

**SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT
ALLOCATION PLAN**

**FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2026
OCTOBER 1, 2025 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2026**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**NED LAMONT
GOVERNOR**

**Submitted by:
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Department of Social Services**

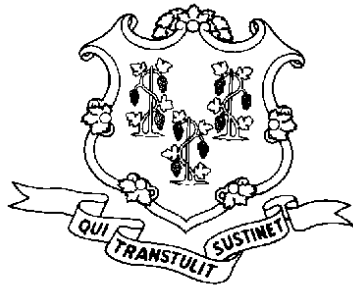


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THE SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT ALLOCATION PLAN FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2026

I. Narrative Overview of the Social Services Block Grant: Summary of Block Grant (Purpose, Provisions and Proposed Changes)

A. Purpose

The Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) was established by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981. It is an amendment to Title XX of the Social Security Act for the purpose of funding a variety of social service programs and related training activities to address the goals outlined below.

SSBG is administered by the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through its administrative agency, the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Community Services. The Department of Social Services (DSS) is designated as the principal state agency for the allocation and administration of the block grant within the State of Connecticut.

B. Major Use of Funds and Target Population

Allowable Use of Funds

Federal block grant legislation gives the state significant discretion in providing a wide range of services aimed at achieving the following goals:

- Achieving or maintaining economic self-support to prevent, reduce, or eliminate dependency or institutionalization.
- Achieving or maintaining self-sufficiency, including reduction or prevention of dependency.
- Preventing or remedying neglect, abuse, or exploitation of children and adults unable to protect their own interests, or preserving, rehabilitating, or reuniting families.
- Preventing or reducing inappropriate institutional care by providing for community-based care, home care, or other forms of less intensive care.
- Securing referral or admission to institutional care when other forms of care are not appropriate or providing services to individuals not in institutions.

The Family Support Act of 1988 and regulations subsequently published in November 1993 by HHS established and defined 29 SSBG service categories. Part II, Table C, Summary of Service Objectives and Activities delineates the categories of services supported by SSBG funds in Connecticut.

The state may transfer up to 10% of its allotment for use in that fiscal year under the provisions of federal block grants for the support of preventive health and human services, alcohol and drug abuse services, mental health services, maternal and child health services, and low-income home energy assistance.

The state may use a portion of the funds for the purpose of purchasing technical assistance from public or private entities if the state determines that such assistance is required.

The state may **not** use funds for the following:

- The purchase or improvement of land, or the purchase, construction, or permanent improvement (other than minor remodeling) of any building or other facility.
- The provision of cash payments for costs of subsistence or for the provision of room and board (other than costs of subsistence during rehabilitation, room and board provided for a short term as an integral but subordinate part of a social service, or temporary emergency shelter provided as a protective service).
- Payment of wages to any individual as a social service (other than payment of wages to welfare recipients employed in the provision of child day care services).
- The provision of medical care (other than family planning services, rehabilitation services, or initial detoxification of an alcoholic or drug dependent individual) unless it is an integral but subordinate part of a social service for which grants may be used.
- Social services (except services to an alcoholic or drug dependent individual or rehabilitation services) provided in and by employees of any hospital, skilled nursing facility, intermediate care facility, or prison, to any individual living in such institution.
- The provision of any educational service which the state makes generally available to its residents without cost and without regard to their income.
- Any child day care services unless such services meet applicable standards of state and local law.
- The provision of cash payments as a service (except as otherwise provided under federal law).
- Payment for any item or service (other than an emergency item or service) furnished:
 - By an individual or entity during the period when such individual or entity is excluded under federal law, or
 - At the medical direction or on the prescription of a physician during the period when the physician is excluded under federal law and when the person furnishing such item or service knew or had reason to know of the exclusion (after a reasonable time period after reasonable notice has been furnished to the person).
- Support services provided directly by correctional facility staff for criminal offenders or ex-offenders.

The approved SSBG block grant plan for FFY 2025 allocated funding to 11 of the 29 eligible SSBG service categories. In addition to supporting programs administered through DSS, FFY 2025 SSBG funds were allocated and distributed by DSS to support programs administered through the Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS), the Department of Housing (DOH), and Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), and grants to 34 private non-profit service providers.

