







Ministry of Women and Child Development | Budget Insights

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KEY HIGHLIGHTS

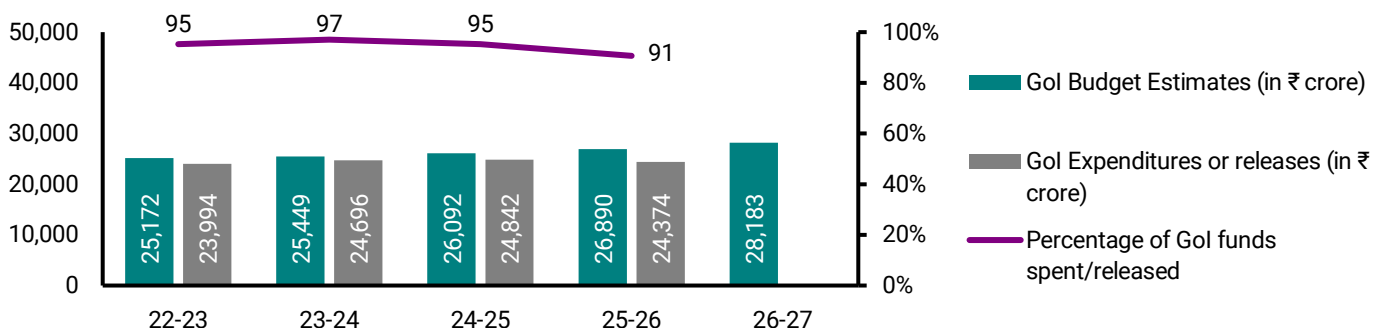
-  ₹28,183 crore has been allocated to the Ministry of Women and Child Development in FY 26-27 Budget Estimates (BE) -16 per cent higher than FY 25-26 Revised Estimates (REs), but only 5 per cent higher than the BEs.
-  Mission POSHAN 2.0 is the largest scheme within the Ministry, accounting for roughly four-fifths (82 per cent) of total allocations.
-  Fund utilisation remains uneven across schemes, with Mission Shakti and Mission Vatsalya consistently spending below initial allocations in recent years.
-  Releases under several women-centric schemes remain slow, with less than one-third of allocated funds released for key components such as One Stop Centres and Women Helplines in FY 25-26 (till November).
-  Despite large scale expansion of Anganwadi infrastructure, gaps remain in service delivery, with only about two-thirds of eligible beneficiaries receiving supplementary nutrition in recent months.
-  Progress in expanding childcare infrastructure under the Palna scheme remains slow, with less than one-fifth of approved Anganwadi-cum-Creches operational till December 25.

According to the Census 2011, women and children constituted 68 per cent of the country's population. The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) caters to women, children (0-6 years), and adolescent girls through several initiatives, including schemes, policies, laws, among others. 4.61 18.58

Trends in finances for the Ministry of Women and Child Development

- In FY 26-27 BEs, ₹28,183 crore was allocated to the MWCD, an increase of 16 per cent as compared to the REs of the previous year, but only 5 per cent higher than the previous year's BEs.

Figure 1: MWCD Financial Trends (in ₹ crore)



Source: Union Expenditure Budget, MWCD, FY 24-25 to FY 26-27, [url](#), last accessed on 3 February 2026.

Note: Figures are BEs. Expenditure is actuals till FY 24-25 and REs for FY 25-26.

- Utilisation or release of Government of India (GoI) funds has been high. In FY 22-23, 95 per cent of initial allocations were spent. In FY 23-24, this increased to 97 per cent, before dropping again.
- As a share of the total Union budget, however, allocations have been low. The Department-related standing committee noted in FY 25-26 that MWCD allocations account for only 0.53 per cent of the total budget for the year. This meagre allocation for a majority of the population was insufficient to facilitate implementation of different schemes.¹

KEY SCHEMES OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

This section summarises financial trends across the MWCD's major schemes. Detailed descriptions of each scheme are provided in **Annexure-1**.

