

**SUPPORTS AND RESOURCES FOR CLASS MEMBERS WITH NO INCOME
FY2026**

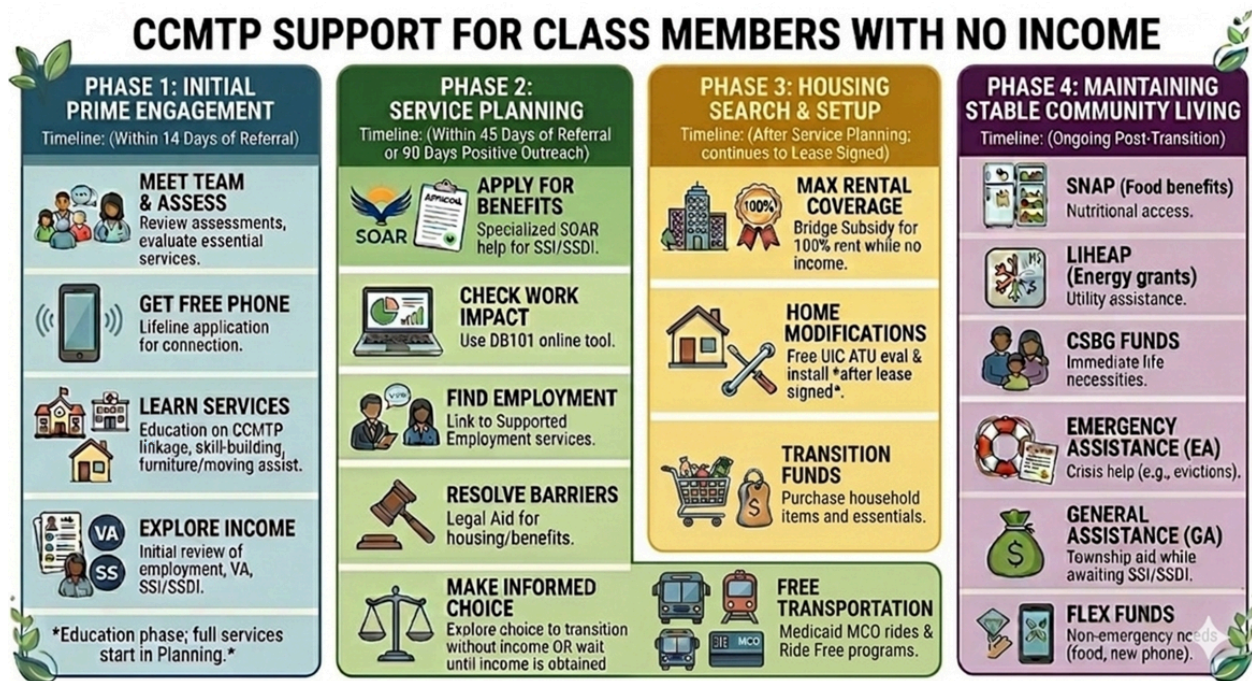
Introduction

This document provides an overview of the supports and resources available to Class Members transitioning into the community through the Comprehensive Class Member Transition Program (CCMTP) without income. It outlines the key supports that may be utilized throughout the transition process to help ensure Class Members are able to successfully move from institutional settings into community-based living.

Figure 1 presents a snapshot of the transition journey for a no income Class Member, highlighting resources available at various checkpoints throughout the transition process.

Additional detail is provided that aligns with each phase of the transition process, expanding on the specific actions and activities carried out by providers at each phase. The explanations are intended to further illustrate how providers support Class Members in accessing and applying for the available resources at key points in the transition process to support community transition and integration. Please note, not every Class Member will be eligible for every service/resource, or it may not be applicable or appropriate to pursue certain services.

