



Supporting Hennepin County Residents with Lower Incomes through the Pandemic

CSBG CARES Act Supplemental Grant Impact



GRANT SUMMARY

The CSBG* Network received a billion-dollar supplemental appropriation in the CARES Act[^] to enhance poverty-fighting efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. States received the funding and allocated it to CSBG-eligible entities. The funding also expanded household income eligibility guidelines from 125% of federal poverty level (FPL) to 200% for CSBG-funded programs through the grant period.

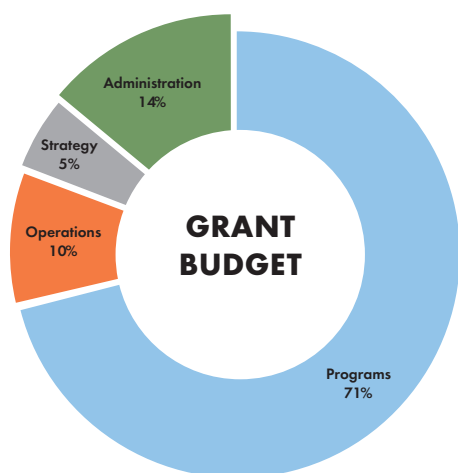
Awarded by: Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)*
Total CAP-HC grant award: \$2,254,017

Purpose of funding: To provide additional aid and economic security to households with lower incomes during the COVID-19 pandemic

Date funding began: July 1, 2020

Date funding expired: September 30, 2022

People who received direct assistance: 646



CAP-HC'S ALLOCATION

Of approximately \$12 million in supplemental funds allocated to Minnesota, CAP-HC received \$2,254,017. More than 70% of CAP-HC's allocation provided direct services for Hennepin County families and individuals with low incomes. The remaining funds were allocated to Administration (14%), Strategy (5%), and Operations (10%).

PROGRAMMING

While the new 200% FPL eligibility guideline set forth in the CARES Act expanded who could receive assistance, the supplemental funding also enabled CAP-HC to expand programming.



In CAP-HC's 2020 Community Needs Assessment (CNA), 52% of participants mentioned the cost of car ownership—insurance, maintenance, etc.—as a transportation barrier. And 56% of assessment participants stated that they drive their own vehicle for transportation. In response, CAP-HC increased the maximum grant for Vehicle Repair Assistance, added an Auto Insurance Assistance program, and added a Transportation Assistance Program, which provided gift cards for public transportation and gas cards.

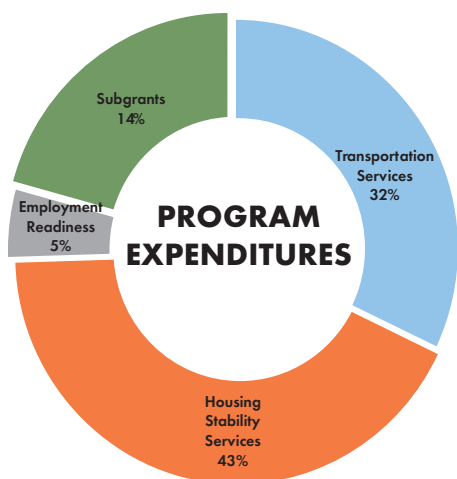


Supporting Hennepin County Residents with Lower Incomes through the Pandemic CSBG Supplemental Grant Impact



CNA participants also described increasing struggles to pay for their needs as the cost of living climbs while wages remain stagnant. Approximately 1 in 4 survey respondents reported that their jobs do not pay enough. Lack of skills or experience was also named as a significant barrier. In response, CAP-HC launched a new Employment Readiness Program in 2021. The program helps Hennepin County residents with lower incomes overcome employment barriers by providing résumé support, interview training, and finding job leads.

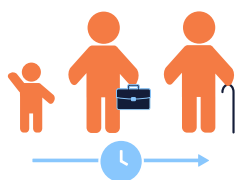
Additionally, during the grant period, CAP-HC was able to increase the maximum grant amount for Emergency Rental Assistance and Energy-Related Repair programs.



PARTNERSHIPS

In areas where CAP-HC did not have programs to support a particular community need, the organization turned to three partner organizations that were sub-granted portions of the supplemental funding—A Mother’s Love, New Salem Missionary Baptist Church, and Youthprise. Through these partnerships, hundreds of Hennepin County residents received COVID Safety Kits, mental health resources, food distribution, and more.

CAP-HC CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS



Under 18	38%
18-23	7%
24-44	32%
45-54	11%
55+	12%



American Indian/Alaska Native	1%
Asian	3%
Black/African American	65%
White	17%
Biracial/Multi-Racial	11%
Hispanic/Latino	8%



Female
57%



Male
43%

*The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) is a federally funded block grant that provides funds to support services that alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in under resourced communities. Tribes, territories, and over 1,000 local Community Action Agencies provide CSBG funded services.

^The Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law on March 27, 2020.