- Over the years, several sub-schemes have been combined to create three main umbrella schemes. These are:
 - **Mission Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0** (hereafter, Mission POSHAN 2.0) comprises three main sub-schemes:
 - **Anganwadi Services:** provides home cooked meals and take-home rations for children (0-6 years), pregnant women and lactating mothers to address malnutrition, and delivers Early Childhood Care and Education via Anganwadis.
 - **Scheme for adolescent girls (SAG):** addresses the inter-generational problem of malnutrition by focusing on adolescent girls (14-18 years), keeping in view the life cycle approach.
 - **Poshan Abhiyaan:** aims to reduce the level of stunting, under-nutrition, anemia and low birth weight in children through use of technology, targeted approaches and convergence.

Anganwadi Services is the largest sub-scheme accounting for 95 per cent of the allocations.

- **Mission Vatsalya** provides institutional and non-institutional child protection and welfare services and includes the erstwhile Child Protection Services (CPS) and Child Welfare Services (CWS) sub-schemes.
- **Mission Shakti** comprises two sub-schemes i.e. Sambal and Samarthya, for women's empowerment and safety, respectively:
 - Sambal includes one-stop centres,² *beti bachao beti padhao (BBBP)*,³ women helpline⁴ and *nari adalat*.⁵
 - Samarthya includes Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY),⁶ Palna,⁷ Shakti Sadan,⁸ working women hostels i.e. Sakhi Niwas⁹ and SANKALP.¹⁰
- In addition, funding also goes for Autonomous bodies which include Savitribai Phule National Institute of Women and Child Development (SPNIWCD), the Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA), the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), the National Commission for Women (NCW), and the Central Social Welfare Board.
- Mission POSHAN 2.0 is the largest scheme within MWCD accounting for 82 per cent of FY 26-27 BEs. It is followed by Mission Shakti (11 per cent), and then Mission Vatsalya (5 per cent). Autonomous bodies account for 1 per cent.
- In FY 25-26, all schemes with the exception of Autonomous bodies saw cuts in the REs compared to the BEs ranging from 37 per cent for Mission Shakti to 5 per cent for Mission POSHAN 2.0. Autonomous bodies on the other hand saw a 25 per cent increase.
- For FY 26-27 BEs, ₹23,100 crore has been allocated to Mission POSHAN 2.0, 10 per cent higher than REs for FY 25-26 but only 5 per cent higher than the BEs. Similarly, while Mission Shakti also saw a significant 60 per cent increase compared to the REs, but when compared to the BEs the increase was only ₹950 crore (2 per cent). Lastly, while allocations for Mission Vatsalya increased by 41 per cent compared to the REs of FY 25-26, they were only 3 per cent compared to the BEs.
- Utilisation of funds has been high for autonomous bodies and Mission POSHAN 2.0. On the other hand, utilisation has been relatively low for Mission Shakti and Mission Vatsalya. For FY 22-23, 73 per cent of the BEs was spent for Mission Shakti. This reduced to 48 per cent and 58 per cent in FY 23-24 and FY 24-25, respectively.
- In contrast, utilisation has increased for Mission Vatsalya. For FY 22-23, 71 per cent of BEs were spent, this increased to over 90 per cent in the following years.

Table 1: Allocations and Utilisation for key schemes

In ₹ crore		22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27
Autonomous Bodies	BE	153	169	153	157	190
	Actuals	175	187	169	196	
	% spent	114%	111%	110%	125%	
Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 (Umbrella ICDS - Anganwadi Services, Poshan Abhiyan, Scheme for Adolescent Girls)	BE	20,263	20,554	21,200	21,960	23,100
	Actuals	19,876	21,810	21,014	20,949	
	% spent	98%	106%	99%	95%	
Mission VATSALYA (Child Protection Services and Child Welfare Services)	BE	1,472	1,472	1,472	1,500	1,550
	Actuals	1,043	1,391	1,406	1,100	
	% spent	71%	94%	95%	73%	
Mission Shakti (Mission for Protection and Empowerment for Women)	BE	3,184	3,144	3,146	3,150	3,200
	Actuals	2,340	1,522	1,835	2,000	
	% spent	73%	48%	58%	63%	

Source: Union Expenditure Budget, MWCD, FY 24-25 to FY 26-27, [url](#), last accessed on 3 February 2026.

