

Human Services Block Grant – Myths vs. Reality

Myths	Reality
Providers and other stakeholders will be left out in the dark.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counties will be required to prepare a plan that will outline how they intend to allocate block grant dollars. The development of this plan will engage stakeholders through various public forums.
Counties can't be trusted to make decisions about how to fund human services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> County officials are accountable to the taxpayers, families, and stakeholders in their county through the same democratic measures as state officials. In fact, county officials are on the front lines of delivering human services. They live in the same community and see the faces affected by their decisions on a daily basis.
This will cause the breakup of Joinders and other local collaborative arrangements, including single county authorities for substance abuse services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DPW and CCAP share the mutual goal that successful local collaborative arrangements can continue and new arrangements can be created if desired in a block grant environment. During the transition to the block grant, it is the expectation of DPW that joinder arrangements and single county authorities for substance abuse services will continue to be honored by each involved county until such time as new or revised agreements are reached.
Counties will not be ready to implement a block grant on July 1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DPW is working, and will continue working, with counties to provide necessary technical assistance and training. The block grant proposal will be phased-in. During this period, counties can continue to fund existing categorical programs as they do now – this option is part of their flexibility. The block grant is designed to reduce the burden associated with the delivery of human services programs, not increase it.
DPW is trying to establish a one size fits all block grant for counties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The block grant will not represent a one size fits all approach. In fact, it will end the one size fits all approach that exists today. Funding for human service programs is currently directed to counties without regard to the uniqueness of our 67 counties. A block grant will allow counties to prioritize their human service spending to meet the unique needs of their community.
The block grant will pit groups against each other for funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reality is this happens today at the state level through the budget process, without any regard or substantial input from local stakeholders, and without taking into account varying local needs. The block grant will give counties the ability to respond to the unique and changing needs in their communities.