

## **Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) Supplemental Emergency Funds for Hurricane Relief**

The United States Department of Health and Human Services released SSBG supplemental emergency funds for hurricane relief.

North Carolina received \$1,310,272. The allocation is based on the percentage of FEMA registrants for Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma. North Carolina ranked 11<sup>th</sup> in the amount of funding received from this source.

These funds must be expended by the state by the end of September 2007 and must be tracked separately from regular SSBG.

Funds can only be spent to help meet the needs of people from the Gulf Coast who were affected by these hurricanes and have moved to North Carolina.

Allowable expenditures include but are not limited to: housing, child care, mental health services, case management, employment services, meals, or any other social services normally allowed under SSBG.

### **Potential Uses for Supplemental SSBG**

**Housing Assistance for Individuals Potentially Eligible for Special Assistance** - Evacuees that were eligible for State/County Special Assistance (SA) were provided with temporary housing assistance. These individuals were not initially eligible for SA due to North Carolina General Statute 108A-41 (b) (3) residency requirements. The county departments of social services requested that the State allow payments to be made and the DHHS approved this to happen with the understanding that funding would be identified to reimburse the costs. Expected SFY 05-06 expenditures are around \$21,000.

**Child Care Subsidy** - Evacuees began receiving child care subsidy in September 2005. With supplemental SSBG, there are funds available to serve these families through the end of next SFY. Current projections indicate an average of \$38,000 per month in subsidy spending. (This average is for recent months) For SFY 05-06 the total projection is around \$320,000. For SFY 06-07 the projection is just under \$460,000.

**Local County Department of Social Services Efforts** - The department will work with the Division of Social Services and the North Carolina Association of County Directors of Social Services to plan for the appropriate use of the remaining \$500,000 in supplemental SSBG.

### **Total Projected Spending**

Housing for SA recipients	\$21,000
Child Care Subsidy	\$780,000
Local DSS	<u>\$509,272</u>
Total	\$1,310,272