The next section looks a little deeper into the sub-schemes. Before FY 21-22, the sub-schemes were displayed as separate budget line items. After the reconstitution into umbrella schemes, information on sub-schemes isn't available in the Union budget. The Standing Committee Report provides some details.

Mission Poshan 2.0

There are differences in the projections by the Ministry and actual BEs for FY 25-26. While all projected funds were allocated in the BE stage for Poshan Abhiyan and SAG, BEs were 46 per cent less than projections for Anganwadi Services.

Table 2: Mission Poshan 2.0 Sub-schemes

Sub-schemes	Projections for FY 25-26	BEs	BE over projections
Anganwadi Services	38,403	20,879	-46%
Poshan Abhiyan	630	630	0%
SAG	451	451	0%

Source: Three Hundred and Sixty Fifth Report, Demand for Grants 2025-26 of the Ministry of Women and Child Development. 28 March 2025, [url](#), last accessed on 5 February 2026.

Mission Shakti

As previously mentioned, there are two sub-schemes within Mission Shakti known as Sambal and Samarthya.

Sambal:

- BEs were the same as projections for FY 25-26 for BBBP and Women Helplines (WHLs) but were 33 per cent lower for Nari Adalat and 3 per cent lower for One Stop Centres (OSCs).

Table 3: Sambal Sub-components

	Projections for FY 25-26	BEs	BE over projections
One Stop Centres	358	348	-3%
Beti Bachao Beti Padoo	222	222	0%
Women Helpline	57	57	0%
Nari Adalat	3	2	-33%

Source: Three Hundred and Sixty Fifth Report, Demand for Grants 2025-26 of the Ministry of Women and Child Development. 28 March 2025, [url](#), last accessed on 5 February 2026.

- Release of funds has been low. In FY 23-24, for OSC and WHL, 78 per cent of the allocated funds were released. This decreased to 42 per cent in FY 24-25. In FY 25-26, till 30 November 2025, only 29 per cent had been released.
- Release of funds was even lower for BBBP with only 40 per cent of funds released in FY 23-24, 15 per cent in FY 24-25 and till November 2025, only 13 per cent had been released

Table 4: Release of funds for OSC and WHL and BBBP

		OSC and WHL	BBBP
23-24	BEs	338	222
	Releases	265	89
	Proportion of funds released	78%	40%
24-25	BEs	405	222
	Releases	169	33
	Proportion of funds released	42%	15%
25-26 till 30 November 2025	BEs	405	222
	Releases	116	30
	Proportion of funds released	29%	13%

Source: (1) Three Hundred and Sixty Fifth Report, Demand for Grants 2025-26 of the Ministry of Women and Child Development. 28 March 2025. Accessed on 5 February 2026, [url](#), last accessed on 5 February 2026 (2) Releases from Lok Sabha unstarred question 2103 (12 December 2025) [url](#).

Samarthya:

- PMMVY is the largest scheme within Samarthya. In FY 25-26 BEs, it accounted for 87 per cent of the component's budget. It is followed by Palna (5 per cent), and Shakti Sadan.
- In FY 25-26, funds allocated for PMMVY were 6 per cent more than the amount projected by the Ministry. They were, however, 29 per cent lower for Shakti Sadan and 17 per cent less for Palna.
- Over time, allocations (BEs) for PMMVY have remained relatively stable. In FY 23-24 and FY 24-25, ₹2,067 crore was allocated to PMMVY. In FY 25-26, it increased marginally by 6 per cent.
- Releases for PMMVY have been variable. In FY 22-23, 99 per cent was released or spent. This decreased to 42 per cent in FY 23-24 but rose again to 70 per cent in FY 24-25. In FY 25-26, till 30 November 2025, only 44 per cent had been released.

Table 5: PMMVY Releases and Allocations

PMMVY	BE	Releases	Proportion of funds released
22-23	2,048	2,033	99%
23-24	2,067	870	42%
24-25	2,067	1,448	70%
25-26 till 30 November 2025	2,185	955	44%

Source: (1) Three Hundred and Sixty Fifth Report, Demand for Grants 2025-26 of the Ministry of Women and Child Development. 28 March 2025. Accessed on 5 February 2026, [url](#), last accessed on 5 February 2026. (2) Releases from Lok Sabha unstarred question 2103 (12 December 2025) [url](#).

