



State of New Jersey

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PROGRAM POLICY BULLETIN #11-01

DATE: February 2, 2011

TO: NJ Community Action Agency (CAA) Executive Directors
Other CSBG Non-Discretionary Grantees

AFFECTED PROGRAMS: All Programs that Utilize CSBG Funds

SUPERSEDES: Policy Bulletin #00-1, #01-1, #09-01

SUBJECT: **Client Income Eligibility for CSBG Funded Programs and the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act Funds**

POLICY SUMMARY: Internet site <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/> is the official source of annual poverty levels needed by Community Action Agencies and other CSBG grantees in determining client eligibility under the CSBG program.


DISCUSSION: In accordance with each annual New Jersey CSBG State Plan, "local agencies will determine individual client eligibility for CSBG funded services using 125% of the poverty line..." In the past the office of Community Action upon learning that the federal government had issued updated poverty levels (usually done in February or March), would issue our own Program Policy Bulletin (PPB) listing the revised figures. In light of the current availability through the internet of the most recent official poverty levels, we will no longer be issuing annual PPBs for this purpose. Rather, CSBG grantee agencies are instructed to periodically check the above listed internet site and to use the most current poverty levels listed to determine CSBG client eligibility.



The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act allowed eligible entities that administer the CSBG program to increase individual eligibility to 200 percent of the official poverty guidelines as set by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for services furnished by the program during fiscal year 2009 and ending September 30, 2010 for fiscal year 2010.

Commencing October 1, 2010 all eligible entities administering the CSBG program must revert to 125 percent of the official poverty guidelines when determining individual client eligibility for CSBG funded services.

Please contact your NJDCA/DCR Regional Representative should you have any questions regarding this issue.

SIGNED: 
Meyer J. Pincelli, Administrator
Community Services Element
Division of Housing & Community Resources

c. Paul G. Stridick, AIA, Director
CSBG Related State Staff