

From the CCFP 2014 Steering Committee Report

RECOMMENDATION 1: Support strategic, effective and innovative human services programs that address community-identified priorities and needs.

Strategic Actions

- ✓ • Strengthen community input in the process of identifying continuing needs, gaps in service and emerging trends and issues that may not be met by government programs alone.
- ✓ • Establish a process to include more input from human services agency directors and boards, authorities, and commissions to develop CCFP priorities reflective of community-defined need but aligned with, or understood in the context of, other human services priorities.
- ✓ • Increase the use of community needs assessments, demographic data, and service demand trends in the prioritization process.

RECOMMENDATION 2: Establish financial stewardship and accountability and promote partnerships to leverage CCFP investments for the maximum benefit for participants.

Strategic Actions

- Ensure that the CCFP is allocating resources to programs based on past performance, and where there is program duplication, ensure that overlap and fragmentation are minimized.
- Describe the expected results for each funded service and establish realistic leverage targets.
- Provide incentives, technical assistance, information, and other forms of support to facilitate formal partnerships and collaboration.

RECOMMENDATION 3: Improve the CCFP application process, including timing, cycle time, and paperwork.

Strategic Actions

- ✓ • Revise the RFP to minimize submission requirements for all applicants.
- ✓ • Develop a streamlined application process for projects with funding amounts below a certain dollar threshold.

RECOMMENDATION 4: Improve the community's capacity to evaluate the successes of the CCFP and its constituent programs.

Strategic Actions

- Evaluate county-funded human services programs to identify the most successful approaches and the lessons learned in applying these approaches.
- Invest in what works and use evaluation data to position programs to meet established objectives and outcomes.
- Identify common outcomes and data sets among related CCFP programs, permitting aggregation of data and more rigorous evaluation.
 - ✓ • Improve understanding of the RFP outcome section requirements by clarifying instructions and providing training and technical assistance.

ISSUE 1: Ensuring ongoing support for programs identified as essential or critical

- The elimination or reduction of certain services would place severe stress on program recipients and agencies, nonprofits, and other providers that may be called upon to fill the gaps in service.
- The Steering Committee supports the view that certain core human services should be removed from the uncertainty of funding pool competition.

ISSUE 2: Responding to emerging trends and encouraging innovation

- There is no specific emphasis in the current RFP to solicit or encourage new approaches to service delivery efficiency and effectiveness.
- Incubation should be explored as a way to test new ways of delivering and sustaining programs/services.