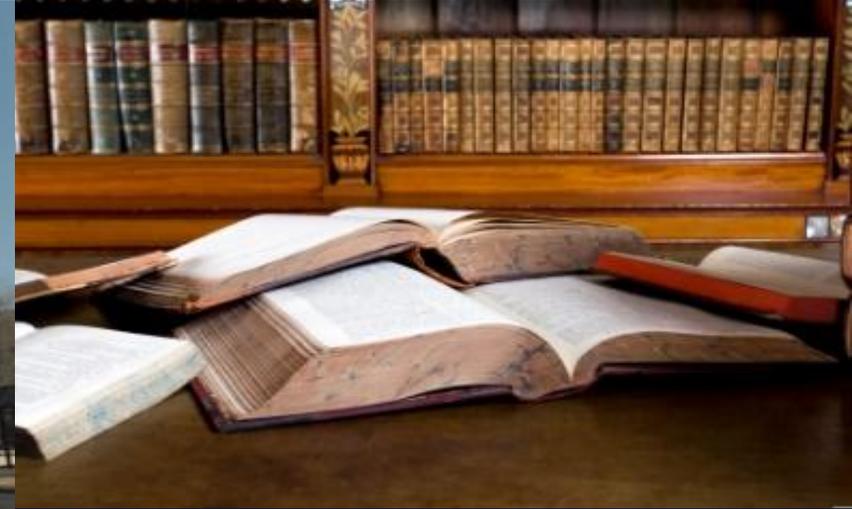


# Summary of FFY 2026 Allocation Plans

(Community Services Block Grant, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program Block Grant and Social Services Block Grant)

## Presentation to Legislative Committees of Cognizance: Appropriations, Human Services and Energy & Technology



**Andrea Barton Reeves, Commissioner**  
**Peter Hadler, Deputy Commissioner**  
**Department of Social Services**  
**Thursday, August 7, 2025**



# LIHEAP



- **LIHEAP Purpose:** “To assist households with low incomes, particularly those with the lowest incomes that pay a high proportion of household income for home energy, primarily in meeting their immediate home energy needs.” In Connecticut, LIHEAP is known as the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP).
- **Target Population:** LIHEAP benefits target households with low incomes, particularly those that have a high home energy burden (percentage of income that goes to heating and cooling bills) and/or have members who are elderly, disabled, and/or a young child under the age of 6.
- **Income Eligibility Limit:** Available for eligible households with income at or below 60% of the state median income (\$91,854 for a family of four).
- **Heating Assistance Types:** Basic Benefit (deliverable fuel and utility heated households), Rental Assistance Benefit (renters with heat included in their rent) and Crisis Benefit (deliverable fuel household that has exhausted their Basic Benefit).
- **DSS Partners:** 9 Community Action Agencies (CAAs), local governments, private human services providers, energy providers.

## Funding History and Proposed FFY 2026 Budget

### CEAP FFY 2020 - 2026

FUNDING	FFY 2020	FFY 2021	FFY 2022	FFY 2023	FFY 2024	FFY 2025 (Estimated)	FFY 2026 (Projected)
LIHEAP Block Grant	\$73,051,937	\$73,568,110	\$73,272,763	\$76,129,154	\$78,365,022	\$81,730,366	\$81,730,366
Carry Forward	\$6,620,079	\$4,039,539	\$4,101,712	\$5,508,321	\$9,813,135	\$7,410,273	\$7,281,198
Refunds	\$181,626	\$416,293	\$424,069	\$100,332	\$400,000	\$225,000	\$225,000
CARES	\$8,346,891	\$5,722,712	-	-	-	-	-
LIHEAP Federal ARPA	-	\$33,817,263	\$60,279,678	-	-	-	-
Infrastructure Act	-	-	\$2,003,413	\$1,959,367	\$2,040,750	\$4,277,872	-
Emergency Supplemental	-	-	-	\$19,593,676	-	-	-
Disaster Relief	-	-	-	\$19,616,985	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$88,200,533</b>	<b>\$117,563,917</b>	<b>\$140,081,635</b>	<b>\$122,907,835</b>	<b>\$90,618,907</b>	<b>\$93,643,511</b>	<b>\$89,236,564</b>
Caseload (households)	75,300	73,200	92,000	105,700	102,240	88,950 (estimated)	100,375 (projected)

FFY 2026 budget assumes level federal block grant funding less expired Infrastructure Act funding. FFY 26 caseload based on 5% growth over average of FFY 24 and FFY 25 enrollment.

