

May 9, 2025

The Honorable Jason Smith  
Chairman, Ways and Means  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Richard Neal  
Ranking Member, Way and Means  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Neal –

As the Ways and Means Committee marks up their budget reconciliation legislation this week, the **365** undersigned organizations urge you, and the members of the Committee, to protect and maintain full funding for the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) by supporting Amendment **[Insert #]** to strike the elimination of SSBG from the reconciliation bill.

Our coalition represents a diverse array of stakeholders, including associations of state and local governments and non-profit organizations representing the interests of children, older adults, people with disabilities, and vulnerable families - each organization believes that SSBG is vitally important to meeting the needs of children, families, and individuals in our communities.

SSBG was created in 1981 during the Reagan Administration, capping entitlement funding and turning it into a flexible block grant for states. Since 2003, SSBG has been funded at \$1.7 billion, and state and county governments use these funds to support 29 different types of human service programs. These services include protecting children, older adults and people with disabilities from abuse and neglect, adult day care and foster care, child care, in-home support, as well as both home-delivered and congregate meals. SSBG funding is also a source of assistance for many support services to youth and juveniles, including counseling and independent living services. SSBG and its flexibility helps state and local governments address gaps or shortfalls in many program areas and helps communities better serve their families.

SSBG funds serve millions of children, families and adults who are vulnerable, ranging from infants and toddlers to older adults. In 2022, the most recent federal SSBG data available, states reported just over 20 million recipients of SSBG services throughout FY 2022. Of the total, 9.2 million (46%) were children and 11 million (54%) were adults.

State and local governments have relied heavily on SSBG dollars to meet the unique needs of their communities; we have included a number of examples and anecdotes below. States and counties would be hard-pressed to replace lost SSBG funds if the grant were to be cut or eliminated, resulting in serious consequences for millions of children, older adults, and people with disabilities. Therefore, we strongly encourage you to protect funding to this critical source of support for children, individuals, and communities by supporting the amendment to strike mention of SSBG from the Ways and Means reconciliation bill.

With gratitude,

CC: Members of Congress

A Way Home America  
Adopt America Network  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)  
APWU Retirees Department  
Association of Children's Residential & Community Services (ACRC)  
Autistic People of Color Fund  
Boys Town  
Caring Across Generations  
Center for Law and Social Policy  
Child Welfare League of America  
Children's Advocacy Institute  
Children's Defense Fund  
Children's Trust Fund Alliance  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces  
Congressional Research Institute for Social Work Policy  
Corporation for Supportive Housing  
Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption  
Demcast  
Elder Justice Coalition  
Families Rising  
Family Centered Treatment Foundation  
Family Equality  
Family Focused Treatment Association  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
Foster Care to Success  
Foster Success  
FosterParentCollege.com  
Futures Without Violence  
Generations United Inc.  
Health Care for America Now (HCAN)  
Healthy Teen Network  
Hickey Consulting  
iFoster Inc.  
Inspire Positivity Inc  
Institute for Policy Studies' Poverty Project  
International Association for Indigenous Aging  
Juanita C. Grant Foundation Inc.  
Justice in Aging  
Lutheran Services in America  
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger  
Meals on Wheels America  
MomsRising

CC: Members of Congress

National Adult Day Services Association (NADSA)  
National Adult Protective Services Association  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Association of Counsel for Children  
National Association of Counties (NACo)  
National Association of County Human Services Administrators (NACHSA)  
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP)  
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)  
National Center on Adoption and Permanency  
National Coalition for the Homeless  
National Council on Aging  
National Diaper Bank Network  
National Federation of Families  
National Health Care for the Homeless Council  
National Indian Child Welfare Association  
National Network for Youth  
National Respite Coalition  
National Women's Law Center (NWLC)  
National Youth Advocate Program  
North American Family Institute  
Parents as Teachers National Center  
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)  
The Arc of the United States  
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice  
United Church of Christ  
USAging  
Village to Village Network  
Voice for Adoption  
YATOM: The Jewish Foster and Adoption Network  
Youth Law Center  
Youth Villages  
YWCA USA  
ZERO TO THREE

