



Rebuilding the Path of Opportunity

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About CFED

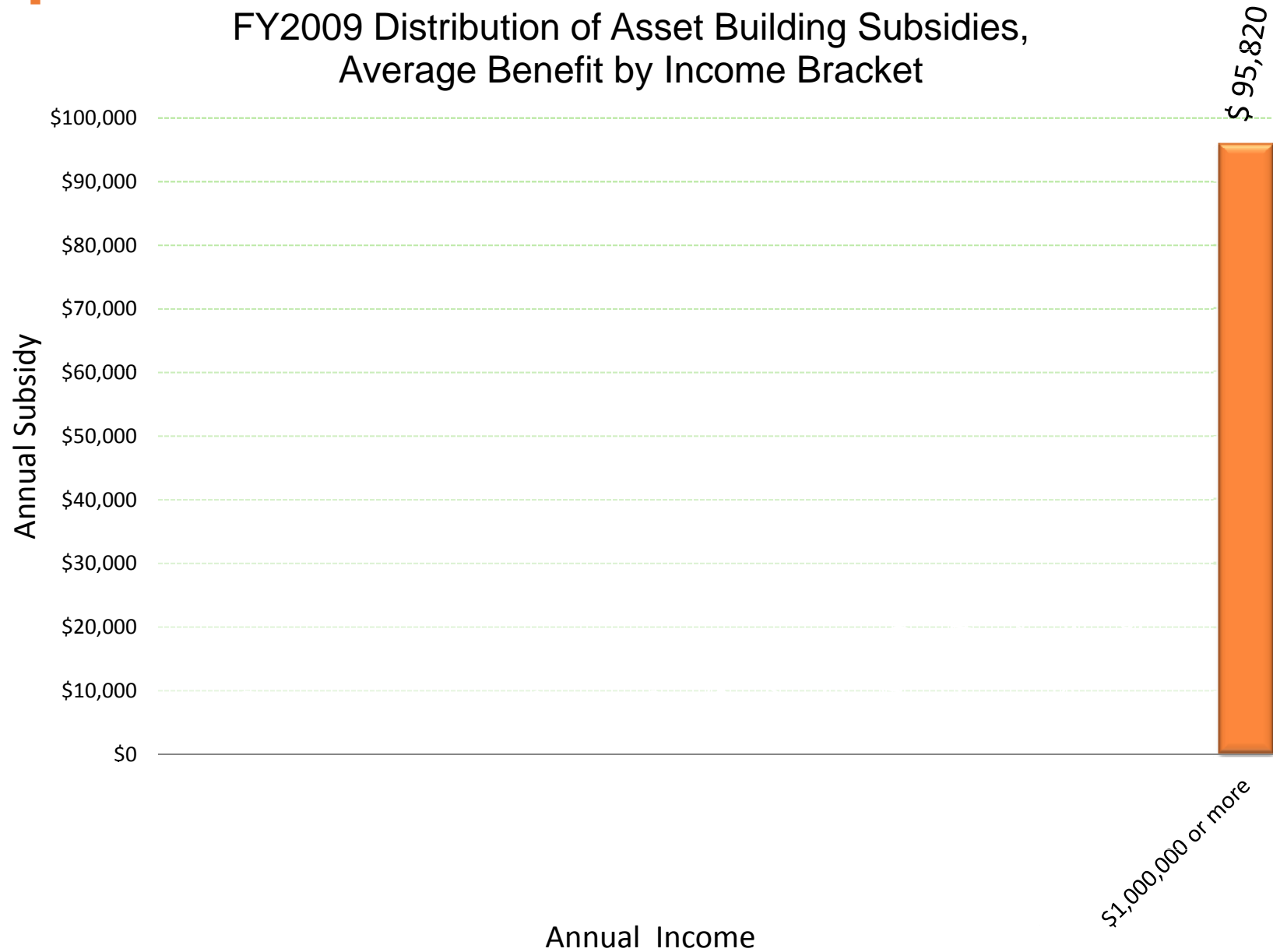
- CFED (Corporation for Enterprise Development) has worked for over 30 years to expand economic opportunity by helping people save and invest, own homes, succeed as entrepreneurs, contribute to and benefit from the economy
- CFED's special expertise is to connect public policy, private markets and community practice to bring effective approaches for building wealth and financial security to scale at the local, state and national levels

Public Policy Shapes Opportunities to Build Assets

- US has long history of subsidizing asset building
 - Homestead Act
 - GI Bills
 - Home Mortgage Interest Deduction
 - VA and FHA loans
 - 401(k)s, Individual Retirement Accounts, etc.
- Policy has been uneven and inconsistent
 - Subsidizes middle- and upper-income; penalizes the very poor

