) Network with \$8,684,648 in additional funding for FY 2009 and 2010 CSBG programs. The Colorado CAP Network, the forty (40) entities that administer the CSBG on the local level for all sixty-four (64) counties in Colorado, have worked diligently to ensure that CSBG Recovery Act funds provide critical services to those affected by the severe economic recession. The State CSBG office and the Colorado CAP Network have committed to providing transparent, efficient, innovative and effective services with CSBG Recovery Act funds.

### **STATUS OF RECOVERY ACT EXPENDITURES**

The Colorado CAP Network has proven to be a responsible steward of Recovery Act funds. Despite an unprecedented amount of funding, need and responsibility, CAPs have collectively expended 99.6% of CSBG Recovery Act funds as of December 30, 2010. The State CSBG office worked with local CAPs in creating and executing plans to spend CSBG Recovery Act funds responsibly, so that Coloradans in need could receive the help they deserve.

### **NATIONAL PERFORMANCE GOALS**

The State and Community Action Programs receiving CSBG funds work to achieve six national performance goals:

- Goal 1 : Low-income people become more self-sufficient.
- Goal 2: The conditions in which low-income people live are improved.
- Goal 3: Low-income people own a stake in their community.
- Goal 4: Partnerships among supporters and providers of service to low-income people are achieved.
- Goal 5: Agencies increase their capacity to achieve results.
- Goal 6: Low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and other supportive systems.

### **NATIONAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

To provide national reporting of the most universal and significant CSBG Recovery Act results Colorado CAPs report on the National Performance Indicators (NPI). NPIs measure the impact of the CSBG programs on families and communities. The NPIs are related to the six national performance goals in that they measure incremental progress toward achieving each of the larger goals, which require specific steps along the way to success. The NPI provides common

definitions for reporting family, community, and agency improvement outcomes, and allow the state and local CAPs to convey broad family and community outcomes.

These outcomes are the result of the strategic use of a variety of change mechanisms, including service provision, and program coordination, both within each agency and with partners in the broader community. The NPIs cover the following outcome areas:

- 1.1 Employment
- 1.2 Employment Supports
- 1.3 Economic Asset Enhancement and Utilization
- 2.1 Community Improvement and Revitalization
- 2.2 Community Quality of Life and Assets
- 2.3 Community Engagement
- 2.4 Employment Growth from ARRA funds
- 3.1 Community Enhancement through Maximum Feasible Participation
- 3.2 Community Empowerment through Maximum Feasible Participation
- 4.1 Expanding Opportunities through Community-Wide Partnerships
- 5.1 Agency Development
- 6.1 Independent Living
- 6.2 Emergency Assistance
- 6.3 Child and Family Development
- 6.4 Family Supports (Seniors, Disabled and Caregivers)
- 6.5 Service Counts

The following outcomes represent the most common activities of Colorado CAPs as categorized by the NPIs. Data include CAP activities and services that were funded in part or in full by CSBG Recovery Act funds during the period of April 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010.

## CSBG RECOVERY ACT RESULTS

### 1.1: Employment As a Result of ARRA Funds

As a result of CAP assistance, the following employment outcomes occurred:

- 1,875 Unemployed low-income people obtained a job.
- 1,445 Low-income people obtained a job and maintained employment for at least 90 days.
- 835 Low-income people obtained an increase in salary and/or benefits.
- 1,270 Low-income people obtained “living wage” jobs and/or benefits.

#### Jefferson County Success Story

Paul is a young adult that has positively handled numerous challenges in his life. He participated in the 2009 Workforce Summer Youth program and was placed in an internship with Caesar Chavez Academy-Denver as a custodial trainee. He successfully completed the assignment in September 2009, but the school was unable to retain him as an employee due to their funding limitations. Through CSBG-R funding and the partnership with Workforce Summer Youth, the employer and Paul negotiated an On-the-Job Training program agreement to include nine (9) months of intensive training and mentoring. During this period 50% of Paul’s wages were paid with the CSBG Recovery Act funds. Upon completion of his training Paul was hired directly by the employer as a permanent, full-time Denver Public Schools employee. He also received a Jefferson County Outstanding Achievement award in May 2010.

### 1.2: Employment Supports

As a result of CAP assistance, the following barriers to initial or continuous employment were reduced or eliminated:

#### Lack of Job Skills

- 6,108 Low-income people obtained skills/competencies required for employment.
- 119 Low-income people completed Adult Basic Education or GED coursework and obtained a certificate or diploma.
- 375 Low-income people completed post-secondary education and obtained a certificate or diploma.

## **Arapahoe County Success Story**

Through the Work Now program, 166 clients accessed employment services. Seventy-nine (79) clients were placed in “work experience” positions to increase their job skills while receiving a salary being paid with CSBG Recovery Act funds, and 38 individuals enrolled in training programs ranging from administrative to nursing. At the end of the grant program, 74 participants obtained employment.

