SOCIAL SERVICES DISASTER RELIEF HURRICANE SANDY SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS PLAN

ALLOCATION PERIOD:
OCTOBER 1, 2012 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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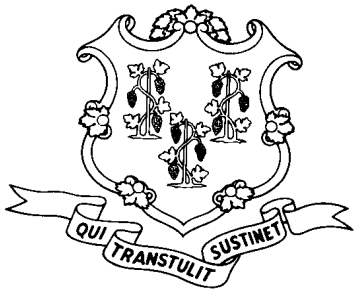

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page #
I.	Overview of the Social Services Disaster Relief, "*Hurricane Sandy Supplemental Funds*"	1
	A. Purpose / Background	1
	B. Allowable Activities, Major Use of Funds, Target Population	1 - 2
	C. Federal Allotment Process	2
	D. Federal Funding Level	2
	E. Summary of Proposed Allocations	2 - 3
	F. State Planning Process	3 - 4
	G. Grant Provisions	5
II.	Table of Budget, Objectives and Activities	
	A. Allocations by Program Categories	6
	B. SSBG Service Objectives and Activities	7
III.	Income Levels	8

Overview of the Social Services Disaster Relief, "*Hurricane Sandy Supplemental Funds*"

A. Purpose / Background

Social Service Block Grant Information Memorandum, Transmittal No. 01-203 states the following:

"*The Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 [Public Law (P.L.) 113-2*] was signed into law on January 29, 2013, providing $500 million in additional funds to the SSBG program ("Hurricane Sandy Supplemental Funds") to address necessary expenses resulting from Hurricane Sandy, including social, health, and mental health services for individuals, and for repair, renovation and rebuilding of health care facilities (including mental health facilities), child care facilities, and other social services facilities."

Also, Hurricane Sandy SSBG Supplemental Funds are only available to states directly affected by Hurricane Sandy between October 25, 2012 and January 29, 2013 (the date of enactment for the law authorizing funds) and which have been declared by the President as a major disaster under Title IV of the Robert T Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act for Hurricane Sandy.

B. Allowable Activities, Major Use of Funds, Target Population

Hurricane Sandy SSBG Supplemental Funds are available for services directly related to Hurricane Sandy that fall within the goals of the SSBG program and services as outlined in Title XX of the Social Security Act, as amended [42 U.S.C. § 1397 et. seq.]. Title XX stipulates that States must direct services to one or more of the five social services goals:

- Achieving or maintaining economic self-support to prevent, reduce or eliminate dependency or institutionalization;
- Achieving or maintaining self-sufficiency, including reduction or prevention of dependency;
- Preventing or remedying neglect, abuse, exploitation of children and adults unable to protect their own interests, or preserving, rehabilitating or reuniting families;
- Preventing or reducing inappropriate institutional care by providing for community- based care, home care, or other forms of less intensive care; and
- Securing referral or admission for institutional care when other forms of care are not appropriate or providing services to individuals not in institutions.

The Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 [Public Law (P.L.) 113-2] further provides that "in addition to other uses permitted by Title XX of the Social Security Act, funds appropriated in this paragraph for the Social Services Block Grant may be used for health services (including mental health services), and for costs of renovating, repairing, or rebuilding health care facilities, child care facilities, or other social services facilities." Funds awarded under this act are in addition to the entitlement grants and cannot be used to fulfill entitlements.

The funds may be used to help meet the health care, mental health, and child care needs of people affected by Hurricane Sandy during October 2012. Although Title XX does not include specific eligibility criteria for services, States are expected to determine appropriate eligibility criteria and verification procedures to ensure that services reach populations targeted for services in the State's intended use plan. Connecticut currently targets populations with income at or below ~~250~~**325**% of the federal poverty level utilizing SSBG funds. All individuals and families targeted for services must be impacted by Hurricane Sandy and meet additional eligibility criteria established by the state for specific services.

Eligibility criteria shall include, at a minimum, documentation to demonstrate that households were impacted by Hurricane Sandy and other resources (insurance, local, state or federal) were not available to cover expenditures. Also, eligible households must reside or formerly resided in the following counties: Fairfield, Middlesex, New Haven, New London, the Mashantucket Tribal Nation and the Mohegan Tribal Nation that were impacted by Hurricane Sandy.

