History and Purpose

- During President Lyndon B. Johnson’s War on Poverty, the Economic Opportunity Act established community action in the United States. Community Action Agencies (CAAs) were created to assist those with immediate, critical needs and help them move along the path to self-sufficiency.

- In 1981 several federal funds consolidated into the Community Services Block Grant, which is granted to states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, territories, and recognized tribes to provide core funding for local CAAs.

- The most recent federal reauthorization of CSBG was in 1998.
History and Purpose

- CSBG has three pillars:
  - 1. Reduce Poverty
  - 2. Revitalize communities
  - 3. Assist low-income families and individuals to become self-sufficient
CSBG in Missouri
# CSBG Funding

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Core Funds</th>
<th>Discretionary Funds</th>
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<td>• 90% of CSBG funds go directly to the CAAs</td>
<td>• 10% of CSBG funds are used for administrative fees, training and technical assistance, systems, and innovative programs that alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty</td>
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| • “Base Plus” Formula  
  • Every agency receives a minimum of $200,000 per year and then additional funds depending on the poverty percentages in their catchment area | • Awarded on a case-by-case basis                                                                         |
Process

- Community Needs Assessment- Performed every three years to assess the needs, resources, and gaps in services in each community.

- Strategic Plan- Created every three years to identify the top priority problems and the strategies that will be used to alleviate them.

- Work Plan- Created yearly to identify the individual programs used in every strategy.
Process

- Programs are implemented and, utilizing the Missouri Information System, the services (SRVs) and Family National Performance Indicators (FNPIs) are closely tracked to monitor the success and effectiveness of each program.

- Achievement is monitored across the following domains:
  - Employment, education, income, housing, health, civic engagement, and even multiple domains at once.
Data is collected from each domain and compiled in an “Annual Report” that is turned into the Office of Community Services (OCS) under the Department of Health and Human Services.
Eligibility and Programs

- Individuals at or below 125% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) are eligible for CSBG services.

- CSBG funds are designed to fill the gaps in existing services and are highly flexible
  - Firm rules against purchasing property, permanent construction projects, paying tuition reimbursement, and political activity.

- Program Examples:
  - Emergency Services- Can address immediate, crisis needs of an individual or family that may not “fit the mold” of a specific program. Can be highly individualized.
  - Car repairs- For mild to moderate problems with vehicles, several agencies are able to make the repairs needed to help maintain reliable transportation.
  - Education and Employment Programs- Classes covering specific subjects, skills, and employment support
  - Programs geared towards a specific populations- youth, elderly, justice involved individuals, parents, etc.
  - Community Gardens- Build nutritional skills while simultaneously decreasing food insecurity
How to Apply and a Note on Scams

- Individuals in need may contact their local Community Action Agency to apply for services.
- Will need documentation to demonstrate household members’ information, income, etc.
- Scams:
  - About once every 3 months a CSBG scam seems to go around the state.
  - Scammers will find public Facebook profiles and duplicate them with the same name, pictures, etc. They reach out to identified family members with information about CSBG where the intended victim invests a sum of money for an astronomical return. Because it appears to come from a family member, people are falling victim to this tactic.
  - No participant will ever be charged for CSBG services.
  - Individuals are not eligible to receive CSBG funds directly.
  - Individuals should block the individual contacting them and report these fraud attempts to: CommunitySupportUnit@dss.mo.gov