A program may consist of an entire strategy or a subset of one or more strategies. A program is defined as an agency function, activity or group of activities that meets one or more of the following criteria:

- A named program, function, or activity [i.e., named in federal and/or state law, agency rules (T.A.C.), or identified by a common name];
- A group of activities designed to achieve a specified goal;
- Is funded at one (1) percent or more of the agency’s budget;
- Is directly related to the core mission of the agency;
- Is referenced in a rider;
- Is a funding decision point for the legislature; and/or
- It is historically of interest to the legislature or the public.

While state agencies and institutions of higher education are consulted in identifying programs, ultimately State Budget by Program (SBP) programs are determined by LBB staff. Therefore, SBP programs may not be the same as programs developed by state agencies for their internal operations.