

Community Services Block Grant Modernization Act of 2022 (H.R. 5129)

Improving community-driven anti-poverty programs that serve millions of Americans across the country

Background

In 1964, Congress first established the Community Action Program (CAP), the predecessor of Community Action Agencies (CAAs), to support locally driven anti-poverty programs as part of President Lyndon B. Johnson's "War on Poverty."

Today, CAAs—whose work is supported by the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)—form a network of more than 1,000 organizations that meet the unique needs of communities and help low-income individuals and families find their way out of poverty. CSBG is currently the only federal program with the overarching goal of reducing poverty, regardless of cause or condition. In 2019, alone, CAAs helped more than [nine million individuals](#)—including nearly five million families—achieve economic stability, secure meaningful employment and education, gain and improve job-related skills, obtain housing, and participate in their communities.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, CAAs have played a key role in providing crucial services for struggling Americans. For example, in response to stay-at-home orders, CAAs mobilized immediately to help communities access personal protective equipment, vaccines and other health services, and school supplies for remote learning.

Unfortunately, CSBG has not been reauthorized since 1998. We are long past due for Congress to pass a comprehensive reauthorization of this vital law.

About the Bill

The bipartisan *Community Services Block Grant Modernization Act of 2022*, introduced by Representatives Bonamici (D-OR), Thompson (R-PA), McCollum (D-MN), Stefanik (R-NY), DeSaulnier (D-CA), and Comer (R-KY), reauthorizes CSBG for 10 years—the longest period in its history—and makes several key improvements, such as:

- Making robust investments in the program by increasing the annual authorization of appropriations,
- Requiring all states to expand income eligibility for CSBG services,
- Increasing accountability and performance requirements for CSBG grantees, and
- Supporting new and innovative approaches to reducing poverty through a new Community Action Innovations Program.