

Description of Services and Contributions

The PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) is the commonwealth agency that represents the required one-stop (PA CareerLink® partner) representing employment and training activities carried out under the Community Services Block Grant Act (42. U.S.C. 9901 et seq.) at the state level.

The mission of the Community Services Block grant (CSBG) is to provide a full range of services and activities having a measurable impact on the causes of poverty in a community or those areas of a community where poverty is a particularly acute problem. Only federally designated Community Action Agencies (CAA) receive funding, therefore in PA, there are 44 CAAs that cover all 67 PA counties.

Ameliorating the causes and conditions of poverty take on a variety of community engagement activities and collaborative activism to remove obstacles that block the achievement of self-sufficiency; i.e. employment and training resources; community stakeholder collaboration; literacy activities; obtaining adequate housing; grassroots activities that provide intervention to the causes of poverty; addressing the needs of youth through programming or coordination; and increased engagement in community planning and improvement activities.

CSBG has been in existence since 1965, always with the same mission: to improve the causes and conditions of poverty. Initiatives have included, but are not limited to: neighborhood linkages, leverage of community resources, conduction of Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites, building housing capacity, provision of family self-sufficiency and case management, facilitation of Results-Oriented Management and Accountability. For every \$1 of CSBG funds, the PA network leveraged \$16.82 from other federal, state, local and private sources, including the calculated value of volunteer hours.

DCED will participate in the local workforce service delivery system via the local CSBG agencies. CSBG agencies located in this local workforce development area may:

- Participate on local and regional planning groups;
- Engage in Business Service Teams activities;
- Have print materials available in the PA CareerLink® centers;
- Be linked to local workforce websites on computers;
- Potentially hold meetings at PA CareerLink® centers;
- Conduct joint employer outreach sessions as necessary; and
- Seek to leverage grant funding opportunities.

DCED will contribute financial assistance to be applied to the infrastructure and other operating costs of the PA CareerLink® sites annually and to the extent funding exists.

It is DCED's commitment that CSBG, as a required partner, will become part of the fabric of the public workforce system in a much more formalized way than in the previous years.