The Target Population

The Social Services Block Grant will be used to provide needed social services to vulnerable persons or families with special emphasis on those groups which are less able than others to care for themselves (e.g., people with disabilities, youth, and older adults).

Vulnerable persons or families are those who exhibit one or more of the following conditions (not presented in any ranked order):

- Economically disadvantaged (unemployed, under-employed, or low income)
- Physically, mentally, neurologically, or developmentally disabled
- Abused/neglected (e.g., sexual assault victims, abused and/or exploited children and older adults)
- In need of language and cultural awareness assistance and/or technical immigration assistance
- In need of drug or alcohol services
- In need of family planning services
- In need of mental health support services (e.g., distressed families or persons who may be at risk of institutionalization)
- In need of supportive services in order to remain in the community
- In need of shelter assistance.

Income Eligibility: With the exception of the Fatherhood Initiative under Employment Services and Home Delivered Meals, recipients of SSBG-funded services must have annual income no higher than 150% of federal poverty income guidelines (\$48,225 for a family of four).

Section 403 of Public Law 104-193, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996, bars most qualified aliens who entered the United States after August 22, 1996, from eligibility for any "Federal means-tested public benefit." HHS, however, has determined that SSBG services are not "Federal means-tested public benefits." Therefore, qualified aliens, regardless of when they entered the United States remain eligible for SSBG services if they meet other program requirements.

C. Federal Allotment Process

Federal allotments to states for the SSBG program are based upon the national appropriation and Department of Commerce census data. Funds are allocated to each state in the same proportion as the state's population is to the population of all states.

D. Estimated Federal Funding

For FFY 2025, SSBG was funded at a national level of \$1.6 billion. Connecticut's FFY 2025 block grant allocation was \$17,225,500.

At the time of the development of this allocation plan, the funding level for FFY 2026 has not been released. For purposes of the development of this plan, the federal funding allocation for Connecticut for FFY 2026 is assumed to be \$17,225,500 which is the amount allocated to the state in FFY 2025. This represents an increase of \$8,314 from the amount assumed in the state's FFY 2025 block grant allocation plan.

E. Summary of Total Available and Estimated Expenditures

The total funding projected to be available in FFY 2026 is \$22,120,196. This figure reflects projected block grant funding of \$17,225,500 and carryforward funding of \$4,894,696. The available FFY 2025 carryforward funding will be spent in FFY 2026 before utilizing the anticipated FFY 2026 block grant funding. The FFY 2026 plan proposes to expend \$17,225,500 of the total available funding, as detailed in section F below and in Table A on page 9 of this plan.

F. Proposed Allocation – Changes from the FFY 2025 Plan

Similar to FFY 2025, the FFY 2026 plan proposes to allocate funding to 11 of the 29 SSBG service categories. The narrative below provides a detailed explanation of the changes in the plan:

Case Management: The FFY 2026 plan continues to fund the FY 2022, FY 2023, FY 2024 and FY 2025 COLAs under the allocation plan. Carryforward funds will be used to cover these costs. Also, this plan removes the temporary pandemic-related funding of \$200,000 to DOH.

Family Planning Services: The FFY 2026 plan retains for one additional year the temporary funding increase of \$500,000 that was added in FFY 2025 per the block grant amendment that was approved by the legislature in January 2025.

Home Delivered Meals: The FFY 2026 plan removes the one-time temporary stabilization funding of \$185,000 that was added to the FFY 2025 allocation plan to help ease the transition to the lower level of federal funding for the Nutrition Services Incentive Program under the Older Americans Act.

Independent & Transitional Living Services: The FFY 2026 plan continues the FY 2022, FY 2023, FY 2024 and FY 2025 COLAs under the allocation plan. Carryforward funds will be used to cover these costs.

Other Services: The FFY 2026 plan continues the FY 2022, FY 2023, FY 2024 and FY 2025 COLAs under the allocation plan. Carryforward funds will be used to cover these costs.

Note: DMHAS will be funding COLAs directly with the funds allocated to that department for the applicable service categories.