C. Federal Allotment Process

Federal allotments to states for Hurricane Sandy Supplemental Funds differ from the regular SSBG grant, which uses State population data, in that it is based on Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA's) report number of registrants for Individual Assistance (IA). The precedent for using IA registrant data in the allocation for SSBG emergency supplemental grants was established during the Gulf Coast Hurricanes and 2008 Presidential Declared Disasters. Moreover, FEMA IA data serves as a proxy for "demonstrated need" for making funds available, as required by statute.

D. Federal Funding Level

For FFY 2013, the Hurricane Sandy Supplemental Funding level was funded at an additional $474.5 million for impacted areas nationally, which includes the application of a 5.1% sequestration in accordance with the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act. Connecticut's final allocation is $10,569,192.00 or 2.23% of the total available allocation.

E. Summary of Proposed Allocation

The Department proposes to utilize resources for the following SSBG categories: case management, counseling, protective services for adults, housing services and informational & referral services. Awarded Grantees and Sub-Grantees will be allowed to have a cap on administrative costs not to exceed 18% per service category selected or the use of their approved Indirect Cost Allocation Rate with appropriate documentation. Connecticut will also cap the Department's administrative costs at 9%. The Department of Social Services utilizes various tools to ascertain need enabling to target services appropriately. Based upon forecasts, the Department does not project the utilization of any resources for repairs, renovations and rebuilding of facilities.

Per the Executive Summary of the Disaster Case Management Program Assessment – Tropical Storm Sandy – State of Connecticut (FEMA-DR-4087) issued November 26, 2012, Connecticut had

- Severity of damage to social services infrastructure - "*minimal impact to the social services infrastructure; however there were several power outages reported*"
- Damage to child/youth facilities – "based upon available information, there was no damage reported to schools, child care facilities, Head Start programs and recreational facilities. However, services were disrupted in all declared counties for several days following the storm.
- Ability to conduct long-term disaster case management – based upon interviews from the agencies immediate DCM [disaster case management], there is limited ability to conduct long-term disaster case management in Fairfield, Middlesex, and New Haven Counties without funding support.

F. State Planning Process

The State's Allocation Plan planning process has been coordinated through a collaborative effort of local, state, federal and private sector partners. In the wake of Tropical Storm Irene in 2011, the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection - Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security ("DEMHS") established a Long Term Recovery Working Group ("LTRWG"), co-led by representatives from the Department of Insurance ("DOI") and the Department of Economic and Community Development ("DECD") and made up of members from state agencies, municipal representatives from the five DEMHS geographical emergency planning regions, federal partners, and non-governmental organizations such as the American Red Cross and United Way 2-1-1. As part of the Hurricane Sandy response and recovery work, a Housing Task Force was formed as a subgroup of the LTRWG, and is currently co-chaired by staff from DECD and Department of Insurance ("DOI").

Governor Malloy appointed the DEMHS Deputy Commissioner William Shea as the State Disaster Recovery Coordinator, with the two co-leaders of the LTRWG as his designated coordinators. Together they work closely with the FEMA Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator on a variety of recovery functions, including identifying unmet needs, building community capacity, natural and cultural resources, and housing. At the direction of the Governor's Office, Deputy Commissioner Shea has also convened an Interagency Recovery Coordination Group to coordinate efforts, manage outreach, and bring agencies to the table to support this effort. This interagency initiative includes: DEMHS, DECD, DOI, Department of Social Services, Department of Education, Department of Transportation, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Department of Public Health, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Department of Labor, Office of Policy and Management ("OPM"), the American Red Cross, and United Way 2-1-1.

This Interagency Recovery Coordination Group will coordinate information on all available opportunities for federal funding so as to address the requested assistance from municipalities and various other stakeholders statewide. Due to the nature of the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act and the various sources of disaster relief funding, the state is committed to appropriately addressing needs within all of the available federal grants and maximizing the federal dollars that could come to Connecticut for disaster relief and recovery. The planning being undertaken within this tranche and the coordination within this interagency group will ensure that as many needs are met as possible, and that they are met by the appropriate source of federal funding.