- Allocations for Palna increased significantly by 76 per cent from ₹85 crore in FY 23-24 to ₹150 crore in FY 24-25. Allocations, however, decreased in FY 25-26 to ₹125 crore.
- Releases or utilisation of funds have been slow. In FY 22-23, 6 per cent was released. This increased to 75 per cent in FY 23-24 but decreased again to 30 per cent in FY 24-25. In FY 25-26, till November, 8 per cent was released.

Table 6: Palna Releases and Allocations

Palna	BE	Releases	Proportion of funds released
22-23	75	4.68	6%
23-24	85	64.15	75%
24-25	150	45.17	30%
25-26 till 30 November 2025	125	10.26	8%

Source: (1) Three Hundred and Sixty Fifth Report, Demand for Grants 2025-26 of the Ministry of Women and Child Development. 28 March 2025. Accessed on 5 February 2026, [url](#), last accessed on 5 February 2026. (2) Releases from Lok Sabha unstarred question 2103 (12 December 2025) [url](#).

MAIN DEVELOPMENTS

- As of December 2025, there were a total of 14,02,983 Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) functional across the country, but only 11,05,295 (79 per cent) had functional toilets and 13,01,927 (93 per cent) had functional drinking water.¹¹ The Department related standing committee also noted that given population increases and the assumed coverage of 800 people per centre, there may be a need to expand coverage.¹²
- As of December 2025, 98 per cent of AWCs were open for at least 15 days and 95 per cent for 21 days.¹³ The Department related standing committee also noted that at least 5,000 AWCs were not open for even a single day in the last six months and there are several thousand AWCs where the number of beneficiaries is much less than the potential.¹⁴
- Of the 8,58,54,509 eligible citizens for **SNP**, over the last 15 days of December 2025, only 69 per cent received SNP.¹⁵
- As per **Mission POSHAN 2.0** guidelines, it is necessary for eligible citizens to be linked and verified for Aadhaar to avail scheme benefits, except children who may use mother's Aadhaar card. According to the Poshan Tracker, as of December 2025, over 99.88 per cent of eligible citizens were Aadhaar verified. The Tracker also indicates that 97 per cent of the children between 0-6 years underwent growth monitoring.¹⁶
- There were 2.13 lakh vacant posts for Anganwadi Workers and Helpers as of March 2025 which the Committee recommended be filled by December 2025.¹⁷ Further, the Committee recommended that the honorarium given for Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) (₹4,500 for AWWs and ₹2,250 per month for helpers) should be increased in the next five years, along with doubling of the performance incentive currently at ₹250 per month is provided to Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs) and ₹500 for AWWs.
- The Committee further recommended transforming AWCs into Smart Nutrition Hubs by introducing digital monitoring systems, mobile health services, and technology-enabled nutrition tracking including with Artificial Intelligence.
- The Prime Minister launched PM-JANMAN (Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan) in November 2023 to support the development of 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) across 18 States and one Union Territory through coordinated interventions by nine Ministries, including MWCD. Under this mission, 2,500 AWCs are to be sanctioned and constructed between FY 23-24 and FY 25-26, at an estimated cost of ₹12 lakh per centre. Till March 2025, 1,645 AWCs had been sanctioned and 745 were operational (30 per cent of target).¹⁸
- Under Samagra Shiksha, teaching-learning material of ₹500 per child is provided while for AWCs it is ₹1,000. To ensure quality early childhood care and education, the Committee recommended increasing funds for learning materials, providing regular ECCE training for AWWs, and appointing an additional trained worker in centres, including upgrading suitable existing helpers where possible. The same has not yet been accepted.
- As on December 2025, out of 1,025 approved **OSC**, 864 OSCs (84 per cent) were operational across the county and 655 had been integrated with the WHL.¹⁹ Out of 36 states/UTs,15 states/UTs had operationalised all their approved OSCs. Delhi (50 per cent) and Bihar (60 per cent) had the least proportion of operational OSCs out of approved. Since inception i.e. 1st April, 2015 up to 30th September, 2025, over 12.67 lakh women have been assisted in the country²⁰.
- As on 8 December 2025, there were 4.69 crore citizens enrolled under **PMMVY**. Of them 4.25 crore had been paid, with total disbursements of 19,987 crore disbursed.²¹ However, in recent years the number of enrolled PMMVY citizens has been falling. In FY 22-23, 62 lakh women were enrolled, this decreased to 51 lakh in FY 24-25. In FY 25-26 till October only 23 lakh were enrolled.²²
- Progress on creation of Anganwadi-cum-Creches (AWCCs) under **Palna** has been slow. Till FY 25-26, a total of 17,000 AWCCs had been envisioned for establishment under the Palna Scheme. Of this, 14,599 AWCCs (86 per cent) were approved by the Ministry till August 2025.²³ Till 12 December only 2,820 (17 per cent of the target) were functional across the country. Delhi had the highest number at 502.²⁴

