

Unified Social Assistance System (SUAS)

Thematic area	Social Assistance.
Summary	Government-run system that organizes and funds social assistance services in Brazil based on a participatory and decentralized management model.
General objective	<p>Guarantee social protection for families and individuals in a situation of vulnerability or social risk, through the provision of services, programs, projects and social assistance benefits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Ensure access to income by the population living in poverty or extreme poverty, and by elderly people and people with disabilities who are unable to maintain themselves or be maintained by their families. » Provide support for preventing and overcoming weaknesses in family, social and community relationships as the result of situations involving the abuse of rights, such as violence, neglect and abandonment.
Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Provide protection in situations of extreme risk such as public calamities. » Offer refuge to people who are temporarily or permanently homeless. » Assist people benefiting from the SUAS services to access other services provided under other sectoral policies, by establishing partnerships and taking joint initiatives. » Mobilize and sensitize communities.
Year launched	2005.
Key stakeholders	<p>Ministry of Development and Fight against Hunger (MDS)-National Social Assistance Secretariat (SNAS).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Entes federativos (União, estados, municípios e Distrito Federal);
Other stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Conselhos de assistência social, comissões, conferências, fóruns, entre outros; » Trabalhadores, usuários da política e entidades de assistência social.

Management and implementation

All the federative entities are responsible for co-financing and coordinating social assistance policy in their respective areas.

- » The Federal Government, through the MDS, is responsible for establishing national parameters covering the provision of social assistance services through agreements with the relevant decision-making bodies, as well as supplying technical assistance to the States and funding the Continuous Cash Benefit and Bolsa Familia programs.
- » The States are exclusively charged with providing technical support to the municipalities, co-financing the Eventual Benefits program and supplying regionalized services.
- » The Municipalities are responsible for establishing the decentralized SUAS and its services in their respective areas, co-financing the Eventual Benefits program and ensuring that the social assistance services are provided for citizens living in the municipality.

Provision of social assistance services involves the following public bodies: Social Assistance Reference Center (CRAS); Specialized Social Assistance Reference Center (CREAS); Center for Street People (*Centro POP*) and non-state public bodies such as the Day Centers and Inclusive Residences.

SUAS action plans and funds allocation are determined in the Tripartite and Bipartite Intermanagement Commissions (CIT and CIB respectively). These procedures are monitored and approved by the National Social Assistance Council (CNAS) and its local equivalents charged with social control. SUAS financial and management operations receive support from the SUAS Network (Rede SUAS) in terms of assistance in the management, monitoring and evaluation of the various activities.

Target audience	Individuals and families in a situation of vulnerability and social risk.
Selection criteria for target audience	There is no selection criteria for the population served by the Social Assistance Policy. However, the services give priority to the groups that are considered to be in situations of greater vulnerability and risk.
Coverage	National.

The Social Assistance Policy is funded by society as a whole, either directly or indirectly, through the budget of the Union, the States, the Municipalities and the Federal District, and by the social contributions by employers and workers, as well as lottery receipts and taxes on imports.

Funding sources

SUAS funding model:

Funding the SUAS is shared between the Union, States and the Municipalities, using the Fund-to-Fund modality based on Social Protection Floors (SPF). All the federative entities are required to submit accounts and have them approved by the Social Assistance Councils.

Supplementary information

More information can be found at <http://www.mds.gov.br/assistenciasocial/> (only in Portuguese).