**Alabama**

Children's Aid Society of AL  
Justin James McCarrell Children's Legal Advocacy Center

**Alaska**

Alaska Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

**Arizona**

Arizona Association of Counties  
Arizona Association of County School Superintendents  
Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Pima County School Superintendent's Office

CC: Members of Congress

**Arkansas**

Arkansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

**California**

Adult Protective Services, Placer County  
Alameda County Children and Family Services  
American Academy of Pediatrics, California  
American Academy of Pediatrics, CA Chapter 3  
California Alliance of Child and Family Services  
Central California and Bay Area Adult Protective Services Training Academy  
Children Now  
Children's Law Center of California  
End Child Poverty California  
Fresno Adult Services Training Academy  
Greenwood Law Corp.  
John Burton Advocates For Youth  
Marin Link  
Mendocino County Social Services  
PEP Housing  
Sacramento County  
Safe & Sound  
SHIELDS for Families  
The California Family Resource Association  
The Child Abuse Prevention Center  
Wayfinder Family Services

**Colorado**

Alliance  
American Academy of Pediatrics Colorado Chapter  
Arapahoe County  
City and County of Denver  
Colorado Association of Family & Children's Agencies (CAFCA)  
Colorado Office of the Child's Representative  
Cornerstone Programs  
Gateway Residential Services  
Laradon  
Pikes Peak Elder Justice Center  
Raise the Future  
Special Kids, Special Families  
Teller County, DHS/APS  
Tennyson Center for Children  
Third Way Center  
WhimSpire

**Connecticut**

AgingCT

Western CT Area Agency on Aging, Inc.

**Delaware**

Delaware Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Pressley Ridge - Delaware

**District of Columbia**

Children's Law Center (DC)

Paths for Families

**Florida**

Florida Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics, Inc.

Florida Foster & Adoptive Parent Association

St. Augustine Youth Services

**Georgia**

Advocates for Children

Christian City, Inc.

Georgia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Hillside, Inc.

Innovative Solutions for Disadvantage and Disability

MAAC

Murphy-Harpst Children's Centers

Together Georgia

**Hawaii**

Hawaii Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

**Idaho**

Idaho Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

**Illinois**

Bes & Bastet-Leland Jackson Foundation Inc.

Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Illinois Collaboration on Youth

**Indiana**

AID of Indiana

Indiana Association of Area Agencies on Aging

**Iowa**

American Home Finding Association

Coalition for Family & Children's Services in Iowa

Crittenton Center - Sioux City, Iowa

Elderbridge Agency on Aging

Ellipsis

Family Access Center  
Iowa Association of Area Agencies on Aging  
Iowa Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Woodward Academy  
Youth Shelter Care of NCI

**Kansas**

FosterAdopt Connect  
Saint Francis Ministries

**Kentucky**

Children's Alliance of Kentucky  
Gateway Children's Services  
Kentucky Chapter of the AAP  
Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky

**Louisiana**

Clover New Orleans Inc.  
Tulane University-School of Social Work

**Maine**

Adoptive & Foster Families of Maine Inc.  
Maine Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Maine Children's Alliance  
The Kinship Program

**Maryland**

Diakonos Counseling & Consultation Services LLC  
Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Maryland Nonprofits  
Montgomery County Commission on Aging  
National Association of Social Workers-Maryland Chapter  
Paths for Families  
Rhonda Lipkin LLC

**Massachusetts**

Children's League of Massachusetts  
Friends of Children, Inc.  
Providers' Council  
Roxbury Youthworks, Inc.  
Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services  
The Gariepy Russell Group  
The Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

**Michigan**

Detroit Disability Power  
Disability Rights Michigan

CC: Members of Congress

Ennis Center for Children, Inc.  
Ingrid Nelson-Stefl, M.S.W., L.M.S.W., P.L.L.C.  
MCHS Family of Services  
MDHHS  
Michigan Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Michigan Federation for Children and Families  
Region IV Area Agency on Aging  
Spaulding for Children  
The Arc Michigan  
The Arc of Allegan County