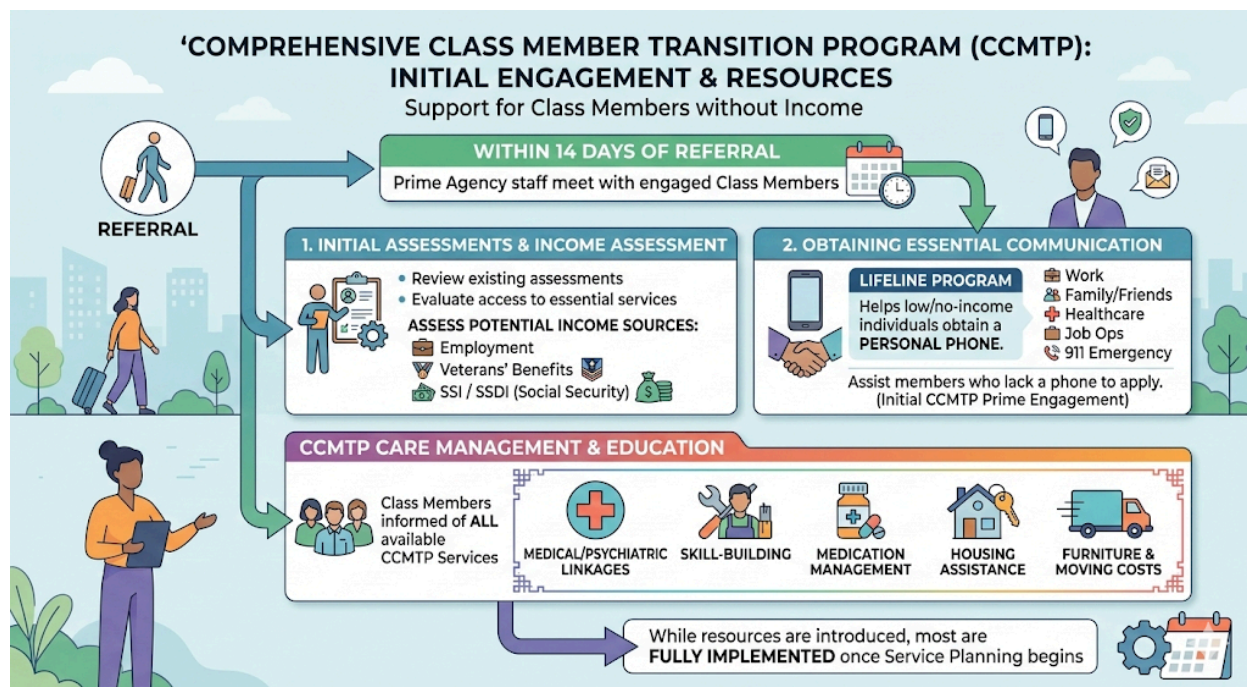
Figure 1: CCMTP Journey - No-Income Resources



Phase 1: Initial Prime Engagement

Within 14 days of referral, Prime Agency staff meet with engaged Class Members to review existing assessments and evaluate their current access to essential services. During this initial phase, staff assess potential income sources—including employment, Veterans’ benefits, and Social Security (SSI/SSDI)—and assist members who lack a personal phone in applying for one through the Lifeline program. Staff also provide comprehensive education on available CCMTTP services, such as medical and psychiatric linkages, skill-building, medication management, and housing assistance for furniture and moving costs. While these resources are introduced during the initial engagement, most services are fully implemented once the service planning process begins. *Figure 2* provides a visual roadmap of key activities that occur in Phase 1.

Figure 2: Support for No-Income Class Members at Initial Engagement



Timeframe: Must occur within 14 days of referral

- Introduce CCMTP Care Management Services: Class Members are informed of the services available through the CCMTP including linkage with medical and psychiatric providers, skill-building, and daily living supports. It also includes medication management, monthly wellness visits, housing location services, and

coverage for furniture and moving costs (including security deposits). Most of these services are initiated during or after service planning.