G. Contingency Plan

This allocation plan has been prepared based on an estimated FFY 2026 block grant award to Connecticut of \$17,225,500 (not including carryforward dollars), which is equal to the state's estimated FFY 2025 award. In the event the state allocation is more or less than projected, DSS will adjust proportionately. In the event that additional funds become available, they may be carried over into FFY 2027 in order to mitigate any future federal reductions to ensure ongoing programmatic coverage.

In accordance with section 4-28b of the Connecticut General Statutes, after recommended allocations have been approved or modified, any proposed transfer to or from any specific

allocation of a sum or sums of over fifty thousand dollars or ten percent of any such specific allocation, whichever is less, shall be submitted by the Governor to the speaker and the president pro tempore and approved, modified, or rejected by the committees. Notification of all transfers made shall be sent to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and to the committee or committees of cognizance, through the Office of Fiscal Analysis.

H. State Allocation Planning Process

SSBG funds were originally allocated based on a Negotiated Investment Strategy (NIS) allocation methodology. The Family Support Act of 1988 and regulations subsequently published in November 1993 by HHS established 29 SSBG service categories. For FFY 2026, DSS will allocate funds for 11 of the established service categories (see Table A). DSS may refine and make minor adjustments to the assignment of SSBG-funded programs to the federal service categories.

DSS also allocates SSBG funds to the Department of Aging and Disability Services, the Department of Housing and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. SSBG funds are used by other state agencies for various social services programs. Contracts for the provision of these services are subject to the competitive procurement provisions of Connecticut General Statutes sections 4-212 to 4-219, inclusive, and each individual state agency's procurement plan, submitted to and approved by the Office of Policy and Management. Each state agency establishes its own allocation process for support of SSBG services under their auspices.

In accordance with its Procurement Schedule, DSS intends to issue procurements for its Case Management, Family Planning, and Legal Services allocations with successful applicants announced no later than the 3rd quarter of FFY 2026. The last procurement associated with these service categories was in 2017 – 2018. To the extent this plan affects services provided under SSBG, the requirements of this plan will be implemented consistent with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes section 4-70b and/or any other pertinent act or policy as promulgated by the legislature or the Office of Policy and Management.

Note: The implementation of American Rescue Plan Act projects impacted the Department's ability to issue the procurement during FFY 2025 as had been originally planned.

I. Grant Provisions

Pursuant to 42 USC Section 1397a, each state is entitled to receive, for each fiscal year, an amount equal to its allotment for such fiscal year to be used by the state for services directed at the goals of the Social Services Block Grant.

Prior to expenditure of SSBG funds by a state, 42 USC Section 1397c requires that the state report on the intended use of the payments that the state is going to receive, including information on:

- the types of activities to be supported; and
- categories or characteristics of individuals to be served.

The plan must be submitted to the Secretary of HHS and be made public to facilitate comment by any person and is to be revised throughout the year as may be necessary to reflect substantial changes.

I. Tables of Recommended Allocations, Budgets, Expenditures, and Objectives and Activities

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TABLE A
SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT
EXPENDITURES AND RECOMMENDED ALLOCATIONS

	FFY 2024 Actual	FFY 2025 Estimated	FFY 2026 Proposed	% Change FFY 2025 to FFY 2026
Case Management Services ¹	\$2,628,896	\$2,840,494	\$2,640,494	-7.0%
Counseling Services	83,051	83,051	83,051	0.0%
Employment Services	144,453	308,433	308,433	0.0%
Family Planning Services ²	1,080,274	1,424,718	1,424,718	0.0%
Home-Based Services ³	1,090,000	1,509,800	1,679,800	11.3 %
Home Delivered Meals ⁴	1,001,124	1,017,601	832,601	-18.2%
Independent & Transitional Living Services	8,042,863	7,711,056	7,711,056	0.0%
Legal Services	620,490	710,990	710,990	0.0%
Protective Services for Adults ⁵	704,793	725,019	1,055,019	45.5%
Substance Abuse Services	1,332,365	1,332,365	1,332,365	0.0%
Other Services	1,466,697	1,445,011	1,445,011	0.0%
TOTAL	\$18,195,006	\$19,108,538	\$19,223,538	0.6%
Source of Funds				
Block Grant	\$17,217,186	17,225,500	\$17,225,500	0.0%
Carry Forward from Previous Year	7,755,554	6,777,734	4,894,696	-27.8%
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$24,972,740	\$24,003,234	\$22,120,196	-7.8%