**Minnesota**

JLT Law & Mediation/Paramount Law  
Minnesota Elder Justice Center  
MN Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

**Mississippi**

Central MS Planning & Development District/ Area Agency on Aging  
East Central Planning and Development District  
Mississippi Alliance for Child and Community Advocacy  
Mississippi Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
North Central Planning and Development District  
Northeast Mississippi Planning and Development District

**Missouri**

Adult Protective Services Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services  
Division of Senior and Disability Services  
Department of Health and Senior Services  
Elder Justice Committee  
FosterAdopt Connect  
Lutheran Family and Children Services of MO  
Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging  
Northeast Missouri Area Agency on Aging

**Montana**

MALCOM & PIERS pllc  
Montana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

**Nebraska**

Nebraska Department of Health and Human services  
Nebraska Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
South Central Nebraska Area Agency on Aging

**Nevada**

Children's Advocacy Alliance  
Nevada Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Raise the Future  
St. Jude's Ranch for Children

**New Hampshire**

NHAAP  
Waypoint

**New Jersey**

Adult Protective Services, Mercer County  
Burlington County Board of Social Services  
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton  
Embrella  
Empower U/ Partner & Transitions of Wellness LLC  
Family Connections, Inc.  
Family Service League  
LivWell Healthcare  
Marianne Bradley-Arkush, LLC  
New Jersey Alliance for Children, Youth and Families  
New Jersey Association of Area Agencies on Aging (NJ4A)  
NJ Department of Children and Families  
Oaks Integrated Care  
Ocean Partnership for Children  
Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey  
serenity in the home  
The Institute of the Center for Great Expectations  
Toni Zachos Kaplan, Lcsw Inc.

**New Mexico**

New Mexico Pediatric Society

**New York**

Association on Aging in New York  
CCNY, Inc  
Children's Aid  
COFCCA  
Elder Justice Committee of Metro Justice  
Family Ties of Westchester, Inc.  
Forestdale, Inc.  
Hudson Valley LGBTQ Community Center  
Lifespan of Greater Rochester  
Neighborhood SHOPP  
New York State Coalition on Elder Abuse  
Northern Rivers Family of Services  
NYS AAP - Chapter 2  
NYS AAP - Chapter 3

CC: Members of Congress

**North Carolina**

Children's Home Society of North Carolina  
Cumberland County Department of Social Services  
Durham County Department of Social Services  
Masonic Home for Children at Oxford  
NC Pediatric Society  
North Carolina Association of County Directors of Social Services (NCACDSS)  
North Carolina Partnership to Address Adult Abuse  
Pitt County Department of Social Services  
Rapid Resource for Families

**North Dakota**

North Dakota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
North Dakota Human Service Zone Director Association

**Ohio**

Adams County Children Services  
Athens County Children Services  
Auglaize County Department of Job & Family Services  
Columbiana County Department of Job and Family Services  
Coshocton County DJFS  
Crime Victim Services  
Cuyahoga County Advisory Board on Senior and Adult Services  
Directions for Youth & Families  
Fulton County Job & Family Services  
Gallia County Department of Job and Family Services  
Greene County Dept. of Job & Family Services  
Guernsey County Children Services  
Hamilton County Job & Family Services  
Henry County Job & Family Services  
Jackson County Department of Job and Family Services  
Knox County Family Connections  
Lawrence County Department of Job and Family Services  
Logan County Children's Services  
Lucas County Children Services Board  
Madison County Dept of Job and Family Services  
Meigs County Department of Job and Family Services  
Miami County Job and Family Services  
Morgan County Job & Family Services  
Muskingum County Department of Job and Family Services  
Noble County Department of Job & Family Services  
Ohio Coalition of Adult Protective Service  
Ohio Federation for Health Equity and Social Justice  
Ohio Grandparent Kinship Coalition  
Ohio Job and Family Services Directors Association