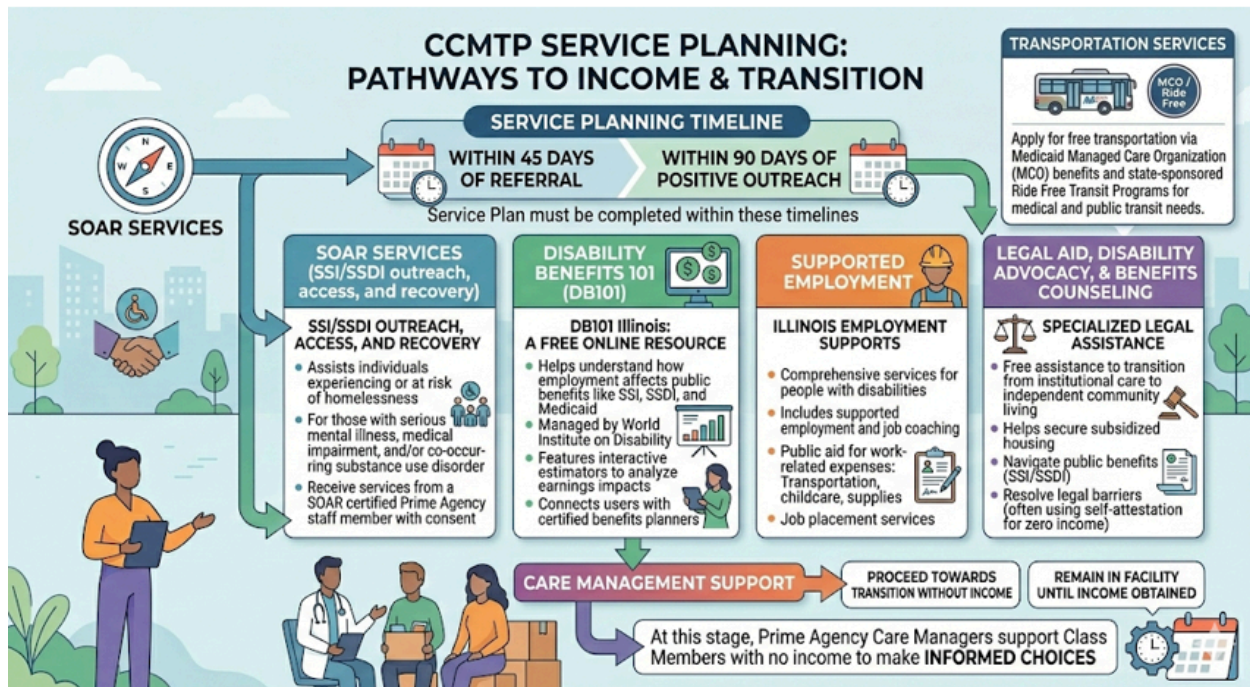
- **Assess Income Status:** Prime Agencies evaluate the Class Member's income status and explore potential sources such as employment, veterans' benefits, retirement pensions, and SSI/SSDI.
- **Ensure Phone Access:** Prime Agency staff may also begin the process of applying for a personal phone through the Lifeline program.

Phase 2: Service Planning

As Class Members move into service planning—which must be completed within 45 days of referral and within 90 days of positive outreach—the focus shifts towards obtainment of income through benefits and employment. Class Members are introduced to the SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) program. If they consent, Class Members receive SOAR services from a SOAR certified staff member that will assist them in accessing benefits. The Class Members may also choose to be linked with supported employment. The Disability Benefits 101 (DB101) online tool is utilized to help Class Members understand how work may affect benefits. Class Members may also be linked to legal aid for navigating housing and benefit barriers and free transportation services, via Medicaid MCOs and Ride Free programs. At this stage, Prime Agency Care Managers support Class Members with no income to make informed choices about proceeding towards transition without income or choosing to remain in the facility until a source of income can be obtained. *Figure 3* provides a visual roadmap of key activities that occur in Phase 2.

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Figure 3: Support for No-Income Class Members During Initial Service Planning



Timeframe: The Initial Service Plan must be completed within 45 days of referral and within 90 days of positive outreach

- Initiate SOAR Services (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery): An initiative to increase access to Social Security Disability Benefits for individuals with serious mental illness or medical impairments who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
- Introduce Disability Benefits 101 (DB101): A free online resource and interactive tool that helps individuals understand how employment impacts public benefits like SSI, SSDI, and Medicaid.
- Explore Supported Employment Services: Supported Employment includes job placement and aid for work-related expenses like transportation and childcare.
- Explore Legal Aid/Disability Advocacy/Benefits Counseling Services: These services provide specialized legal assistance to help secure subsidized housing and navigate public benefits, often using self-attestation for those with zero income.
- Explore Transportation Services: Class Members can apply for free transportation via Medicaid Managed Care Organization (MCO) benefits and

state-sponsored Ride Free Transit Programs for medical and public transit needs.

