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Department of Children and Family Services Division of Programs

Social Services Block Grant Intended Use Report

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) announces opportunities for public review of the state's pre-expenditure report on intended uses of social services block grant (SSBG) funds for the state fiscal year (SFY) beginning July 1, 2016, and ending June 30, 2017. The proposed SFY 2016-2017 SSBG intended use report has been developed in compliance with the requirements of section 2004 of the Social Security Act (SSA), as amended and includes information on the types of activities to be supported and the categories or characteristics of individuals to be served through use of the state's allocation of SSBG funds. Section 2004 of the SSA further requires that the SSBG pre-expenditure report shall be "made public within the state in such manner as to facilitate comment by any person." The DCFS, as the designated state department, will continue to administer programs funded under the SSBG in accordance with applicable statutory requirements and federal regulations. The DCFS, Child Welfare Section (CWS) will be responsible for provision of social services, by direct delivery and vendor purchase, through use of SFY 2016-2017 SSBG expenditures for adoption, child protection, family services, and foster care/residential care services.

Louisiana, through DCFS/CWS, will utilize its allotted funds to provide comprehensive social services on behalf of children and families in fulfillment of legislative mandates for child protection and child welfare programs. These mandated services, and certain other essential social services, are provided without regard to income (WRI) to individuals in need. Individuals to be served also include low-income persons as defined in the intended use report who meet eligibility criteria for services provided through SSBG funding.

Services designated for provision through SSBG funding for SFY 2016-2017 are:

- A. adoption (pre-placement to termination of parental rights);
- B. child protective services including assessment, evaluation, social work intervention, shelter care, counseling and referrals for child abuse/neglect reports;
- C. family services (social work intervention subsequent to validation of a report of child abuse/neglect, counseling to high risk groups);
- D. foster care/residential care services (foster, residential care, and treatment on a 24-hour basis).

Definitions for the proposed services are set forth in the intended use report.

Persons eligible for SSBG funded services include:

- A. persons WRI, who are in need of adoption services, child protection, family services, and foster care/residential services;
- B. individuals WRI who are recipients of Title IV-E adoption assistance;
- C. recipients of supplemental security income (SSI) and recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and those persons whose needs were taken into account in determining the needs of TANF recipients;
- D. low-income persons (income eligible) whose gross monthly income is not more than 125 percent of the poverty level. A family of four with gross monthly income of not more than \$2025 would qualify as income eligible for services;
- E. persons receiving title XIX (Medicaid) benefits and certain Medicaid applicants identified in the proposed plan as eligible groups.

Post expenditure reports for the SSBG program for SFY 2014-2015 are included in the SSBG intended use report for SFY 2016-2017. Free copies are available by telephone request to (225) 342-341-7319 or by writing to the Administrator, Child Welfare Section, P.O. Box 3318, Baton Rouge, LA 70821.

The report is available for public review online at: <http://www.dss.state.la.us/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=131>, then select the 2014-2015 SSBG link. Inquiries and comments on the plan may be submitted in writing to the DCFS, Attention Administrator, P.O. Box 3318, Baton Rouge, LA 70821. The deadline for receipt of written comments is May 4, 2016 at 4 p.m.

All interested persons will have the opportunity to provide comments and/or recommendations on the plan, orally or in writing, at a public hearing scheduled for May 4, 2016 at 10 a.m. in Room 1-129 of the Iberville Building located at 627 North Fourth Street, Baton Rouge. Individuals with disabilities who require special services should contact the Bureau of Appeals at least seven working days in advance of the hearing. For assistance, call (225) 342-4120 (voice and TDD).

Marketa Garner Walters
Secretary

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