

Date of Notice to the Public: September 29, 2017

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
ADVANCED NOTICE OF DIRECT FINAL  
RULE-MAKING**

In accordance with the R.I. Gen. Laws, Chapter 42-35, as amended (specifically Chapter 42-35-2.11 of the amended Administrative Procedures Act), the Department of Human Services (DHS) hereby proposes to repeal the following as a direct final rule:

**Social Services Block Grant**

This rule is proposed to be repealed in its entirety. The rule is obsolete and was erroneously filed as a regulation. Refer to 218-RICR-20-00-7 for information regarding Social Services.

The Department of Human Services believes that this proposed action is noncontroversial and anticipates that no objections will be received to this proposed repeal.

In the development of these rules, consideration was given to the following: (1) alternative approaches; and (2) overlap or duplication with other statutory and regulatory provisions. No alternative approach or duplication or overlap was identified based upon available information.

This proposed rule is accessible on the R.I. Secretary of State website (<http://www.sec.state.ri.us/ProposedRules/>) or available in hard copy upon request (401-462-2018 or RI Relay, dial 711. If no formal objection is received on or before Sunday, October 29, 2017, the Department of Human Services will file the amendment without opportunity for public comment). All written objections should be sent to Maria Cimini, Office of Policy Development, Department of Human Services, Louis Pasteur Building, Bldg. 57, Howard Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920 or [maria.cimini@dhs.ri.gov](mailto:maria.cimini@dhs.ri.gov) and must be received not later than 11:59 PM on Sunday, October 29, 2017.

The Department of Human Services does not discriminate against individuals based on race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, religious belief, political belief or handicap in acceptance for or provision of services or employment in its programs or activities.

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
CONCISE SUMMARY OF PROPOSED NON-TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS**

In accordance with the R.I. Gen. Laws, Chapter 42-35, as amended (specifically Chapter 42-35-2.11 of the amended Administrative Procedures Act), the Department of Human Services provides the following concise summary of proposed non-technical amendments:

**Social Services Block Grant**

This rule is proposed to be repealed in its entirety. The rule is obsolete and was erroneously filed as a regulation. Refer to 218-RICR-20-00-7 for information regarding Social Services.

~~Rhode Island~~  
~~Department of Human Services~~



~~TITLE XX~~  
~~SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT~~  
~~PRE-EXPENDITURE REPORT~~

~~JULY 1, 2012 – JUNE 30, 2013~~

~~Sandra M. Powell, Director~~

## **INTRODUCTION**

~~Title XX of the Social Security Act provides states with federal funds for social services. In 1981, Congress amended Title XX, making it a Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), thereby giving states considerable flexibility in the use of the federal dollars.~~

~~The Pre-Expenditure Report fulfills the statutory requirements of Title XX of the Social Security Act and regulatory requirements at 45 CFR Section 96.10 (1981).~~

~~Under the Act, states are required to make an annual report to the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), on the intended use of Title XX funds. The Pre-Expenditure Report must satisfy the statutory requirements of the Act by relating:~~

- ~~1. The intended use of Title XX funds;~~
- ~~2. Information on the types of activities to be supported; and~~
- ~~3. Information on the categories or characteristics of persons to be served.~~

## **FEDERAL GOALS**

~~Services will be offered to help clients reach one or more of the five federal goals which have been identified by Congress for Title XX:~~

- ~~1. Achieving or maintaining economic self-support to prevent, reduce, or eliminate dependency.~~
- ~~2. Achieving or maintaining self-sufficiency, including reduction or prevention of dependency.~~
- ~~3. Preventing or remedying neglect, abuse or exploitation of children and adults unable to protect their own interests, or preserving, rehabilitating, or reuniting families.~~
- ~~4. Preventing or reducing inappropriate institutional care by providing for community-based care, home-based care, or other forms of less intensive care.~~
- ~~5. Securing referral or admission for institutional care when other forms of care are not appropriate or providing services to individuals in institutions.~~

## **I. — ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS**

The Rhode Island Department of Human Services (DHS) has been designated by the Governor as the agency responsible for the planning and administration of the Social Services Block Grant.