Phase 3: Housing Search & Set-Up

The next phases of a Class Member's transition journey, for those who choose to proceed, involves a housing search. During the search, Class Members without income may utilize the Bridge Subsidy to obtain maximum rental coverage, 100% coverage, until they obtain income. Once a housing agreement is reached, the University of Illinois Chicago Assistive Technology Unit (UIC ATU) may provide evaluations and installations of adaptive devices in the new home, where appropriate. Class Members also receive Transition Funds to assist with purchasing household items, groceries, and other essentials to get started in the community. *Figure 4* provides a visual roadmap of key activities that occur in Phase 3.

Figure 4: Support for No-Income Class Members during the Housing Search and Leasing Signing



Housing Search

Timeframe: Begins after service planning ends

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- Explore Housing Supports (Bridge Subsidy and Statewide Referral Network/Section 811): Class Members without income may utilize the Bridge Subsidy to obtain maximum rental coverage, this means a Class Members rent may be 100% covered by the Bridge Subsidy until they obtain income.

Housing Agreement/Lease Signed

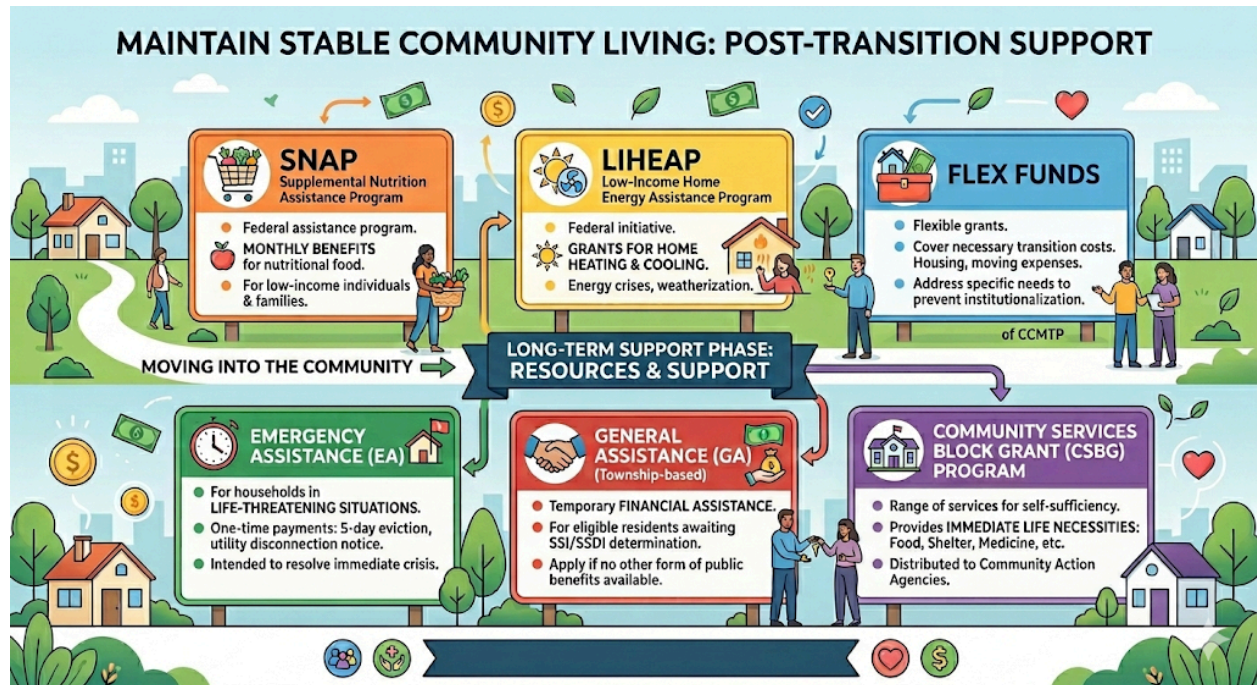
Timeframe: At the point of securing housing

- Initiate UIC ATU (University of Illinois Chicago Assistive Technology Unit) Referral: UIC ATU offers evaluations and provides assistive technology, adaptive devices, and installation in the Class Member's new home.
- Utilize Transition Funds: CCMTF Class Members utilize Transition Funds administered by Primes, to assist with purchasing household items, groceries and other essentials to get started in the community.