- Budget assumes level federal funding at the state's FFY 2025 LIHEAP block grant allocation
- Projected enrollment growth of 5% of the average approved household count for FFY 2024 and FFY 2025
- Increase in Basic Benefits for both utility and deliverable fuel heated households
- Increase in Crisis Benefit for deliverable fuel heated households
- Level funding for heating system repair or replacement
- DEEP: \$500,000 allocated for weatherization barrier remediation
- New Vendor Portal established for deliverable fuel vendors to enroll online
- New deliverable fuel vendor pricing options developed pursuant to recommendations of legislative workgroup: (1) Discount Off Retail and (2) Margin Over Rack
- System support for faster deliverable fuel vendor payments and application processing timeliness

FFY 2026 Benefit Matrix for Deliverable Fuel Households					
	Basic	1st Crisis	2nd Crisis	3rd Crisis	Max Benefit
<b>Benefit Level 1 (up to 125% FPL)</b>					
Vulnerable	\$645	\$425	\$425	\$425	\$1,920
Non-Vulnerable	\$595	\$425	\$425	\$425	\$1,870
<b>Benefit Level 2 (125% - 200% FPL)</b>					
Vulnerable	\$495	\$425	\$425	\$425	\$1,770
Non-Vulnerable	\$445	\$425	\$425	\$425	\$1,720
<b>Benefit Level 3 (201% FPL - 60% SMI)</b>					
Vulnerable	\$345	\$425	\$425	\$425	\$1,620
Non-Vulnerable	\$295	\$425	\$425	\$425	\$1,570

FFY 2025 Benefit Matrix for Deliverable Fuel Households					
	Basic	1st Crisis	2nd Crisis	3rd Crisis	Max Benefit
<b>Benefit Level 1 (up to 125% FPL)</b>					
Vulnerable	\$530	\$410	\$410	\$410	\$1,760
Non-Vulnerable	\$480	\$410	\$410	\$410	\$1,710
<b>Benefit Level 2 (125% - 200% FPL)</b>					
Vulnerable	\$380	\$410	\$410	\$410	\$1,610
Non-Vulnerable	\$330	\$410	\$410	\$410	\$1,560
<b>Benefit Level 3 (201% FPL - 60% SMI)</b>					
Vulnerable	\$230	\$410	\$410	\$410	\$1,460
Non-Vulnerable	\$180	\$410	\$410	\$410	\$1,410

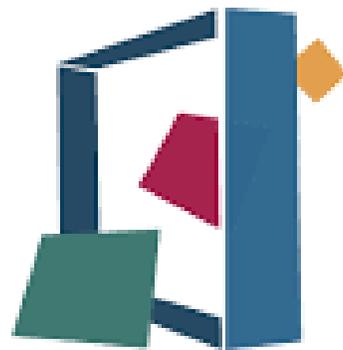
**Key terms:**

**FPL:** Federal Poverty Level

**SMI:** State Median Income

**Vulnerable Households:** Households with a member who is age 60+, has a disability, or has a child that is under age 6

**Maximum Benefit Scenario:** Vulnerable Level 1 deliverable fuel household that receives maximum benefits: Basic Benefit (\$645) + Crisis 1 (\$425) + Crisis 2 (\$425) and Crisis 3 (\$425) = **\$1,920 in FFY 2026**



# CSBG

Community Services Block Grant

- **CSBG Purpose:** “To support services and activities for individuals and families with low incomes that alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in communities.”
- The CAAs use a holistic approach to address the immediate, short-term, and long-term needs of low- and moderate-income individuals and families to help them achieve and maintain economic self-sufficiency.
- [Programs administered by the CAAs](#) include, but are not limited to:
  - Case management
  - Early childhood education
  - Employment and training
  - Energy assistance and weatherization
  - Financial education
  - Food and nutrition services
  - Housing and shelter

## Funding

Federal block grant funding for FFY 2026 is estimated at \$9,235,789, which is equal to the state's final FFY 2025 allocation.

Pursuant to 42 USC § 9907, at least 90% of the CSBG funds made available to the state must be used to make grants to eligible entities. The eligible entities in Connecticut are the nine CAAs. Accordingly, the Department proposes that 90% or \$8,312,210 of the estimated FFY 2026 block grant funding be distributed through grants to CAAs in Connecticut.

- Each CAA will receive an amount that aligns with the FFY 2024 negotiated CSBG CAA allocation formula.