The Department of Human Services is a multi-service agency which administers a broad range of financial aid, medical assistance and social services programs under several funding sources. The Director is appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate (Title 40 of the General Laws of Rhode Island). The Director provides leadership in planning and directing all activities and functions of the Department; serves as liaison with all other state agencies and federal agencies; coordinates Department activities in respect to state and federal legislation; and responds to inquiries and requests regarding departmental activities from individuals and organizations outside of the Department. The Director is assisted by the Deputy Director in the discharge of her responsibility by Associate Directors and Administrators who head the divisions within the Department: (1) Division of Economic and Family Support, (2) Division of Management and Operations Services, (3) Division of Elderly Affairs, (4) Division of Veterans Affairs (5) Division of Child Support Services. They are responsible for establishing priorities, program standards and policies, insuring provision for training of staff within their programs and providing general assistance to staff in program areas under their supervision. Within the divisions, specific programs are headed by an Administrator (or equivalent title) that has day to day responsibility for program operation.

The Division of Economic and Family Support has overall responsibility for the operation of the Assistance Payment Programs (TANF and GPA), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Child Care and Social Service programs including Social Service Block Grant.

The Division of Elderly Affairs is responsible for the development of comprehensive and coordinated systems for the delivery of services to the elderly in Rhode Island.

The Division of Veterans Affairs has administrative responsibility for the Veterans Home, Veterans Cemetery and other Veterans affairs.

## **II. — STATE OFFICES/DEPARTMENTS**

### **A. — SSBG RESOURCES**

Funds to support the Block Grant (SSBG) are appropriated by the Rhode Island General Assembly to the Department of Human Services as a component of the total budget of the Department for the variety of services it provides. When expenditures are made for social service activities, federal and state resources are

~~distributed concurrently. Federal funds received by the state are deposited in the General Fund. The estimate of the amount of federal reimbursement is considered one of the revenue sources when the State Budget is developed and is considered by the Legislature when appropriations are made.~~

## ~~B. — SERVICES~~

### ~~DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES~~

~~Services provided directly by the Department of Human Services consist primarily of casework counseling and case management and include the cost of planning and administration of all SSBG activities and some staff training. They also include the referral to and authorization of contracted services.~~

~~Health services assist people to attain and maintain better physical and mental health by helping them to identify and understand their health needs and resources available to them including the Rhode Island Medical Assistance Program, EPSDT and Residential Services.~~

~~Housing services help people to obtain and retain adequate housing in the community, avert heating and utility shutoffs, mediate landlord/tenant problems, and address emergency shelter needs.~~

~~The Department's social workers play a key role in the area of Information and Referral Services linking people with appropriate community resources. Crisis intervention and follow up activities are included in this component.~~

~~Specialized services are provided to individuals with physical or mental disabilities including individuals who are blind or visually impaired.~~

~~Transportation services are provided to the population 60 years or older for doctors' appointments, therapy, medical tests, adult day care, and congregate meal sites for lunches.~~

### ~~DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY~~

~~The System of Care addresses the needs of children and families in Rhode Island who are involved, or at risk of being involved, with the child welfare, children's behavioral health and juvenile corrections system. Funding is used for community-based prevention, family support and crisis intervention services as well as a full array of foster care and residential services.~~

### ~~DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION~~

~~The Office of Housing and Community Development funding is provided to community agencies for the establishment and operation of shelters for the homeless.~~

~~DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND HOSPITALS~~

~~This program provides access to services and supports for Rhode Islanders with developmental disabilities, mental health and substance abuse issues, and chronic-long term medical and psychiatric conditions. Funding is used for residential services to individuals with mental health and/or substance abuse issues who cannot be cared for at home and could not otherwise afford to have access to treatment.~~

~~C. — PURCHASE OF SERVICE AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS~~

~~Purchase of service agreements and contracts are negotiated with a number of community agencies and organizations for the provision of specific services to include:~~

- ~~• Emergency shelter services providing housing when a resident's dwelling is made uninhabitable as the result of catastrophe such as fire or flood, or when severe domestic problems endanger the safety of family members.~~
- ~~• Information and referral services 24/7 by phone and via website covering local healthcare and social services.~~
- ~~• Residential maternity home placement facility providing counseling and related services to unmarried pregnant girls.~~
- ~~• Family planning services that enable individuals of childbearing age voluntarily to limit their family size by providing counseling, information, and medical services. (Medical Services are provided through title XIX for persons eligible for that program).~~
- ~~• Comprehensive prevention, education and services for victims of domestic violence.~~

