

Tennessee Linkages: Making Interagency Connections in the Volunteer State



**Tennessee
Department of Human Services
Regina Surber, Director
Community Services**



Tennessee

Department of Human Services

Mission Statement

To improve the well-being of economically disadvantaged, disabled or vulnerable Tennesseans through a network of financial, employment, rehabilitative and protective services.



Tennessee DHS Community Services Office

- The Community Services Office at DHS administers a variety of services to low-income individuals and households through multiple federal and state funded programs.
 - Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)
 - Direct Appropriation
 - Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG)
 - Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
 - Operation Warm Homes Tennessee
 - Refugee Social Services (RSS)
 - Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)
 - Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)



Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

- Funded through U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
- Administered through a statewide network of 20 non-profit and local government agencies
- Allowable services range from "safety net" emergency services through emergency services, job development, adult education, and self-sufficiency programs.



Direct Appropriations

- **State Direct Appropriations**

State funds, appropriated by the Legislature, to non-profit and local government agencies to provide needed services in their communities. Services are determined by each local agency based on their annual community needs assessment.



Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG)

- Funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- Administered through local governments and private, nonprofit agencies to assist homeless persons in Tennessee.
- Eligible activities include: renovation and repair of eligible homeless shelters, operational expenses, support services to clients, and homeless prevention activities such as payment of rent and utilities.



Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

- Funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Administered through a network of 19 established non-profit and local government agencies
- Assistance is in the form of a payment to the utility company or home energy provider



Operation Warm Homes Tennessee Initiative

- Operation Warm Homes Tennessee

Joint endeavor of state and private funds to provide assistance to low-income households with their heating costs during the winter months.



Refugee Services Program

- Funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Resettlement services to help the newly arriving refugees become self-sufficient as quickly as possible after arriving in the state.
- Services may include language classes, job training, medical services, basic assistance such as rent, food, and utilities, and referrals to other mainstream assistance programs.



Social Services Block Grant Program

- Funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Provides a variety of services to low-income individuals and families to improve their level of self-sufficiency
- Services may include emergency services for food, rent, and utilities, in-home services for elderly persons, child care services and referrals to the LIHEAP and WAP programs



Weatherization Assistance Program

- Funded through the U.S. Department of Energy
- Provides weatherization measures to homes of low-income households to help lower energy costs.
- Target populations are households with elderly and disabled persons or children under the age of six years.



Contact Information

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