Upside-down subsidies

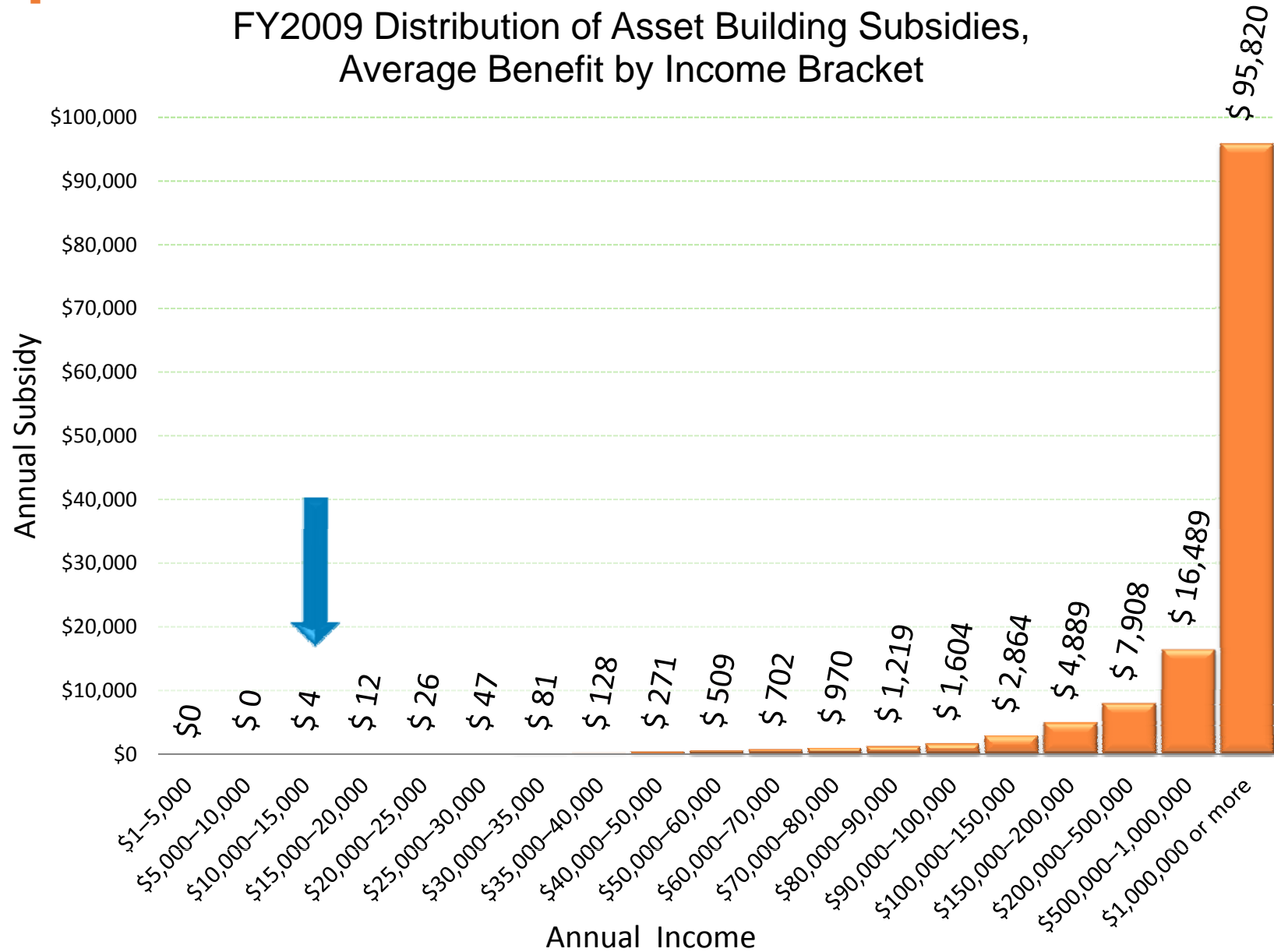
FY2009 Distribution of Asset Building Subsidies,
Average Benefit by Income Bracket