Ottawa County Department of Job and Family Services  
Perry County Job & Family Services  
Pike County Department of Job and Family Services  
Public Children Services Association of Ohio  
Seneca County Department of Job and Family Services  
Shelby County Department of Job and Family Services  
Trumbull County Children Services  
Washington County Children Services  
Wood JFS  
Wyandot County Job and Family Services

**Oklahoma**

Oklahoma State Council on Aging

**Oregon**

Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities (O4AD)  
Oregon Department of Human Services - Child Welfare Division  
Prevent Child Abuse Oregon

**Pennsylvania**

Center for Advocacy for the Rights and Interests of Elders (CARIE)  
Center for Leadership Development and Advocacy, Inc.  
Congreso  
Family Care for Children and Youth, Inc  
Humane PA  
Jewish Family Service of Greater Harrisburg, Inc.  
Meals on Wheels of PA  
PA Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Pennsylvania Adult Day Services Association  
Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children  
Pennsylvania Association of Area Agencies on Aging (P4A)  
Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth & Family Services  
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children  
Pennsylvania Senior Center Association  
TRAC Services for Families  
Turning Points for Children  
University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work, Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center  
Voce

**Puerto Rico**

Proyecto Nacer

**Rhode Island**

Saint Elizabeth Haven for Elder Justice  
Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families

**South Carolina**

HALOS

Lowcountry Area Agency on Aging

South Carolina Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

South Carolina Department of Social Services, Adult Protective Services

**South Dakota**

South Dakota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

**Tennessee**

Memphis Child Advocacy Center

Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

**Texas**

Abrazo Adoption Associates

Saint Francis Ministries

Texas Alliance of Child & Family Services

Texas Alliance for Youth Success

Texas Pediatric Society

**Utah**

Raise the Future

Tooele County Aging Services

**Vermont**

Vermont Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Voices for Vermont's Children

**Virginia**

C2Adopt Supporting Your Lifetime Adoption Journey

Children's Home Society of Virginia

Friends Association for Children

Giles County Department of Social Services

Grayson County Department of Social Services

Loudoun County Board of Supervisors

Lynchburg Human Services

Paths for Families

People Places Inc

Virginia Coalition for the Prevention of Elder Abuse

**Washington**

Washington State Adult Protective Services

**West Virginia**

TEAM for West Virginia Children

WVSU Metro Area Agency on Aging

**Wisconsin**

Crawford County Health & Human Services Department  
Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources  
WI Association of Family & Children's Agencies  
Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (WIAAP)  
Wisconsin County Human Services Association

**Wyoming**

Wyoming Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

### **State & Local Examples:**

**Georgia:** SSBG funds are used to support critical Adult Protective Services (APS) functions including intake staff and travel reimbursement for home visits. Intake staff process calls from reporters, web reporting, and fax reporting as well as providing resources to the caller. These staff members are the first touch point many have with APS and losing staff would be a detriment to the program.

**Hawaii:** SSBG funds are critical for the State of Hawaii's Adult Protective and Community Services program. These funds are used to staff essential positions investigating abuse to vulnerable adults and as well as for important training for a highly skilled workforce.

**Indiana:** REAL Services, Inc. serves 30,000 older adults in Northern Indiana. They provide Home and Community Based Services to 49 clients through SSBG. Nearly half of these older adult clients are at a high nutritional risk, and 98% of all clients have at least one critical need that is being met by this program. Without SSBG funding, REAL Services would not be able to serve Home Delivered Meals to their homebound clients.

**Michigan:** Nearly a quarter of APS staff are funded by SSBG. The state budget would not be able to absorb the loss and vulnerable adults would be placed at higher risk. APS has only recently been elevated in importance in the state and loss of SSBG would cripple all gains.

**Minnesota:** Brown County uses SSBG funds to fund child welfare services, APS, services to individuals with disabilities and child care. According to the county, there is no other source of state or local funding that could cover the loss of SSBG dollars, and therefore, services would have to be reduced or eliminated. In Chippewa County, Minnesota, SSBG serves similar functions. If eliminated, the county would have to absorb the \$310,000 that this covers for helping provide services that keep its most vulnerable populations safe. This would cost the county another 2.5 percent increase on the county levy, representing a significant financial burden for the small rural county. Stearns County, Minnesota would also be forced to reduce services (including APS, child welfare, and services to individuals with disabilities) for nearly 6,000 county residents, with older adult residents in the county facing possible institutionalization due to the loss of in-home supports.

