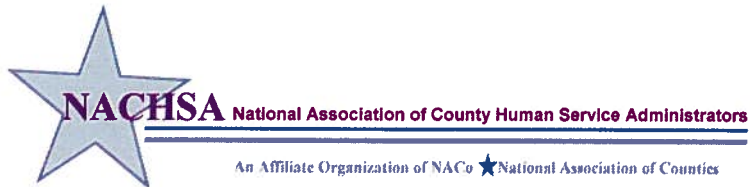




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**To:** *Representatives and Senators*

**Re:** *The Importance of the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)*

***We hope you will carefully review the attached letter regarding the significant importance of the Social Services Block Grant. It is a critical source of funding to state and local programs that support children, the elderly, individuals with disabilities and victims of domestic violence.***

**CONTACTS:**

Child Welfare League of America, John Sciamanna, [jsciamanna@cwla.org](mailto:jsciamanna@cwla.org)

Generations United, Jaia Peterson Lent, [JLent@gu.org](mailto:JLent@gu.org)

National Association of County Human Services Administrators, Tom Joseph, [tj@wafed.com](mailto:tj@wafed.com)

# *The Social Services Block Grant*

March 12, 2015

Dear Member of Congress:

Representing a diverse coalition of groups serving vulnerable populations, the undersigned organizations support continued funding of the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG). We have strongly opposed previous attempts to cut SSBG and will oppose any efforts to do so in 2015.

SSBG is a major funder for state and local child abuse prevention services, child protective services (CPS) and it supplements services for adoptions and for services to infants, children and youth in foster care. In some states, it is a significant source of local funding for adult protective services.

Congress cut SSBG funding when TANF was enacted into law and when funding was needed for a 1998 transportation bill, with the assumption that at some point it would return to its former level of \$2.8 billion. *SSBG was never restored.* We are concerned that some members may again propose to use SSBG for deficit reduction or to fund specific human services programs. SSBG funding has already been used to cut the deficit and rather than using the funds for specific needs identified at the federal level, the strength of the current program lies in its flexibility to allow state and local governments to determine how best to use the funds to meet local needs.

The champions of SSBG have included the leadership from both parties. In past congresses SSBG has had bipartisan support on both the House Ways and Means committee and the Senate Finance Committee. We hope this will be true again.

SSBG is a vital and flexible funding source helping children, older adults and people with disabilities in a range of ways. The outcome results for SSBG are clear, in 34 states more caseworkers are available to investigate reports of child abuse and because of SSBG 36 states can provide services for victims of domestic violence and victims of elder abuse. It supports services for those adults in jeopardy of entering a nursing home or institution and helps to fill the numerous state and local budget gaps in areas as diverse as senior services, mental health services, and services to people with disabilities. SSBG supports children in need of child care, children and youth who have been abused and neglected, foster youth in need of transitional services, and a range of low income individuals and families. Cutting or further targeting SSBG will inevitably harm vulnerable populations.

The undersigned organizations urge you to protect SSBG.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Strong Families and Communities  
Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association on Health and Disability  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees  
American Indian Mothers Inc.  
American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children  
American Psychological Association  
Americans for Democratic Action  
The Arc  
Association of Administrators of the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance  
Association of University Centers on Disability  
Center for Elder Care and Advanced Illness, Altarum Institute  
Center for the Study of Social Policy  
Children's Advocacy Institute  
Children's Defense Fund  
Children & Family Futures  
Children's Leadership Council  
Child Welfare League of America  
Coalition on Human Needs  
The Dalton Daley Group  
Donaldson Adoption Institute  
Easter Seals  
Elder Justice Coalition  
Every Child Matters  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
Foster Care to Success  
Foster Family-based Treatment Association  
Futures Without Violence  
Generations United  
Healthcare Alternative Systems, Inc.  
Healthy Teen Network  
Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
The Jewish Federations of North America  
John Burton Foundation  
Justice in Aging  
The Kempe Foundation  
Lakeshore Foundation  
LeadingAge  
Lutheran Services in America  
Meals on Wheels America  
National Adult Day Services Association  
National Adult Protective Services Association  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National African American Drug Policy Coalition, Inc.

National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth  
National Association of Area Agencies on Aging  
National Association of Counsel for Children  
National Association of County Human Services Administrators  
National Association of Counties  
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Center on Adoption and Permanency  
National Child Abuse Coalition  
National Council on Aging  
National Crittenton Foundation  
National Health Care for the Homeless Council  
National Respite Coalition  
National WIC Association  
New Ways To Work  
North American Council on Adoptable Children  
Prevent Child Abuse America  
Provincial Council of the Clerics of St. Viator  
Standing Up for Rural America  
Voice for Adoption  
Zero To Three  
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.