**III. — FISCAL OPERATIONS**

~~CRITERIA FOR DISTRIBUTION~~

~~In allocating funds to various programs, DHS considers funds available through SSBG, TANF transfer and other state and federal sources. These funds are allocated within federal regulations to reflect the needs of Rhode Islanders and the geography of the state.~~

~~DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF FUNDS~~

~~Agencies which enter into a contract with the Department of Human Services (or have subcontracts under Title XX) may not charge a fee for Title XX services, except in connection with an approved co-payment system. An agency may, of course, charge for other services not funded by DHS.~~

~~All providers agree to meet the requirements of all applicable State and Federal law including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1965 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as well as the longstanding policies of nondiscrimination in all DHS programs and the Drug Free Workplace Regulations.~~

All providers agree to comply with the requirements of the Governor's Executive Order No. 05-01 and the Federal Anti Drug Abuse Act of 1988.

All providers agree to report to DHS and to submit economy, efficiency and program results, reviews, investigations and evaluations and audits which may be required on a quarterly fiscal basis with annual audits.

PROGRAM SERVICES RELATED TO FEDERAL GOALS

<b>TYPE</b>	<b>SSBG FEDERAL GOALS</b>				
Program Service	Achieve or maintain economic self-support to prevent, reduce or eliminate dependency	Achieve or maintain self-sufficiency including reduction or prevention of dependency	Preventing or remedying 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-based care or other forms of less intensive care	Securing referral or admission for institutional care when other forms of care are not appropriate or providing services to individuals in institutions.
Child Welfare		X	X	X	
Domestic Violence	X	X	X	X	X
Family Planning	X	X	X		
Homeless Assistance	X	X	X		
Subsidized Child Care	X	X	X		
Elderly Transportation	X	X		X	
Community Assistance — Information & Referral	X	X	X	X	X
Mental Health	X	X	X	X	X
Housing	X	X	X		



DESCRIPTION OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS SYSTEM

RI DHS uses the Direct Allocation method to assign contract and vendor costs. For salary and fringe benefits of program staff, RI DHS uses the time study methodology of cost allocation. The purpose of the time studies is to determine the amount of time that specific groups of employees spend in administering to the different benefit programs functioning within the Department of Human Services so that the costs may be properly allocated among the appropriate agencies.

**IV. — PROGRAM OPERATIONS**

Services are available in every community in the State of Rhode Island. All persons in the State may apply for social services. There is no requirement of citizenship nor are there requirements related to duration of residence.

Although an individual or family may be eligible for most Block Grant Social Services, this does not mean that entitlement for a specific service exists. Additional eligibility requirements may be prescribed by the governing contracts and/or DHS Policy Manual. For example, transportation is only provided for the elderly or individuals with disabilities, and documentation of the disability is required.

Provision of services depends not only upon the need of the individual or family, but also upon the availability of funding and the capacity of the provider agency. Waiting lists may be established when a provider is at the limit of its capacity to respond.

The State provides a system and procedure for fair hearings under which applicants or recipients may appeal denial, reduction or termination of services or failure to act upon a request for service within a reasonable time.

Medical care may be provided only as an integral but subordinate part of a social service.

Room and board will only be provided for a short term as an integral but subordinate part of a social service or when temporary emergency shelter is provided as a protective service.

Public participation and comment are encouraged in all DHS programs and facilitated through wide dissemination of this report, by the legislative hearings open to the public, through the accessibility of all levels of department staff from field worker to the Office of the Director.

Specific comments regarding this plan may be addressed to the Division of Individual and Family Support Services, Office of the Associate Director, 57 Howard Avenue, Cranston, Rhode Island 02920. Comments will be considered when Social Service Block Grant plans and reports are developed.