**Missouri:** One of the ways that Missouri uses SSBG is to fund adoption and foster care programs throughout the state, serving nearly 25,000 children each year through these programs. The MO Department of Social Services noted that loss of SSBG funds would be "catastrophic" for these foster care and adoption programs, as the state would not be able to make up the funding and would have to make significant cuts to programs.

**New Jersey:** In federal FY25, New Jersey received \$43.3 million in Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) to fund case management for children and families involved in the child protection system and in adoptions. It also funds staff salaries, building security and general maintenance. Without it, New Jersey could be working with fewer case managing staff, which could mean caseloads that exceed our state law, fewer home visits, less support for families' reunification, longer periods of foster care, less secure facilities for staff and higher staff turnover due to burn-out.

**Ohio:** United Senior Services (USS) provides over 30 services to 4,000 members and 3,000 clients across Clark County. SSBG funding makes it possible for USS to offer 909 congregate meals and nearly 2,000

Home Delivered Meals. A loss of SSBG funding would result in a one-month service interruption at three of their congregate meals sites and would cut 1,740 Home Delivered Meals.

**Ohio:** Wayne County uses SSBG funds to support Adult Protective Services (APS) and child welfare, as well as adult senior day care services, home-based services for seniors, support for a domestic violence shelter, case management for at-risk youth in schools, and transportation services for individuals to and from dialysis and chemotherapy. According to the county, SSBG is one of the few revenue streams that allows it to serve certain populations of vulnerable adults, and many senior services would be curtailed or terminated without this funding stream. Similarly, Miami County, Ohio relies on SSBG to support the provision of mental health services at a counseling center, legal services for women and children who are fleeing DV situations, and a Family Abuse Shelter, along with services to individuals with disabilities, APS and child welfare services. There is no other source of state or local funding to cover the elimination of those dollars.

**Pennsylvania:** Erie County, Pennsylvania uses SSBG funds for mental health administrative case management. Without these funds, the county would face a 25 percent reduction in its funding for these services, which coordinate supports for roughly 1350 individuals. Similarly, Crawford County, Pennsylvania uses its SSBG allocation to support in home community habilitation services for individuals with intellectual disabilities and to support mental health services at the county drop in center, which saw a caseload of 743 individuals in 2024.

**South Carolina:** SSBG has fully funded the APS program. Losing this funding would be devastating and the nearly 6,000 vulnerable adults served every year would be negatively affected. In one case, SC APS was involved in a case where a 71 year old veteran who was a double amputee faced severe caregiver neglect. APS was able to get a deep cleaning of the home and make needed structural repairs for accessibility. They were also able to connect her to Veterans Administration benefits and support her son as a caregiver. Not only did this allow the veteran to remain in her own home it brought significant savings through reduced EMS calls and prevention of the need for state assistance. Without SSBG, vulnerable South Carolinians would not have these same services.

**Texas:** Meals on Wheels Plus, Inc., which serves 1,738 clients in Abilene, TX and an additional 14 small rural communities across five counties in central Texas, depends on SSBG funds for nearly half of its total budget. This organization does not receive any other federal dollars and experienced a significant funding shortfall last year, with SSBG funds covering meals for only one thousand of their clients - leaving three hundred individuals on a waitlist to receive critical services. Elimination of SSBG funding would not only be catastrophic for Meals on Wheels Plus and the older adults they serve, but for impacted Meals on Wheels providers across the country.

**Wisconsin:** SSBG funds are included in Community Aids – flexible funding streams for county governments that can be used for child welfare, behavioral health, disability services and adult protective services. Statewide, SSBG funds serve 86,000 children and 37,000 adults. Eliminating SSBG would represent a significant cost shift to county governments in Wisconsin, leading to a reduction in services.