

**GOVERNOR BLANCO'S PRIORITIES FOR LOUISIANA'S  
SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (SSBG) FUNDS**

In the aftermath of the devastating 2005 hurricane season, the United States Congress issued a \$550,000,000 supplemental appropriation to the SSBG. On Wednesday, February 8, 2006, the Secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services announced the distribution of funds among all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The state of Louisiana was allocated \$220,901,534 in supplemental SSBG funds to meet the social service, behavioral health and health care needs of people affected by the hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico in calendar year 2005 and lacking health insurance or other adequate access to care, and to help health care "safety net" providers restore and resume their operations.

Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco has issued her priorities for these funds as follows:

1. The Department of Social Services shall be allocated \$34,200,000.
  - a. \$17,650,000 for the provision of Child Welfare Services
  - b. \$14,400,000 for the provision of Child Care Services
  - c. \$ 2,200,000 for monitoring and oversight of the entire SSBG supplemental
2. The Department of Health and Hospitals shall be allocated \$101,701,534.
  - a. \$80,000,000 for the provision of Behavioral Health Services
  - b. \$21,701,534 for the provision of Preventive and Primary Care
3. The Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center shall be allocated \$70,000,000.
  - a. \$50,000,000 for the Health Sciences Center
  - b. \$20,000,000 for the Health Care Services Division
4. The Louisiana Family Recovery Corps shall be allocated \$15,000,000