**Part A. Estimated Expenditures and Proposed Provision Method**

OMB NO.: 0970-0234

EXPIRATION DATE: 06/30/2013

STATE: Rhode Island	FISCAL YEAR: 2013	REPORT PERIOD: 7/12012 - 6/301
Contact Person: Corinne Calise Russo	Phone Number: (401) 462-2121	
Title: Deputy Director	E-Mail Address: CCRusso@dhs.ri.gov	
Agency: Rhode Island Department of Human Services	Submission Date: May 31, 2012	

Service Supported with SSBG Expenditures	SSBG Expenditures-		Expenditures of All other Federal, State and Local funds**	Total Expenditures	Provision Method	
	SSBG Allocation	Funds transferred into SSBG*			Public	Private
1 Adoption Services						
2 Case Management	\$1,335,204		\$38,637,790	\$39,973,084	X	X
3 Congregate Meals						
4 Counselor Services	\$15,635		\$86,811	\$102,446		X
5 Day Care-Adults						
6 Day Care-Children	\$1,285,079	\$7,500,000	\$47,500,378	\$56,285,457	X	X
7 Education and Training Services	\$21,260		\$205,913	\$227,173		X
8 Employment Services						X
9 Family Planning Services	\$33,375		\$27,588	\$60,963		X
10 Foster Care Services-Adults						
11 Foster Care Services-Children						-
12 Health-Related Services	\$25,000			\$25,000	X	X
13 Home-Based Services	\$3,468		\$72,542	\$76,010	X	X
14 Home-Delivered Meals						
15 Housing Services	\$27,539		\$764	\$28,300	X	X
16 Independent/Transitional Living Services						
17 Information & Referral	\$115,140		\$483,110	\$598,250	X	X
18 Legal Services	\$25,172		\$347,164	\$372,336		X
19 Pregnancy & Parenting						
20 Prevention & Intervention	\$164,333		\$1,818,252	\$1,982,585		X
21 Protective Services-Adults	\$1,007,885			\$1,007,885		
22 Protective Services-Children			\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	X	X
23 Recreation Services						X
24 Residential Treatment	\$1,069,385		\$74,238	\$1,143,623	X	X
25 Special Services-Disabled						
26 Special Services-Youth at Risk	\$1,000		\$4,000	\$5,000		X
27 Substance Abuse Services						
28 Transportation	\$225,152			\$225,152	X	X
29 other Services***						
30 SUM OF EXPENDITURES FOR SERVICE	\$5,354,714	\$7,500,000	\$90,258,547	\$103,113,264	X	X
31 Administrative Costs	\$408,500		\$192,097	\$600,597		-
32 SERVICES AND ADMINISTRATIVE	\$5,763,214	\$7,500,000	\$90,450,644	\$103,713,858		

\* From which block grant(s) were these funds from TANF

United Way, RI Foundation, Ri State, CDBG, VOCA, VAWA, FVPS, FVPA, Municipalities,

\*\* Please list the sources of these funds: Legislative Grant, Community Fundraising,

\*\*\* Please list other services:

**Part B. Estimated Recipients**

OMB NO.:0970-0234

EXPIRATION DATE: 06/30/2014

STATE: Rhode Island

FISCAL YEAR: 2013

Service Supported with SSBG Expenditures	Children	Adults			Total Adults	Total
		Adults Age 59 Years & Younger	Adults Age 60 Years & Older	Adults of Unknown Age		
1 Adoption Services						
2 Case Management	9,699	16,375	56		16,431	26,130
3 Congregate Meals						
4 Counseling Services	204	396	21		417	618
5 Day Care-Adults						
6 Day Care-Children	6,908				0	6,908
7 Education and Training Services	4,082	3,737	170		3,907	7,989
8 Employment Services						
9 Family Planning Services	77	1,662			1,662	1,739
10 Foster Care Services-Adults						
11 Foster Care Services-Children						
12 Health-Related Services	32	686			686	718
13 Home-Based Services	8	50			50	58
14 Home-Delivered Meals						
15 Housing Services	294			284	284	575
16 Independent/Transitional Living Services						
17 Information & Referral	1,097	136,766	36,416	2,635	175,817	176,914
18 Legal Services	304	1,324	62		1,383	1,684
19 Pregnancy & Parenting						
20 Prevention & Intervention	8,535	6,602	87		6,689	15,224
21 Protective Services-Adults		12,453	214	12,124	24,791	24,791
22 Protective Services-Children	500					500
23 Recreation Services						
24 Residential Treatment	4	4,672	214		4,886	4,890
25 Special Services-Disabled						
26 Special Services-Youth at Risk	35					35
27 Substance Abuse Services						
28 Transportation			4,784		4,784	4,784
29 Other Services***						
30 SUM OF RECIPIENTS OF SERVICES	31,770	184,720	42,024	15,043	241,787	273,557