Source: CFED. 2010. *Upside Down: The \$400 Billion Federal Asset Budget*

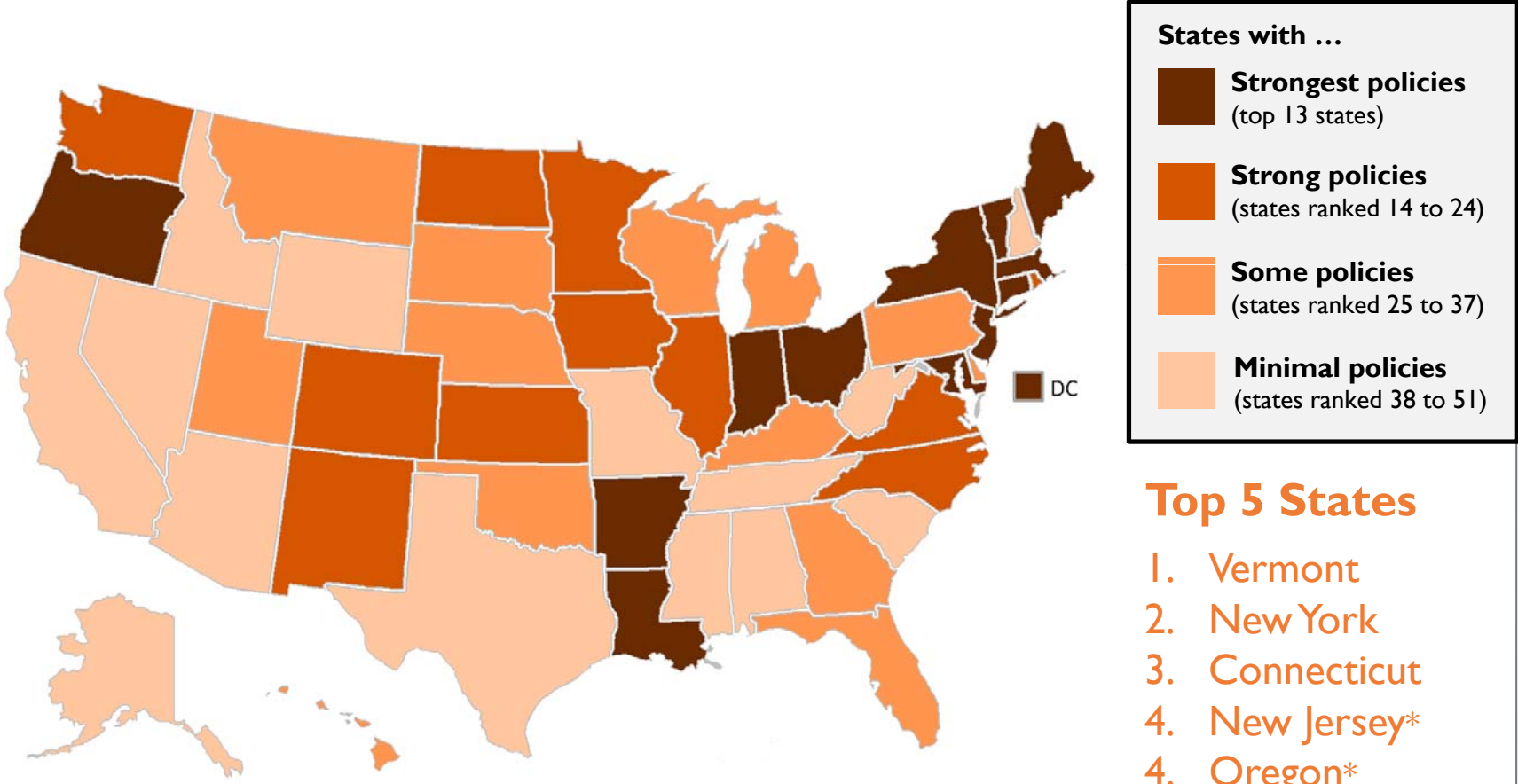
Upside-down subsidies

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Strength of Policies Across the Country



* States tied for 4th

Strength of Oregon's Policies



Very strong policy



- State Microenterprise Support
- Access to Health Insurance



Strong policy, but some room for improvement



- State IDA Program Support
- Tax Credits for Working Families
- Protections for Predatory Short-Term Loans
- Financial Education in Schools



Some policy, but much room for improvement



- Job Quality Standards
- Lifting Asset Limits in Public Benefit Programs
- First-Time Homebuyer Assistance



Minimal policy



- Foreclosure Prevention and Protections
- Access to Quality K-12 Education



Weak policy



- College Savings Incentives

Your Voice Matters

- Policymakers need to hear your perspectives, experience and stories
- Policymakers' job is to serve their constituents – You!

Federal Assets for Independence Program in Jeopardy: 63% cut proposed

AFI Program Success:

- 1,100 IDA programs
- 82,000 IDA participants
- \$46+ million in personal savings
- 19,000 asset purchases
- Average savings: \$889
- Savings rate: 1.6%
- 75% female, 45% African-American, 18% Hispanic and 76% with children

- AFI provides majority of federal funding for IDA programs
- Many AFI projects target services to specific groups—refugees/immigrants, victims of domestic violence, homeless, individuals with disabilities
- 10,000s of AFI savers have bought homes, attended college or started a businesses
- IDA savers keep their homes and businesses and complete their college education

What You Can Do

- Congressmen Blumenauer and Walden need to know how this cut will affect your clients

CALL Capitol Switchboard to be connected to your member's office: **202.224.3121**

ASK for the person who handles appropriations

SAY "Assets for Independence program at HHS is proven strategy enabling low-income families to succeed as homeowners, college students or entrepreneurs.