To ensure alignment with statewide activities in CT and eliminate duplication, the Department has participated in the following activities to ensure that displaced families are targeted appropriately:

- CT's Super Storm Sandy Interagency Long-Term Recovery Meetings (on-going);
- HHS' Hurricane Sandy Supplemental Informational Webinar held on April 26, 2013;
- The Department's TANF administrator surveyed the Child Care partners to ascertain need if any existed. The survey results determined that the child care providers did not have any immediate needs specific to facility renovation, counseling and case management services for their target populations.
- Emergency Shelters, Domestic Violence Shelters, Transitional Housing and AIDS residential housing facilities that had to provide staff 24 hours per day because program participants could not leave the facility incurred overtime costs for case management staff that are not being covered through existing contractual relationships, insurance or donations. Providers have contacted the Department concerning the possible availability of resources to cover expenses that were incurred due to Hurricane Sandy.
- The Department contacted the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to determine if they had program participants that were impacted by Hurricane Sandy. The impact could be displacement or barriers to reunification of families, as well as counseling for children and or parents who self-sufficiency or mental health is in jeopardy due to the traumatic impact of the event.
- CT's Disaster Case Management Assessment identified the need for long term disaster case management. Through the Department's participation on the Super Storm Sandy Interagency Committee, DSS will confirm with FEMA that these services are not being covered with FEMA funds and target appropriately to fill gaps. Also, the Assessment Report identified services providers in the impacted communities that had the ability to provide disaster case management, but need resources. DSS would contact those entities to determine of their existing program participants that received case management services as a result of Hurricane Sandy who is still in need of assistance.
- Utilize CT's 2-1-1 system operated through United Way of Connecticut to maximize the referral system that already exists.
- CT will utilize past practices to ensure services are delivered based upon requirements by utilizing quality assurance practices.

Based upon available information the Department will utilize resources to assist in stabilizing households that were impacted by Hurricane Sandy. The Department will also reach out to community based organizations to ascertain if households moved from impacted area to another region in Connecticut, as these households are also eligible for services.
The Department of Social Services shall issue eligibility criteria and guidelines for any contractor or state agency that will provide services to impacted households to ensure compliance with HHS' expectations associated with the utilization of Hurricane Sandy Supplemental resources.

The Department acknowledges that HHS issued a joint letter from George H. Sheldon, Acting Assistant Secretary, ACF and W. Craig Fugate, Administrator, FEMA advising that Child Care is a Priority. Again, the Department has confirmed that presently there are not any child care needs as a result of Hurricane Sandy; however, the Department will continue to periodically check-in with service providers, as the mental health impact of children might not be immediately present based upon initial assessments.

G. Grant Provisions

Activities will be reported under Code of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number 93.095.

The Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 [public Law (P.L.) 113-2] addresses necessary expenses resulting from Hurricane Sandy, including social, health, and mental health services for individuals, as for repair, renovation and rebuilding of health care facilities, and other social services facilities.

42 USC Section 1397c requires that prior to expenditure of SSBG funds by a state, the state shall report on the intended use of the payments that the state is going to receive, including information on:

- the types of activities (or services) to be supported; and
- categories or characteristics of individuals to be served (such as children, adults 59 or younger, adults 60 or older

The plan must be submitted to the Secretary of HHS and be made public to facilitate comment by any person and shall be revised throughout the year as may be necessary to reflect substantial changes.

II. Table of Budget, Objectives and Activities

A. List of Block Grant Funded Programs

Service Code	SSBG Program Category	~~Proposed~~ Actual Expenditures FY 2013	Proposed Expenditures FY 2014	Proposed Expenditures FY 2015	Total
No. 2	Case Management Services	~~486,184.00~~0.00	~~2,917,097.00~~ 3,403,281.00	1,458,548.00	4,861,829.00
No. 4	Counseling Services	~~116,261.00~~0.00	~~697,567.00~~ 813,828.00	348,783.00	1,162,611.00
No. 15	Housing Services	~~73,984.00~~0.00	~~443,906.00~~ 517,890.00	221,953.00	739,843.00
No. 17	Information and Referral	~~52,846.00~~0.00	~~317,076.00~~ 369,922.00	158,538.00	528,460.00
No. 21	Protective Services for Adults	~~52,846.00~~0.00	~~317,076.00~~ 369,922.00	158,538.00	528,460.00
No. 22	Protective Services for Children	~~105,692.00~~0.00	~~634,151.00~~ 739,843.00	317,076.00	1,056,919.00
No. 29	Other - Renovations/Repairs	~~73,984.00~~0.00	~~443,906.00~~ 517,890.00	221,953.00	739,843.00
No. ~~29~~31	Administrative Services-9% max	~~95,123.00~~0.00	~~570,736.00~~ 665,859.00	285,368.00	951,227.00
TOTAL		~~1,056,920.00~~ 0.00	~~6,341,515.00~~ 7,398,435.00	3,170,757.00	10,569,192.00

Notes:

[1.] States must obligate and expend their SSBG Supplemental Funds by September 30, 2015.