The Allocation Plan proposes to expend \$10,341,803 (includes CSBG carryforward funding of \$1,106,014).

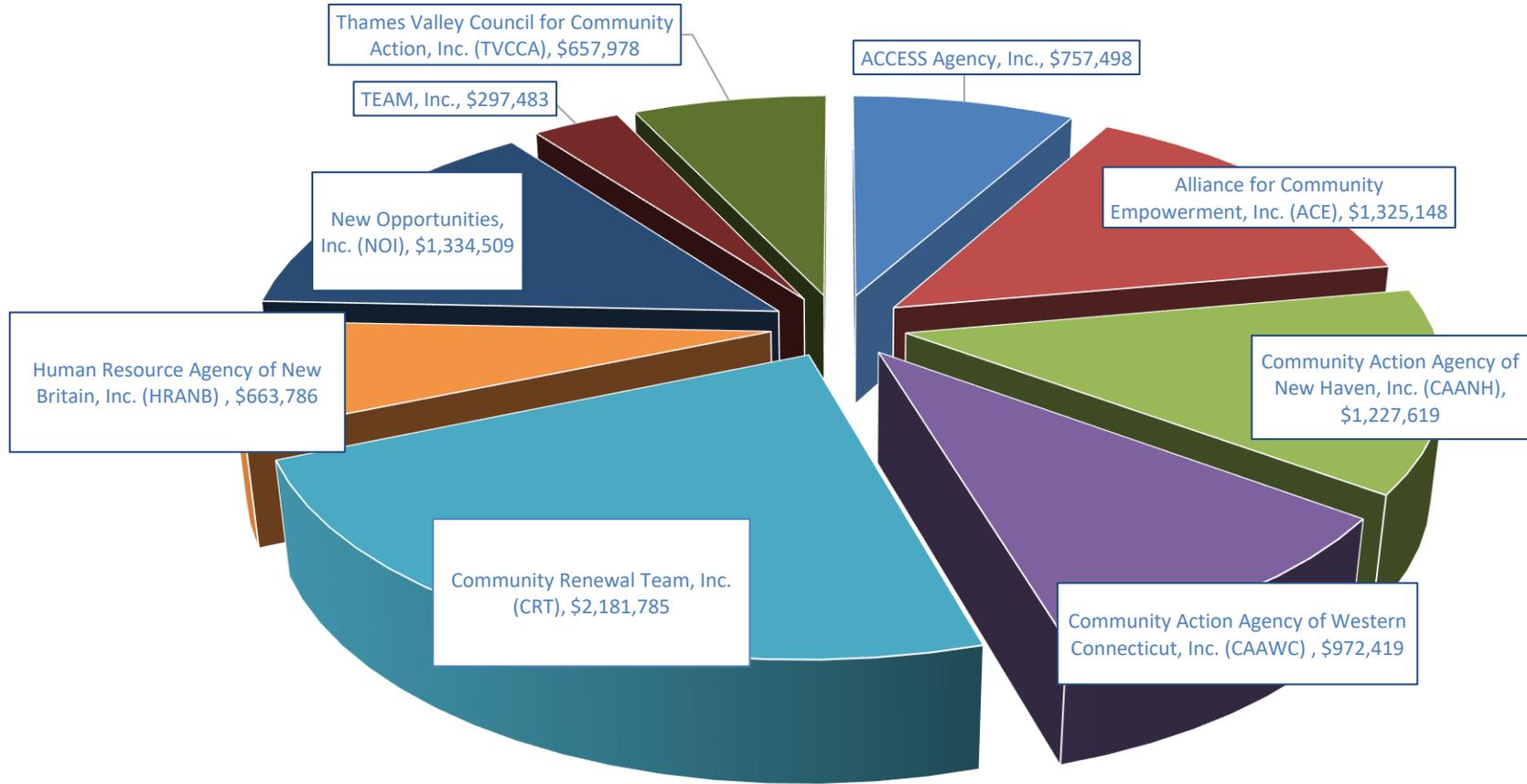
- The FFY 2026 allocation plan continues funding of the FFY 2022, FFY 2023, FFY 2024 and FFY 2025 cost of living adjustments (COLAs). Federal block grant carryforward funds will be used to cover these costs.

