

Maricopa Association of Governments
Social Services Block Grant
Allocation Recommendation Process

The project is stated in the FY2009 Unified Planning Work Program as follows:

Determine the best indicators of appropriate allocation recommendations for the Social Services Block Grant. This will include an assessment of the best return on investment, the highest priorities for funding, and emerging trends. The process will include research, surveys, and the development of a new process to recommend allocations. The process will be developed and adopted by the MAG Human Services Technical and Coordinating Committees.

What the committee is currently doing:

- Reviewing the allocations made from the previous year in the form of target group matrices and a summary chart
- Hearing presentations on the impact of SSBG dollars in the four target group areas. Presentations are offered by the DES divisions receiving the funding and local agencies that contract with DES to provide the services.
- Continuing the allocation recommendations from the previous year without changes unless specifically requested
- Survey to prioritize target groups and identify most appropriate measures

What the committee has done in the past:

- Created fact sheets on each target group
- Reviewed the allocations made from the previous year in the form of target group matrices
- During times of significant and confirmed budget reductions, community hearings and 1-800 numbers have been offered to identify the priorities and services that should be maintained
- Prioritized services to receive funding through a survey and committee debate
- Reviewed wait list information
- Used published research about regional need
- Identified life-impacting services such as safety and security and maintained those services as a higher priority
- Moved money in response to funding increases or decreases. If the level of funding was the same, they did not want to create need in one area by attempting to fix it in another area.

What the committee can do in the future pending Regional Council approval of the project:

- Create fact sheets for each target population that includes the latest data on demographics, trends, needs and funding changes.
- Compile the most current secondary research for each target population.
- Rank the services provided to establish current priorities.

- Participate in an exercise that determines allocation recommendations with zero-based budgeting. Evaluate the results for significant changes in funding and consider the rationale for moving funds.
- Have community hearings to prioritize services.

Proposed plan for moving forward this year pending Regional Council approval of the project:

- June and July: Staff and committee volunteers can complete the fact sheets and research.
- August: The committee can review the information and make adjustments.
- September: The committee can participate in a zero-based budgeting exercise, not for action.
- October: The committee can compare the results of the zero-based budgeting activity and the funding recommended for FY09 and note and/or reconcile any differences.
- November: The committee can complete additional activities to inform the allocation recommendation process. This could include public hearings or ranking of services within the committee.
- December: The committee will develop allocation recommendations.