[2.] FY 2013 no expenditures occurred.~~Proposed Expenses are anticipated to have a ramp up period in the last quarter.~~ FY 2014 is anticipated to incur the majority of expenditures. FY 2015 is anticipated to ramp down expenditure activities and close out process functions.

[3.] Category No. 29 "Other – Renovations/Repairs" is identified for costs of renovating, repairing, or rebuilding health care facilities, child care facilities, or other social services facilities affected by Hurricane Sandy would be allowable under this category. These repairs or renovations must be due to Hurricane

Sandy and must not be covered by FEMA, insurance or any other source of payment.

[4.] Category No. ~~29~~ 31"Administrative Services-9% max~~Other~~" is identified for State Agency administrative costs~~ for grantees and sub-grantees~~. Administrative costs shall not exceed 9% of the award.

[5.] Connecticut utilized various methodologies to identify target population and need. Said methodologies included, but were not limited to the following: FEMA's Disaster Case Management Assessment – CT; provider surveys and CT's Super Storm Sandy Interagency Long-Term Recovery Workgroup. DSS shall target the majority of its resources for long-term case management. If after the program is operationalized, a greater need is identified, the department will make the necessary adjustments, based recipient need.

6.

B. SSBG Service Objectives and Activities

Service Code	SSBG Program Category	Objective
No. 2	Case Management Services	Services are arranged, coordinated, and monitored to develop and implement an individual service plan, and to provide counseling, and to evaluate client progress. Households must have been impacted by Hurricane Sandy to be eligible for services.
No. 4	Counseling	Therapeutic processes are applied to personal, family, situational or occupational problems to achieve a positive resolution of the problem or improve individual and/or family functioning progress. Households must have been impacted by Hurricane Sandy to be eligible for services.
No. 15	Housing Services	Housing services are those services or activities designed to assist individuals or families in locating, obtaining or retaining suitable housing. Component services or activities may include tenant counseling, helping individuals /families to identify and correct substandard housing conditions on behalf of individuals/families who are unable to protect their own interests; and assist individuals/families to understand leases, secure utilities, make moving arrangements and minor renovations. Households must have been impacted by Hurricane Sandy to be eligible for services.
No. 17	Information and Referral	Information and referral services are those services or activities designed to provide information and referral to various community providers. It also may include a brief assessment of the client needs (but not diagnosis and evaluation). Households must have been impacted by Hurricane Sandy to be eligible for services.
No. 21	Protective Services for Adults	Protective services for adults are those services or activities designed to prevent or remedy abuse, neglect or exploitation of adults who are unable to protect their own interests. Households must have been impacted by Hurricane Sandy to be eligible for services.
No. 22	Protective Services for Children	Protective Services for children are those services or activities designed to prevent or remedy abuse, neglect, or exploitation of children who may be harmed through physical or mental injury, sexual abuse or exploitation, and negligent treatment or maltreatment, including failure to be provided with adequate food, clothing, shelter or medical care. Households must have been impacted by Hurricane Sandy to be eligible for services.
No. 29	Other Services-Renovations/Repairs	Other-Renovation/Repairs is identified for costs of renovating, repairing, or rebuilding health care facilities, child care facilities, or other social services facilities affected by Hurricane Sandy would be allowable under this category. These repairs or renovations must be due to Hurricane Sandy and must not be covered by FEMA, insurance or any other source of payment. This category will also be used for other services that do not fall within the SSBG defined categories to support Hurricane Sandy approve activities.
No. ~~29~~31	Administrative Costs 9% max-~~Other Services~~	9% Administration Cap for State Agency compliance with HHS.~~other services that do not fall within the SSBG defined categories. All~~

		~~services must support Hurricane Sandy approved activities.~~

7

III. Federal Poverty Level and Income Eligibility Tables

2013	
Federal Poverty Level Annual Amounts	
Assistance Unit Size	**325%**
1	$~~28,725~~37,343
2	$~~38,775~~50,408
3	$~~48,825~~63,473
4	$~~58,875~~76,538
5	$~~68,925~~89,603
6	$~~78,975~~102,668
7	$~~89,025~~115,733
8	$~~99,075~~128,798

Each additional person add:
~~250~~325%% of FPL - $~~10,050~~13,065

*****Source: Federal Register, Vol. 78, No. 16, January 24, 2013