- The number of operational **Shakti Sadans** (SSs) has been falling. In FY 21-22, there were 464 operational SSs. As on 30 April 2024, this had decreased to 445 and as on 31 December 2024, it had fallen further to 404.²⁵ Between 1 April 2014 and 31 December 2024, 2.92 lakh women have been assisted under the scheme.
- There remain significant vacancies in Autonomous bodies. Till 31 December 2024, 43 per cent of regular posts and 36 per cent of contractual posts were vacant for NIPCCD. Similarly, 55 per cent positions were vacant for NCW.²⁶
- The NCW received a total of 28,811 complaints in 2023, down from 30,957 the previous year. In recent years however the number of complaints closed has been falling from 97 per cent in 2020 to 66 per cent in 2022 and 68 per cent in 2023. In 2024, 20,696 complaints had been received till 10 October, of which only 8,661 (42 per cent) were closed.²⁷

ANNEXURE: KEY SCHEMES AND SUBSCHEMES

<p>Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0</p> <p>The schemes of Anganwadi Services, Poshan Abhiyaan and Scheme for Adolescent Girls of the erstwhile Umbrella ICDS have been revamped and brought under the Umbrella Scheme of Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0. The sub-schemes of the scheme are as under:</p>	<p>Anganwadi Services</p>	<p>A sub-component of Mission POSHAN 2.0, the scheme provides a package of six services, viz., supplementary nutrition, non-formal pre-school education, nutrition & health education, immunisation, health check-up and referral services.</p>
	<p>Poshan Abhiyaan:</p>	<p>A sub-component of Mission POSHAN 2.0, the Poshan Abhiyan aims to reduce the level of stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia and low birth weight in children through use of technology, targeted approach and convergence. It also aims to address the issue of malnutrition among adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers.</p>
	<p>Scheme for Adolescent Girls</p>	<p>A sub-component of Mission POSHAN 2.0, the Scheme for Adolescent Girls (14 to 18 years) addresses the inter-generational problem of malnutrition by focusing on adolescent girls keeping in view the life cycle approach.</p>
<p>Mission Shakti</p> <p>The erstwhile scheme of 'Mission for Protection and Empowerment of Women' has been revamped and brought under the Umbrella Scheme of Mission Shakti from the year 2021-22.</p>	<p>SAMBAL</p>	<p>This sub-scheme includes components viz. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, One Stop Centre, Nari Adalat and Women Helpline.</p>
	<p>SAMARTHYA</p>	<p>The sub-scheme includes various components viz Shakti Sadan, Shakti Niwas, Palna, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, National Hub for Women Empowerment, Gender Budgeting, Research/ Skilling/ Training/Media Advocacy etc.</p>
<p>Mission Vatsalya</p> <p>The scheme is being implemented with a view to create a safe and secure environment for comprehensive development of children who are in need of care and protection, children in conflict with law and other vulnerable children.</p>		
<p>National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development</p> <p>NIPCCD is an autonomous body under the Ministry which conducts research and evaluation studies, organizes training programmes, seminars, workshops, conferences, provides information services in the field of public cooperation and child development and also caters to the need of training and research consultancy.</p>		
<p>Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA)</p> <p>Central Adoption Resource Authority is a statutory body of MWCD. It functions as the nodal body for adoption of Indian children and is mandated to monitor and regulate intra country and inter country adoptions.</p>		
<p>National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)</p> <p>The NCPCR was set up under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 to ensure better protection of the rights of the child through the monitoring of constitutional and legal rights of children and monitoring programmes relating to the survival, welfare and development of children.</p>		
<p>National Commission for Women (NCW)</p> <p>National Commission for Women is a statutory body constituted under National Commission for Women Act 1990. It has the mandate to investigate and examine all matters relating to the safeguards provided for women under the Constitution and other laws.</p>		

