

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

The public has a social responsibility to act as a catalyst to offset the conditions of property. The long term success of St. Tammany Parish Department of Community Action is to create community orientated programs. Collaborative and independent grants maintain and finance this organization. The cornerstone grant is the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG).

COMMUNITY SERVICE BLOCK GRANT

CSBG Information and Referral

The purpose of Information and Referral is to improve coordination of parish-wide services. Outreach to the community helps empower the individual by providing the tools that move him/her toward self sufficiency. Thorough personal one-to-one case management, each person is provided direct and individualized service with follow-up consultation provided when necessary.

St. Tammany Parish Department of Community Action accomplishes outreach by networking with other community resources to provide low cost medical, educational and counseling services. This organization usually provides the first step toward stability by providing information to the public and referring them to other agencies that best meet their needs.

CSBG Essential Services

St. Tammany Parish Department of Community Action has established an Essential Services program. This program provides emergency services on an “as-need basis”. These services include but are not limited to the following: rent/mortgage payments, utility payments, prescription medication payments, individual counseling services and other services this agency deems appropriate and necessary.

Rent/Mortgage Payments

St. Tammany Parish Department of Community Action provides rental or mortgage payments to household in danger of becoming homeless through unforeseen circumstances. Clients are expected to match the balance of the payment. If a client has exhausted all avenues to pay any balance of due, Community Action shall consider the legitimacy of a request to pay the entire balance.

CSBG Utilities

CSBG funds provide emergency help for families unable to cope with high utility payments. It provides emergency assistance to individuals threatened with cut off utility notices by paying utility bills for a family or individual.

SECOND HARVESTERS COMMODITIES

This program distributes an allotment of surplus food including but not limited to rice, butter, beans, and various canned food items. Commodities are distributed at various locations throughout the Parish.

LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program)

Utility Assistance

In addition to CSBG emergency assistance funds, St. Tammany Parish Department of Community Action provides the LIHEAP Utility Assistance Program to help families pay electric and gas bills. These programs are most effective during hot summer months and the very cold months of winter when the prices of cooling and heating exceed the family's income. In providing this assistance, other basic necessities can be provided for the family.

Weatherization Assistance Program

This program is to reduce energy bills of low income families by providing home repairs that can help in reducing energy bills. Weather stripping, repairing broken windows, doors and holes in floors, insulation and caulking are some examples of work that may be done to help conserve energy and improve the household's living condition. This reduces the flow of air around windows and doors.

United Way

The United Way Utilities and Homeless funds are targeted for clients who have needs that may not be addressed by other programs. A major part of the solution to the homeless program is prevention. Funds are expended to provide rental or mortgage payments to households in danger of becoming homeless through unforeseen circumstances. Utilities are also paid for families having economic difficulties.

EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT PROGRAM

Safe Harbor

Safe Harbor is a shelter for abused women and their children. St. Tammany Parish Department of Community Action provides operational funds for Safe Harbor to cover some major expenses of the facility.

Community Action helps the homeless or near homeless pay rent/mortgage payments and utility payments to prevent homelessness.

EMERGENCY FOOD BANK

This program which is similar to Community Food and Nutrition provides food for families on a temporary emergency need basis. Once families apply for food stamps they submit a referral letter to this office. They are eligible for a three day supply of nutritious food. Each household receives a value of food averaged at \$84.00.

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM

St. Tammany Parish Department of Community Action is helping eliminate some of the barriers to safe, decent affordable housing for homeless families with children by providing a Supportive Housing Program. This program is to help adults gain job skills, education, permanent employment, parenting skills, counseling, day care for children, and any other services deemed appropriate that will lead to self sufficiency of the family. As the families develop stability and no longer need the financial services, Community Action continues a relationship with them so they are not isolated from the community again. At the end of the 12 to 18 month time frame the goal is to have each family independent.

SCHOOL SUPPLY PROGRAM

In conjunction with Community Uplift Foundation, Inc. St. Tammany Parish Department of Community Action distributes school supplies to families that have difficulty with these expenses.