

Social Services Block Grant

Title XX of the Social Security Act, the **Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)**, provides flexible funding to states to support services for children and families, older adults, people with disabilities, and at risk youth and young adults. SSBG was a signature domestic policy initiative of President Ronald Reagan, who said, “Many services can be better provided by State and local governments”... “we will convert a number of categorical grant programs into block grants to reduce wasteful administrative overhead and to give local governments and States more flexibility and control.”

Goals of SSBG funding include creating economic self-support; self-sufficiency; preventing and remedying neglect, abuse, or exploitation of children and vulnerable adults; preventing and reducing inappropriate institutional care; and securing referral, admission and services for individuals in institutions¹.

SSBG funds 29 categories of services. SSBG is the only designated federal funding source for programs such as Adult Protective Services and is a crucial supplemental funding for other services which help keep people out of facilities and safe at home in the community. Over half of states use SSBG funding for Adult Protective Services and in a recent NAPSA survey, over half indicated that SSBG funding was important or very important to their program.

During 2022, there were an estimated 20,007,586 people nationally who received services funded partially or wholly by SSBG². Of these participants, 46% were children and 54% were adults³.

Top Services Nationally Receiving SSBG Expenditures, FY2022³

- Child Foster Care Services
- Protective Services for Children
- Special Services for People with Disabilities
- Child Day Care Services
- Case Management Services
- Protective Services for Adults
- Prevention and Intervention
- Home-Based Services
- Other Services
- Residential Treatment

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¹ 42 U.S.C. §1397

² The number of recipients is not an unduplicated count as an individual may receive more than one service.

³ U.S. HHS: ACF. Social Services Block Grant Program Annual Report 2022.