Phase 4: Maintaining Stable Community Living

Finally, after a Class Member moves into the community, resources, and support shift to maintaining stable community living post-transition. This 18-month support phase includes ensuring Class Members without income have access to SNAP for nutritional needs, LIHEAP for energy assistance, and potentially Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG) funds that provide low-income people immediate life necessities such as food, shelter, and medicine, where eligible and appropriate. For those facing immediate crises or awaiting benefit determinations, Emergency Assistance provides one-time payments for life-threatening situations like evictions, and township-based General Assistance offers financial assistance to bridge the gap until permanent benefits are secured. General Assistance utilization by townships for Class Members who have applied for SSI may be reimbursed by IDHS through IDHS' Interim Assistance Reimbursement Agreement with the Social Security Administration. Flex Funds are also available to Class Members to pay for non-emergency needs, for example food, a new phone, or landlord mitigation. *Figure 5* provides a visual roadmap of key activities that occur in Phase 4.

Figure 5: Support for No-Income Class Members after Transition



Timeframe: Ongoing support after moving into the community

- Apply for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program): Monthly federal benefits, administered by IDHS, to help low-income individuals purchase nutritious food.
- Explore Emergency Assistance (EA): Township-based assistance for life-threatening situations, such as eviction notices or utility disconnections, providing a one-time payment to resolve crises.
- Apply for LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program): Federal grants to assist with home heating and cooling costs, energy crises, and weatherization.
- Explore General Assistance (Township-based): Financial assistance for residents awaiting SSI/SSDI determinations who cannot access other public benefits. General Assistance utilization by townships for Class Members who have applied for SSI may be reimbursed by IDHS through IDHS' Interim Assistance Reimbursement Agreement with the Social Security Administration.

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- Explore Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG): Local agencies administer CSBG funds by providing a variety of supports, including help with rent/mortgages, food, water/sewer payments, and employment training.
- Utilize Flex Funds: Expenditure-based grants to support Class Members transitioning to or residing in community-based settings by paying for non-emergency needs, for example food, a new phone, or landlord mitigation.

Table 1: List of No-Income Resources by When They are Offered to Class Members

No-Income Resource	Timeframe for engagement with this resource	Description of resource
CCMTP Care Management	Initial CCMTP Prime Engagement (Must occur within 14 days of referral)	Class Members are informed of the services available through the CCMTP.
Lifeline	Initial CCMTP Prime Engagement (Must occur within 14 days of referral)	The Lifeline program helps low, or no-income individuals obtain a personal phone to ensure their ability to stay connected to work, family, friends, healthcare, job opportunities, and 911 emergency services.
SOAR Services	Service Planning (Initial Service Plan must be completed within 45 days of referral)	SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) is an initiative designed to increase access to Social Security Disability Benefits administered by the Social Security Administration for individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness who have a serious mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder.
DB101	Service Planning (Initial Service Plan must be completed within 45 days of referral)	Disability Benefits 101 (DB101) Illinois is a free online resource that helps individuals with disabilities understand how employment affects public benefits like SSI, SSDI, and Medicaid. Managed by the World Institute on Disability, the site features interactive estimators to