Comments from program participants include: *“When I heard about the Work Now Program, I was just recovering from a treatment for a major illness that sidelined me from the workforce for nine months. The Work Now program was instrumental in providing the opportunity to do an internship with an employer who put me on their payroll. The program also provided me with money to purchase clothing and auto fuel to get back and forth to work”.*

*“The program was a great help to me. I got a chance to use some of my old skills in marketing and an opportunity to learn a little about the inside workings of a restaurant business. The program also helped me to get an apartment and not be homeless. The program helped me to learn new skills in searching for employment, something I hadn’t done in over 25 years because I was employed as a Realtor and Mortgage Broker”.*

### **Lack of Care for Children**

- 260** Low-income participants enrolled school-aged children in before or after school programs.
- 430** Low-income participants obtained child care for pre-school children or dependents.

### **Lack of Transportation**

- 1,622** Low-income participants gained access to reliable transportation and/or a driver’s license.

### **Lack of Health Care**

- 1,040** Low-income participants obtained health care services for themselves or a family member.

### **Lack of Housing**

- 743** Low-income participants obtained and/or maintained safe and affordable housing.

### **Lack of Food and Nutrition**

- 14,083** Low-income participants obtained food assistance.

## **2.1:Community Improvement and Revitalization**

Community Action Programs receiving CSBG funds increased and preserved community opportunities and resources for low-income people through programs, partnerships, and advocacy:

### **Job Creation and Preservation**

163 Jobs were created or preserved from reduction or elimination in the community.

### **Living Wage Jobs**

77 Accessible “living wage” jobs were created or preserved in the community.

### **Child Care and Child Development**

83 Child care or child development placement opportunities for low-income children were created or saved from elimination.

84

### **Youth Programs**

242 Before and after school program placement opportunities for low-income youth were created or saved from elimination.

### **Transportation**

70 Transportation opportunities for low-income people (public transportation routes, rides, carpool arrangements, car purchase and maintenance) were created, expanded, or saved from elimination.

### **Educational Opportunities**

537 Educational programs or opportunities for low-income people were created, expanded, or saved from elimination (including literacy, job training, adult basic education/GED, and post-secondary education).

### **Jackson County Success Story**

*“There is not just one family that stands out as a success story for our program. The greatest success story is about our community as a whole. The financial recession did not come to our isolated community the way it came to the rest of the nation. People in Jackson County, Colorado had heard the news reports but had not yet felt the magnitude of impact that the rest of the nation experienced. It was as if people were beginning to think we had escaped the hardships. Then . . . the bottom dropped out of our world. The week before Thanksgiving a large employer here laid off 80% of their employees with no advance warning and no definite timeline of re-opening. Social Services were inundated with panicked families who needed help*

*right away, not in a couple weeks when their benefits could be approved. The local food bank is run by a church and obviously had limited resources that would also be affected by congregants' loss of pay. The local grocery store, like every other business in the neighborhood, feared they would lose business. And they would; because even though food is a necessity, it still has to be paid for. And, while we are not an extravagant community, many parents were in tears as they feared there would be no way to provide Christmas presents for their young children who definitely do not understand economics".*

Families who applied for the Food Card Program through JCPHA received an immediate response to their frantic cries for help. And yet, not one of those families was given "just a hand-out." They were given a \$50 gift card to use at the local grocery store saving them gas money that would have been spent to go to the "cities" to buy groceries. Budgets were adjusted and the funds that would have gone to pay for food were able to be applied to rent, heating bills and medical expenses. They were also given an educational nutrition handout that focused on one topic each month broadening their knowledge through focused manageable lessons. The program also had a categorized list of Approved Foods which automatically directed them away from expensive processed foods and toward the basics. Many of the younger families had never realized how much more they could stretch each dollar by preparing simple menus and cooking from scratch.

The local store had guaranteed customers. The food bank did not have to shoulder the food crisis alone. Families received help during that limbo time it takes to sort out benefits and assistance. Our community received invaluable nutrition education for free. And there were gifts on Christmas morning because a community succeeded in taking care of itself.

### **2.3: Community Engagement**

Community Action Programs sought and encouraged assistance from community volunteers. Volunteers helped the agencies achieve program outcomes, and those offering their services often experience a greater sense of connection and commitment to the community's well-being and future.

**311** Community members mobilized by Community Action that participated in community revitalization and anti-poverty initiatives.