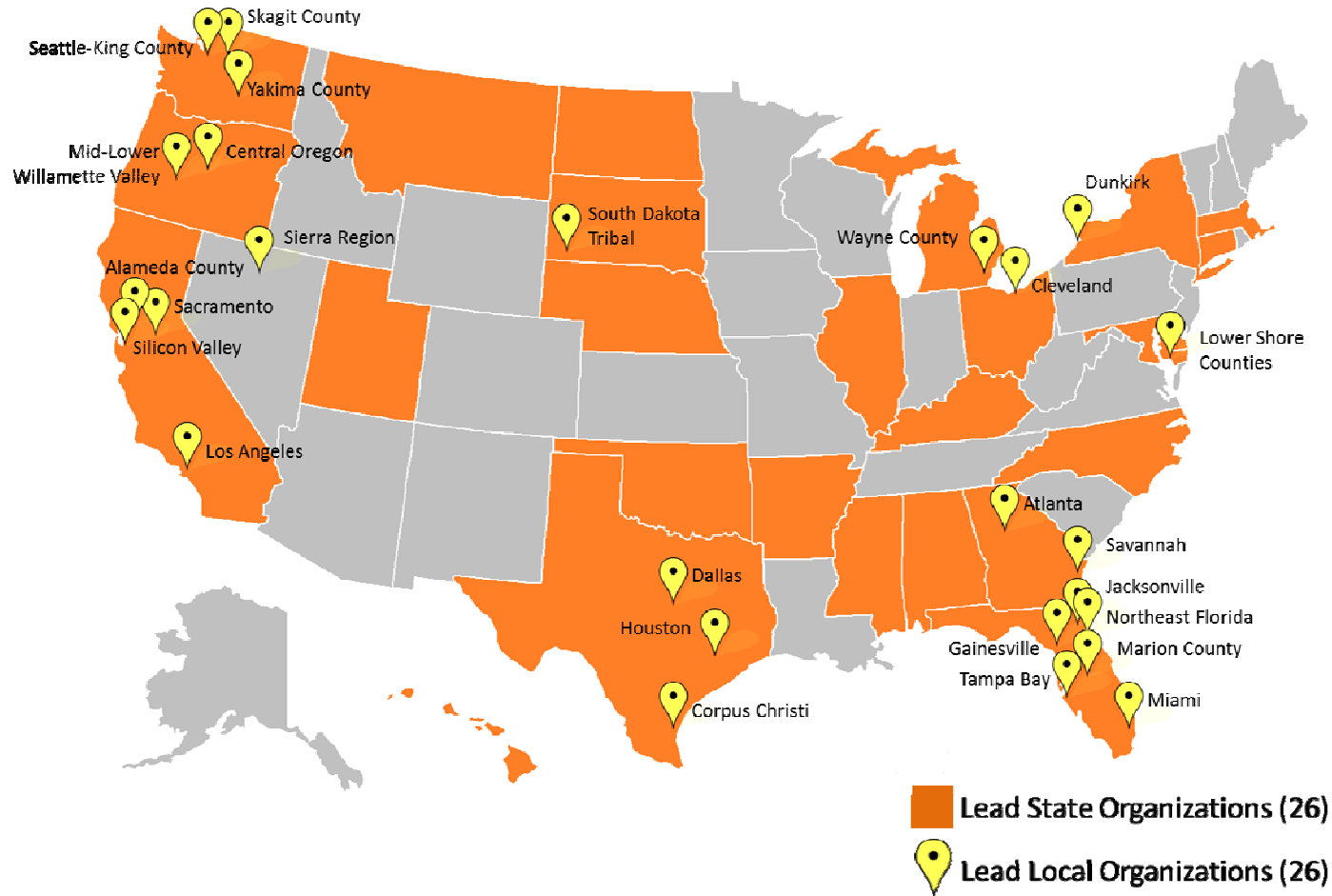
AFI program enables economic mobility.

Please follow Senate's lead and keep AFI level funded at \$24 million."

How You Can Stay Involved

- Join the new Assets & Opportunity Network
 - Movement-oriented group of advocates, practitioners, policymakers working to expand reach, deepen impact of asset-based strategies
 - Learning & advocacy community; enhancing capacity to deliver services & advocate at local, state and federal levels
 - Builds on, leverages and respects strong relationships that already exist in field: state and local asset coalitions
- Recently selected organizations in 26 states & 26 local areas as inaugural Lead State/Local Organizations

Lead State and Local Organizations



For more information ...

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