FFY 2026 proposed allocations based on estimated expenditures:

<b>PROGRAM CATEGORY</b>	<b>FFY 2026 Proposed Expenditure</b>
Grants to Eligible Entities	\$9,418,225
Discretionary Programs	461,789
Administration	461,789
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,341,803</b>

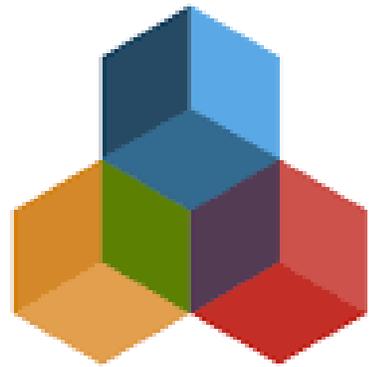
Note: The state provides funding to CAFCA (the statewide association for Connecticut’s community action agencies) to support capacity building across the CAA network and other activities from the “Discretionary Programs” category.

## FFY 2026 Proposed Expenditures



	FFY 2025 Estimated	FFY 2026 Proposed
<b>Grants to Eligible Entities</b>	<b>\$9,713,969</b>	<b>\$9,418,225</b>
ACCESS Agency, Inc.	\$757,498	\$757,498
Alliance for Community Empowerment, Inc. (ACE)	\$1,615,641	\$1,325,148
Community Action Agency of New Haven, Inc. (CAANH)	\$1,227,619	\$1,227,619
Community Action Agency of Western Connecticut, Inc. (CAAWC)	\$966,479	\$972,419
Community Renewal Team, Inc. (CRT)	\$2,181,786	\$2,181,785
Human Resource Agency of New Britain, Inc. (HRANB)	\$663,786	\$663,786
New Opportunities, Inc. (NOI)	\$1,334,509	\$1,334,509
TEAM, Inc.	\$278,804	\$297,483
Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc. (TVCCA)	\$687,847	\$657,978
<b>Administration</b>	<b>\$419,831</b>	<b>\$461,789</b>
<b>Discretionary Programs</b>	<b>\$461,789</b>	<b>\$461,789</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,595,589</b>	<b>\$10,341,803</b>

FFY 2025 estimated expenditures include costs incurred during FFY 2024 and paid during FFY 2025 due to the delay in the submission of required documentation to DSS. **Aside from the timing of expenditures being reconciled, funding is level for all eligible entities.**