Notes:

- ¹ **Case Management:** The FFY 2026 plan removes the temporary pandemic-related funding of \$200,000 to DOH.
- ² **Family Planning Services:** The FFY 2026 plan retains for one additional year the temporary funding increase of \$500,000 that was added in FFY 2025 per the block grant amendment that was approved by the legislature in January 2025.
- ³ **Home-Based Services:** The FFY 2026 plan returns this service category to the base funding level that was assumed in last year's allocation plan.
- ⁴ **Home Delivered Meals:** The FFY 2026 plan removes the one-time temporary stabilization funding of \$185,000 in FFY 2025 that was added to ease the transition to the lower level of federal funding for the Nutrition Services Incentive Program under the Older Americans Act.
- ⁵ **Protective Services for Adults:** The FFY 2026 plan returns this service category to the base funding level that was assumed in last year's allocation plan.

TABLE B
SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT
PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

PROGRAM CATEGORY	FFY 2024 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES	FFY 2025 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES	FFY 2026 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES	Percentage Change from FFY 2025 to FFY 2026
Number of Positions (FTE)	1	2	2	0.0%
Personal Services Expenses				
DSS	64,031	118,834	118,834	0.0%
Fringe Benefits				
DSS	53,800	103,934	103,934	0.0%
Other Expenses				
Indirect Cost	21,436	52,000	52,000	0.0%
Contracts				
Grants to:				
Local Government				
Other Agencies	10,990,000	10,691,499	10,306,499	-3.6%
Private Agencies	7,065,739	8,142,271	8,642,271	6.1%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$18,195,006	\$19,108,538	\$19,223,538	0.6%
SOURCE OF FUNDS				
Block Grant	\$17,217,186	\$17,225,500	\$17,225,500	0.0%
Carry Forward From Previous Year	7,755,554	6,777,734	4,894,696	-27.8%
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$24,972,740	\$ 24,003,234	\$22,120,196	-7.8%

TABLE C
SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT
SUMMARY OF SERVICE OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Service Category	Objective	Grantor/Agency Activity	Number Served FFY 2024*	Performance Measures
Case Management	Case Management services are arranged, coordinated, and monitored to develop and implement an individual service plan, to provide counseling, and to evaluate client progress.	<u>DSS</u> Provides grants to community action agencies, municipalities, and other private non-profit agencies.	6,150 adults and 798 children	Clients have basic needs satisfied to sustain adequate life functions.
		<u>DMHAS</u> Provides, as part of the supportive housing program, case management and support services for individuals with mental health conditions to live in the community and to work toward self-sufficiency and employment.	168 adults	Clients have obtained employment facilitating economic self-sufficiency.
		<u>DOH</u> Provides housing stabilization case management services related to the pandemic.	152 adults	Clients have improved housing-related skills as documented in the housing stabilization plan.
Counseling Services	Counseling Services, which are therapeutic processes, are applied to personal, family, situational or occupational problems to achieve a positive resolution of the problem or improve individual and/or family functioning.	<u>DMHAS</u> Provides grants to four non-profit agencies for counseling services.	201 adults	Clients' behavioral health has improved.
Employment Services	Employment services are those services or activities provided to assist individuals in securing employment or acquiring or learning skills that promote opportunities for employment.	<u>DSS</u> Provides grant to Fatherhood Initiative contractors to provide employment services to non-custodial parents.	272 adults	Clients acquired employment.