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- ¹Three Hundred and Sixty Fifth Report, Demand for Grants 2025-26 of the Ministry of Women and Child Development. 28 March 2025. Accessed on 5 February 2026, available at [url](#).
- ²They are established across all districts and act as a one-stop resource for counselling, medical and legal aid, filing police complaints etc. for survivors of violence.
- ³Aims to improve sex ratio at birth through zero-budget advertising, and improve girls' participation in higher education and sports.
- ⁴A 24-hour toll-free telecom service for supporting and connecting women to emergency services such as one-stop centres, fire, ambulance, police etc.
- ⁵Provides alternate grievance redressal to women for resolving petty crimes.
- ⁶A conditional cash transfer scheme, compensating for partial-wage loss during pregnancy. It recently extended benefits to women for second live birth, only if it is a girl child.
- ⁷Provides quality creche facilities to children of working mothers. It is implemented in convergence with Mission POSHAN 2.0, and creche facilities are delivered at Anganwadi Centres.
- ⁸Shelters which provide a safe and enabling environment for women in distress. They provide consolidated services like legal aid, medical facilities, counselling, and education and vocational training.
- ⁹Provide residence to working women with functional facilities like food, day-care, among others.
- ¹⁰A national Hub for Empowerment of Women it aims to promote inter-sectoral and inter-ministerial convergence and improve processes of programmes and schemes for women's holistic empowerment.
- ¹¹Poshan tracker dashboard. Accessed on 5 February 2026, [url](#).
- ¹²Three Hundred and Sixty Fifth Report, Demand for Grants 2025-26 of the Ministry of Women and Child Development. 28 March 2025. Accessed on 5 February 2026 , available at [url](#).
- ¹³Poshan tracker dashboard. Accessed on 5 February 2026. [url](#)
- ¹⁴Three Hundred and Sixty Fifth Report, Demand for Grants 2025-26 of the Ministry of Women and Child Development. 28 March 2025. Accessed on 5 February 2026, available at [url](#).
- ¹⁵Poshan tracker dashboard. Accessed on 5 February 2026. [url](#)
- ¹⁶*Ibid.*
- ¹⁷Three Hundred and Sixty Fifth Report, Demand for Grants 2025-26 of the Ministry of Women and Child Development. 28 March 2025. Accessed on 5 February 2026, available at [url](#).
- ¹⁸*Ibid.*
- ¹⁹Lok Sabha Unstarred Question 1102. Answered on 5 December 2025. Accessed on 3 February 2025. [url](#)
- ²⁰*Ibid.*
- ²¹Lok Sabha Unstarred Question 2159. Accessed on 3 February 2026. [url](#)
- ²²RTI Response dated 15 October 2025.
- ²³Lok Sabha Unstarred Question 3324. Answered on 8 August 2025. Accessed on 3 February 2026. [url](#)
- ²⁴Lok Sabha Unstarred Question 2296. Answered on 12 December 2025. Accessed on 3 February 2026. [url](#)
- ²⁵Shakti Sadan Dashboard. Accessed on 5 February 2025. [url](#)
- ²⁶Three Hundred and Sixty Fifth Report, Demand for Grants 2025-26 of the Ministry of Women and Child Development. 28 March 2025. Accessed on 5 February 2026, , available at [url](#).
- ²⁷*Ibid.*

About ResGov

The Foundation for Responsive Governance (ResGov) is a Section 8 not-for-profit working to strengthen the capabilities of government and communities to ensure public initiatives reach the most vulnerable.

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