# SSBG

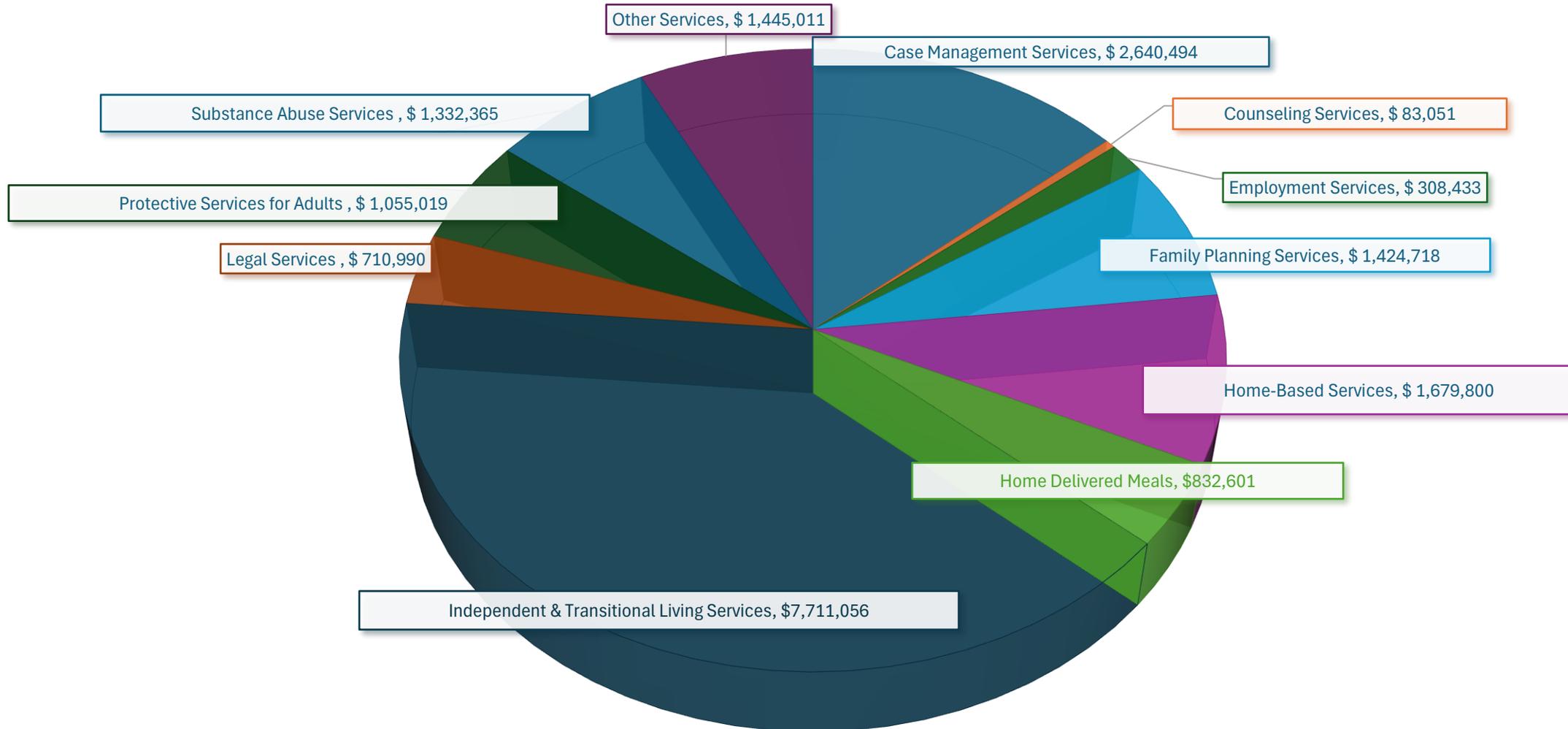
Social Services Block Grant

- **SSBG Purpose:** “To support social services directed towards achieving economic self-sufficiency; preventing or remedying neglect, abuse, or the exploitation of children and adults; preventing or reducing inappropriate institutionalization; and securing referrals for institutional care, where appropriate.”
- **SSBG assists vulnerable persons or families**, with a special emphasis on those groups which are less able than others to care for themselves (e.g., people with disabilities, youth, and older adults).
- **In Connecticut, SSBG funds 11 categories of services:** Case Management, Counseling, Employment, Family Planning, Home-Based Services, Home Delivered Meals, Independent & Transitional Living, Legal Services, Protective Services for Adults, Substance Abuse, and Other Services.
- **Income eligibility:** Except for the Fatherhood Initiative and Home Delivered Meals, recipients of SSBG-funded services must have annual income no higher than 150% of federal poverty income guidelines, or \$48,225 for a family of four.

## FFY 2026

- Federal SSBG funding for FFY 2026 is estimated at \$17,225,500, which is equal to the state's final FFY 2025 allocation.
- The Department proposes to expend a total of \$19,223,538, which includes the allocation of \$17,225,500 plus federal SSBG carryforward funds of \$1,998,038.
- The federal SSBG carryforward funding will be used to continue to fund FFY 2022, FFY 2023, FFY 2024 and FFY 2025 COLA under this plan.

DSS proposes to expend \$19,223,538 during FFY 2026 on 11 eligible service categories. Below is a chart by service category and proposed amount:



	FFY 2025 Estimated	FFY 2026 Proposed	% Change FFY 2025 to FFY 2026
Case Management Services <sup>1</sup>	\$2,840,494	\$2,640,494	-7.0%
Counseling Services	83,051	83,051	0.0%
Employment Services	308,433	308,433	0.0%
Family Planning Services	1,424,718	1,424,718	0.0%
Home-Based Services <sup>2</sup>	1,509,800	1,679,800	11.3 %
Home Delivered Meals <sup>3</sup>	1,017,601	832,601	-18.2%
Independent & Transitional Living Services	7,711,056	7,711,056	0.0%
Legal Services	710,990	710,990	0.0%
Protective Services for Adults <sup>4</sup>	725,019	1,055,019	45.5%
Substance Abuse Services	1,332,365	1,332,365	0.0%
Other Services	1,445,011	1,445,011	0.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$19,108,538</b>	<b>\$19,223,538</b>	<b>0.6%</b>

<sup>1</sup> **Case Management:** Removes the temporary pandemic-related funding for DOH (\$200,000).

<sup>2</sup> **Home-Based Services:** Returns this service category to the base funding level that was assumed in last year’s allocation plan.

<sup>3</sup> **Home Delivered Meals:** Removes the one-time temporary stabilization funding for ADS (\$185,000) that was added to ease the transition to the lower level of federal funding for the Nutrition Services Incentive Program under the Older Americans Act.

<sup>4</sup> **Protective Services for Adults:** Returns this service category to the base funding level that was assumed in last year’s allocation plan.