**54,429** Hours of service were volunteered to Community Action Program activities.

### **2.4: Employment Growth from Recovery Act Funds \***

**126** Jobs created at least in part by Recovery Act funds.

**54** Jobs saved at least in part by Recovery Act funds.

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\*These are counts of positions, not full time equivalents (FTEs)

### **3.1: Community Enhancement through Maximum Feasible Participation**

Community Action Programs encouraged and assisted low-income people in engaging in activities that support and promote their own well-being and that of their community:

**20,039** Hours of service were volunteered to Community Action Program activities.

#### **Community Decision Making**

- 93** Low-income people were able to participate in formal community organizations, governments, boards, or councils that provide input to decision-making and policy setting through Community Action Programs.
- 179** Low-income people were engaged in non-governance community activities or groups created or supported by Community Action.

### **4.1: Expanding Opportunities through Community-Wide Partnerships**

- 941** Organizations worked with Community Action Programs to promote family and community outcomes.

### **5.1: Agency Development**

The availability of human capital resources allows Community Action Programs to increase their capacity to achieve family and community outcomes.

#### **Certified Community Action Professionals (C-CAP)**

- 2** Number of Certified Community Action Professionals
- 2** Number of ROMA trainers
- 4** Number of Family Development Trainers
- 3** Number of Child Development Trainers

#### **Training Participants**

- 114** Number of staff attending training.
- 52** Number of board members attending training.

#### **Training Hours**

- 2,214** Hours of staff in trainings
- 2,394** Hours of board members in trainings



## 6.1: Independent Living

Vulnerable individuals received services from Community Action Programs, which assisted them in maintaining an independent living situation:

**1,771** Senior citizens received services and maintained an independent living situation as a result of services.

**1,283** Individuals with disabilities received services and maintained an independent living situation as a result of services.

**172** Ages 0-17

**961** Ages 18-54

**150** Ages 55- Over

## 6.2: Emergency Assistance

Community Action Programs administered a variety of emergency services that helped families and individuals obtain and maintain self-sufficiency:

Emergency Services	Individuals
Food and Nutrition	92,725
Fuel/Energy and Utility Payments	633
Rent or Mortgage Assistance	1,520
Car or Home Repair	18
Temporary Shelter	137
Emergency Medical Care	677
Protection from Violence	177
Legal Assistance	1
Emergency Transportation	4,995
Emergency Clothing	83

### **6.3: Child and Family Development**

Community Action Programs administered a variety of programs and services that helped infants, children, youth, parents, and other adults achieve developmental and enrichment goals:

#### **Infants and Children**

**3,014** Infants and children were assisted in their growth and development as a result of adequate nutrition.

#### **Youth**

**3,004** Youth experienced improved health and physical development.

**232** Youth experienced improved social/emotional development.

**171** Youth avoided risk-taking behavior for a defined period of time.

**171** Youth reduced involvement with the criminal justice system.

**232** Youth increased academic, athletic, or social skills for school success.

#### **Parents and Other Adults**

**32** Parents and/or other adults learned and exhibited improved family functioning skills.

### **6.4: Family Supports (Seniors, Disabled and Caregivers)**

Community Action Programs administered a variety of programs and services that helped low-income people who are unable to work, especially seniors, adults with disabilities, and caregivers increase family stability.

#### **Care for Children**

**232** Low-income participants enrolled school-aged children in before or after school programs.

**81** Low-income participants obtained care for children or other dependents.

**180** Low-income participants gained access to reliable transportation and/or a driver's license.

#### **Food Assistance**

**8,265** Low-income participants obtained food assistance.

## 6.5: Service Counts

Community Action Programs provided a variety of services to low-income individuals and/or families to meet basic household needs and improve economic security.

10,425	Food boxes were provided
585,610	Pounds of food were provided
182	Units of clothing were provided
1,831	Rides were provided
4,412	Information and Referrals were provided

## PARTICIPANTS OF CSBG RECOVERY ACT PROGRAMS

The following data describe the demographics of participants served by CAP activities and services that were funded in part or in full by CSBG Recovery Act funds during the period of April 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010.

### Income Levels

Almost 47,000 individuals, who were members of over 28,000 families, participated in CSBG Recovery Act funded activities. Community Action Programs served a heterogeneous group of low-income Coloradans living in a wide variety of communities.

Participating individuals and families face poverty and economic insecurity in varying degrees. Of the over 26,000 families reporting their level of family income:

- 64.7% were at or below the 2010 Federal Poverty Guideline (FPG), which is \$18,310 for a family of three.
- Nearly 8,740 families, or 33%, of participants, were “severely poor”, with incomes at or below 50% of the FPG, or below \$9,155 for a family of three.
- Only 35.2% of all participant families had incomes higher than 100% of the Federal Poverty Guideline or higher than \$18,310 for a family of three.
- Less than 1% of all participating families had incomes higher than 150% of the Federal Poverty Guideline or higher than \$27,465 for a family of three.

### Income Sources

Sources of family income are grouped into five categories. Income sources are earned wages, government assistance, retirement benefits, child support, and “no income”, which includes families whose members are neither employed nor enrolled in support programs. Of over the 25,000 families reporting their source(s) of income, the following statistics describe key income characteristics of CSBG Recovery Act participants.