Social Services Block Grant Program

Service Category	Objective	Grantor/Agency Activity	Number Served FFY 2024*	Performance Measures
Family Planning Services	Family Planning Services are those educational, comprehensive, medical, social services or activities which enable individuals, including minors, to determine freely the number and spacing of their children and to select the means by which this may be achieved.	<u>DSS</u> Provides a grant to Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, Inc. for the provision of statewide family planning services.	7,972 adults and 307 children	<p>Patients have access to and receive clinical services.</p> <p>Patients receive a comprehensive reproductive health exam.</p>
Home-Based Services	Home-Based Services are those in-home services or activities provided to individuals or families to assist with household or personal care activities that improve or maintain adequate family well-being.	<u>DSS</u> Maintains adults with disabilities in independent living through the provision of services to increase the likelihood that the home environment for people with disabilities will be healthier due to the provision of homemaker and chore services; and to increase opportunities for persons with disabilities to achieve self-direction and choice by the provision of private providers.	705 adults	<p>Clients continue to reside in the community, preventing unnecessary institutionalization.</p> <p>Clients who are at risk of neglect or abuse have experienced improved independent living skills and self-sufficiency.</p>
Home Delivered Meals	Home-Delivered Meals are those services or activities designed to prepare and deliver one or more meals a day to an individual's residence in order to prevent institutionalization, malnutrition, and feelings of isolation. Component activities may include the cost of personnel, equipment, food, assessment of nutritional and dietary needs, nutrition education and counseling, socialization services, and information and referral.	<u>ADS</u> Supports provision of meals to eligible adults with the greatest economic and social need.	1,899 adults	Clients are able to maintain residence in the community with appropriate nutritional supports.

Service Category	Objective	Grantor/Agency Activity	Number Served FFY 2024*	Performance Measures
Independent and Transitional Living Services	Independent and Transitional Living Services are those services and activities designed to help older youth in foster care or homeless youth make the transition to independent living, or to help adults make the transition from an institution or from homelessness to independent living.	<u>DOH</u> Provides grants to one transitional living program and provides a portion of the funding to 26 homeless shelters.	5,208 adults and 864 children	Clients have successfully obtained housing.
		<u>DMHAS</u> Provides grants to support shelters which provide varying services, including case management, relapse prevention, follow-up aftercare, and referral to substance use treatment, referral for housing, employment opportunities, and job training.	197 adults	Clients move to permanent housing.
		<u>DSS</u> Provides grants to assist the Department's Social Work Unit with the provision of short-term emergency housing for at-risk TFA households with a minor child that present at DSS offices and their connection with the coordinated access network has been unsuccessful.	64 adults and 106 children	Clients are able to access short-term emergency housing to prevent homelessness.
Legal Services	Legal Services are those services or activities provided by a lawyer or a person under the supervision of a lawyer to assist individuals in seeking or obtaining legal help in civil matters.	<u>DSS</u> Provides a grant to Connecticut Legal Services, Inc. (CLS). CLS delegates a portion of the funding to New Haven Legal Assistance Association, Inc. and Greater Hartford Legal Aid, Inc.	265 adults and 149 children	Clients have accessed the legal system or obtained legal representation to preserve their legal right and interests.

Service Category	Objective	Grantor/Agency Activity	Number Served FFY 2024*	Performance Measures
Protective Services for Adults	Protective Services for Adults are those services or activities designed to prevent or remedy abuse, neglect or exploitation of adults who are unable to protect their own interests.	<u>ADS</u> Provides protective services for the deaf and hearing-impaired individuals of the state. <u>DSS</u> Provides protective support to mitigate abuse.	110 adults 7,867 adults	Clients are removed from the harm of others. Clients received appropriate social services support or obtained supplies to enhance personal property security that enables them to safely remain in their home. Clients continue to live in the community and permanent institutionalization is avoided.
Substance Abuse Services	Substance Abuse Services are those services or activities that are primarily designed to deter, reduce, or eliminate substance abuse or chemical dependence. Except for initial detoxification services, medical and residential services may be included but only as an integral but subordinate part of the service.	<u>DMHAS</u> Provides grants to support sixteen clinics which provide intensive and immediate residential treatment, intensive outpatient services, methadone maintenance and long-term care and treatment services.	3,025 adults	Clients demonstrate positive decision-making skills. Clients demonstrate increased awareness of the adverse effects of drug and alcohol abuse.
Other Services (Human Services Infrastructure)	Human Services Infrastructure is a way to improve service delivery and outcomes by coordinating the efforts of all the partners who offer help to Connecticut residents. The service delivery system is a client-focused approach that seeks better results for clients through a two-generation / multi-generational approach. Demonstrate individual and family outcomes; not just count of client services provided.	<u>DSS</u> Provides grants to support this service delivery model. Grantees measure success in services and outcomes through mutually agreed upon terms.	82,547 adults	Individuals and families with low incomes are stable and achieve economic security.