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		analyze earnings impacts and connects users with certified benefits planners to support career decisions.
Supported Employment	Service Planning (Initial Service Plan must be completed within 45 days of referral)	Illinois employment supports include comprehensive services for people with disabilities (supported employment, job coaching), public aid for work-related expenses (transportation, childcare, supplies), and job placement services.
Legal Aid/Disability Advocacy/Benefits Counseling	Service Planning (Initial Service Plan must be completed within 45 days of referral)	Legal aid resources Class Members without income provide free, specialized legal assistance to transition from institutional care to independent community living. They help secure subsidized housing, navigate public benefits (SSI/SSDI), and resolve legal barriers, often using self-attestation for zero income.
Transportation Services	Service Planning (Initial Service Plan must be completed within 45 days of referral)	CCMTP Class Members can access free transportation primarily through Medicaid Managed Care Organization (MCO) benefits (non-emergency medical transport) and state-sponsored Ride Free Transit Programs for public transit. These include fixed-route, paratransit, and medical-specific options
Housing Support (Bridge Subsidy)	Housing Search (begins after service planning ends)	The Bridge Subsidy is a rental support payment program that assists landlords with the costs of housing. Colbert/Williams Class Members without income can obtain maximum coverage, 100%, of their rent through Bridge Subsidies.
UIC ATU	Housing Agreement/Lease Signed	University of Illinois Chicago Assistive Technology Unity (UIC ATU) provides free evaluation of need and linkage to assistive technology and adaptive devices and installation of devices/tools in the person's home after moving.

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Transition Funds	Housing Agreement/Lease Signed	The Comprehensive Class Member Transition Program (CCMTP) in Illinois provides funding to help individuals in Cook County nursing facilities or statewide Specialized Mental Health Rehabilitation Facilities (SMHRFs) move into community settings.
SNAP	Community Living Post-Transition	The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a U.S. federal assistance program that provides monthly benefits to low-income individuals and families to purchase nutritious food.
Emergency Assistance	Community Living Post-Transition	Emergency Assistance (EA) helps households facing life threatening situations, such as a five-day eviction notice or a utility disconnection notice. Eligibility is based on township guidelines and availability, including financial and non-financial factors. EA provides a one-time payment intended to resolve the immediate crisis.
LIHEAP	Community Living Post-Transition	The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federal initiative that provides grants to help eligible low-income households pay for home heating and cooling, energy crises, and weatherization.

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<p>General Assistance¹ (Township based)</p>  <p><u>Referred to as:</u> Interim Assistance</p>	<p>Community Living Post-Transition</p>	<p>General Assistance (GA) in Illinois provides financial support for single adults who don't qualify for other state or federal programs.</p> <p>Eligible Class Members (township resident) receive support in the form of financial assistance for essential needs, often paid directly to vendors.</p> <p>There is no time limit.</p> <p>Class Members can apply for GA regardless of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSI application status • Unemployment claim status • Seeking employment <p>Class Members must meet monthly with a caseworker in most townships to receive GA.</p> <p>Class Members that access GA sign an agreement² acknowledging that if approved for SSI, excludes SSDI, the township will be reimbursed for the GA funds issued to the Class Member.</p> <p>This “repayment” is known as Interim Assistance Reimbursement³ (IAR).</p>
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¹ Eligibility requirements are guided by the Public Aid Code and include both financial and residency requirements. Local townships have varying payment levels, structures, and application requirements. Please call ahead.

² When accessing GA funds at the local level, the Class Member completes Interim Assistance form. The township submits to IDHS. IDHS submits to Social Security Administration. When the Class Member is approved for SSI, SSA notifies IDHS. IDHS provides repayment to Township, who is then reimbursed by SSA.

³ IDHS has an agreement with local townships for IAR, as well as with SSA in order to reimburse townships.

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Flex Funds	Community Living Post-Transition	Flex funds within CCMTP are flexible, expenditure-based grants to support Class Members transitioning to or residing in community-based settings. These funds help cover necessary transition costs, such as housing, moving expenses, or, in some cases, addressing specific needs to prevent institutionalization.
Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG)	Community Living Post-Transition	The CSBG program is designed to provide a range of services which assist low-income individuals to attain skills, knowledge and motivation necessary to achieve self-sufficiency. The program also may provide low-income people immediate life necessities such as food, shelter, medicine, etc. CSBG funds are distributed to Community Action Agencies (CAAs) across the state that service individuals with low-income.