- 66.8% of participant families or 16,786 families reported one or more sources of income.
- 10,888 low-wage families relied solely on their wages for income.
- 1,950 retired families were living on low retirement incomes.
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) provided income to 789 families served. Many family members within these recipient families worked while receiving TANF.
- 8,315 families came to their CAP with no income at all.

### **Family Structure of Participants**

Family type is grouped into six categories; single parent female; single parent male; two-parent household; single person; two adults with no children; and other. Single-parent families have the highest poverty rate of all family types. Family size of participants varied. For example, nearly 6,492 participants were one-member families, nearly 7,000 participants were from two or three person families, and over 10,000 participants were four member families.

The following statistics describe key family type characteristics of the CSBG Recovery Act participants:

- Over 63% of reporting families included children
- 28.8% of families with children had both parents present
- 29.4% were headed by a single mother
- Less than half a percent were headed by a single father

### **Race and Ethnicity of Participants**

CSBG Recovery Act participants are ethnically and racially diverse. Ethnicity data offered by nearly 42, 400 participants indicated that:

- Approximately 48.6% identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino
- Approximately 76% identified themselves as White
- Less than 1% identified themselves as black or African American
- Less than 1% identified themselves as American Indian or Alaska Native
- Less than 1% identified themselves as Asian
- Less than 1% identified themselves as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- Approximately 1.5% identified themselves as multi-raced.

### **Children in Community Action Programs**

Participants in CSBG Recovery Act programs included more than 10,000 children under the age of 18. In fact, children made up more than 30% of all reporting individuals served.

## Seniors in Community Action Programs

About 11% of CSBG Recovery Act program participants reporting age, or nearly 5,000 were 55 years or older, and over 13% of the participants in this age group were 70 years or older. CSBG Recovery Act activities helped these older participants maintain their independence and remain engaged in their communities.

## Barriers to Economic Security

Most program participants face many barriers to achieving economic security. For instance, CSBG Recovery Act program participants reported the following statistics:

- **Health Risks:** Health insurance data offered by more than 16,000 participants indicated that nearly 72% were without medical insurance. Most of the uninsured were adult low-wage workers, who are not covered by Medicare or Medicaid. Research has found that the lack of any health insurance is a strong predictor of future critical hardships for families at all income levels, but it is particularly strong for those with incomes below 200% of the Poverty Guideline.
- **Disabilities:** Disability data collected from nearly 14,000 participants indicated that just over 1% of CSBG Recovery Act program participants were disabled.
- **Lack of Education:** Nearly 72% of adults older than 24 had as much as a high school diploma or equivalency certificate, and only 22.7 % had undertaken any post-secondary study.

## Conclusion

Our communities, families and children face critical and growing challenges to their wellbeing. Poverty, which is widespread but oftentimes under the radar, is calling for our attention. Poverty rates are rising for children and families, harming the chance for them to have a bright future. And with that, the quality of life for all is threatened.

In the midst of a serious recession, the obstacles to achieve and maintain economic stability – that is, life without experiencing the effects of poverty – are becoming increasingly difficult to overcome. This is unacceptable and the Colorado CSBG Network is committed to all they can to change this reality.

Over the years, the services provided by most Colorado CAPs focused on ensuring people survived the debilitating effects of poverty. Often times, we measured our success by whether or not we helped people *manage* their poverty. While that is still critically important, it is not enough. Yes, we are still deeply committed to assisting people in crisis, yet at the same time we renew our commitment to empower individuals to move out of poverty.

That means helping people progress along the economic security continuum from economic crisis through economic vulnerability to economic stability.

The challenges we will continue to face in 2011 are all too real, yet they are accompanied by a great opportunity to serve our state's most vulnerable residents ever more effectively and efficiently. In this effort, we are grateful to the policymakers and our federal and local government partners who realize that funding Community Action Programs anti-poverty efforts is a worthwhile investment. The Community Action Networks proven programs put people to work and keep people healthy, saving the state the social and fiscal costs incurred when families suffer complete financial crisis. Additionally, the true worth of the Community Action Network is the value added for the individual, family and community that goes beyond counting direct outcomes from programs. The true value is we have helped families keep their homes, have nutritious meals on their tables, receive medical and dental care, care for their children, receive education and job training, and prepare for new careers.

We are proud to have risen to unparalleled challenges, and pleased to have highlighted many of our accomplishments in this report. Yet we continuously strive to improve our services because we know that Colorado's struggling families deserve and demand this steadfast effort. The State of Colorado and the Colorado Community Action Program Network is committed to reduction in poverty and the Department of Local Affairs is committed to lead in that effort and reduce poverty for families, individuals and communities throughout Colorado.