



Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Benefits Enrollment Coordination Activities

The Recovery Act has provided a unique opportunity for States to focus on benefits enrollment coordination activities relating to the identification and enrollment of eligible individuals and families in Federal, State, and local benefit programs. The following information was gathered from a survey of 52 States (including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico).

Expanding Outreach, Education and Marketing Efforts

Forty-one States are strengthening the coordination of services to current clients as well as providing resource materials to new clients who need assistance for the first time, due to the economic recession. To address benefit enrollment challenges, States are developing educational materials such as brochures and pamphlets describing available programs. There has also been a focus on ensuring that qualified families receive the Earned Income Tax Credit and other working families' tax credits, providing personal budgeting courses which can include enrollment into Individual Development Account programs, and providing referrals to partners for help with health services, debt assistance, and foreclosure prevention.

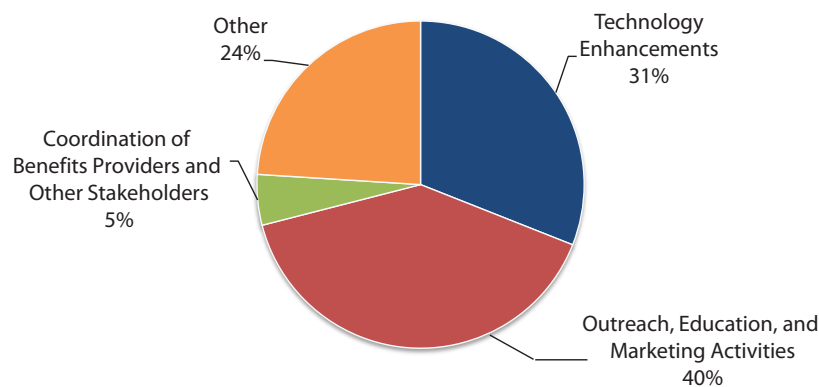
Technology Enhancements

Twenty-five States are breaking down barriers between services through the creation and/or enhancement of online eligibility systems, streamlining information and referral processes, and/or integrating State-wide data collection systems. States are creating integrated benefit enrollment systems to assist clients in applying online for multiple programs such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

Coordination of Benefits Providers and Other Stakeholders

Fourteen States are coordinating with benefit providers and other stakeholders, including Federal, State, local, and private organizations responsible for specific benefit programs. Goals of coordination efforts include assessment of barriers to benefits enrollment, information-sharing and coordination of benefits enrollment criteria or procedures.

Percentage of Funds by Category*



*States could select multiple categories for uses of funds