* SSBG funds supplement the provision of services across the state. The statistics reflected above may represent outcomes associated with other programs and funding sources of which SSBG is a contributor.

II. Allocations by Program Category

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT List of Block Grant Funded Programs

Program Category	FFY 2024 Actual Expenditures (including carry forward funds)	FFY 2025 Estimated Expenditures (including carry forward funds)	FFY 2026 PROPOSED Expenditures (including carry forward funds)
Case Management Services – Service Code 2			
Department of Social Services (DSS)	\$2,201,842	\$2,413,440	\$2,413,440
Dept. of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)	227,054	227,054	227,054
Department of Housing (DOH)	200,000	200,000	-
TOTAL	2,628,896	2,840,494	2,640,494
Counseling Services – Service Code 4			
Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS)	83,051	83,051	83,051
TOTAL	83,051	83,051	83,051
Employment Services – Service Code 8			
Department of Social Services (DSS)	144,453	308,433	308,433
TOTAL	144,453	308,433	308,433
Family Planning Services – Service Code 9			
Department of Social Services (DSS)	1,080,274	1,424,718	1,424,718
TOTAL	1,080,274	1,424,718	1,424,718
Home-Based Services – Service Code 13			
Department of Social Services (DSS)	1,090,000	1,509,800	1,679,800
TOTAL	1,090,000	1,509,800	1,679,800
Home Delivered Meals – Service Code 14			
Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS)	1,001,124	1,017,601	832,601
TOTAL	1,001,124	1,017,601	832,601

Social Services Block Grant Program

Program Category	FFY 2024 Actual Expenditures (including carry forward funds)	FFY 2025 Estimated Expenditures (including carry forward funds)	FFY 2026 PROPOSED Expenditures (including carry forward funds)
Independent & Transitional Living Services – Service Code 16			
Department of Social Services (DSS)	101,250	75,000	75,000
Department of Housing (DOH)	7,784,141	7,478,584	7,478,584
Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS)	157,472	157,472	157,472
TOTAL	8,042,863	7,711,056	7,711,056
Legal Services – Service Code 18			
Department of Social Services (DSS)	620,490	710,990	710,990
TOTAL	620,490	710,990	710,990
Protective Services for Adults – Service Code 21			
Department of Social Services (DSS)	500,000	529,647	859,647
Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS)	204,793	195,372	195,372
TOTAL	704,793	725,019	1,055,019
Substance Abuse Services – Service Code 27			
Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS)	1,332,365	1,332,365	1,332,365
TOTAL	1,332,365	1,332,365	1,332,365
Other Services – Service Code 29			
Department of Social Services (DSS)	1,327,430	1,170,243	1,170,243
Department of Social Services (DSS) - Personal Services	139,267	274,768	274,768
TOTAL	1,466,697	1,445,011	1,445,011
GRAND TOTAL	\$18,195,006	\$19,108,538	\$19,223,538

III. Federal Poverty Level and Income Eligibility Tables

Federal Poverty Level Guidelines Annual Amounts		
Assistance Unit Size	2025	
	100%	150%
1	\$ 15,650	\$ 23,475
2	\$ 21,150	\$ 31,725
3	\$ 26,650	\$ 39,975
4	\$ 32,150	\$ 48,225
5	\$ 37,650	\$ 56,475
6	\$ 43,150	\$ 64,725
7	\$ 48,650	\$ 72,975
8	\$ 54,150	\$ 81,225

For households at or below 150% FPG with more than 8 persons,
add \$8,250 for each additional person.

*Source: Federal Register, Vol.90, No.11, January 17, 2025.