



March 3, 2010

Community Action Agencies in Massachusetts are Fighting Poverty with ARRA Resources!

...creating jobs, weatherizing homes, and much more

Massachusetts community action agencies have received ARRA stimulus funding under the Community Services Block Grant, Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program, Workforce Investment Act, Weatherization Assistance Program, and Head Start programs. With ARRA funding, Massachusetts community action agencies have:

- created jobs
- expanded production in weatherization programs;
- restored homeless prevention services that were cut from the 2009 Massachusetts state budget;
- maintained and expanded asset building, education and training programs;
- created new service sites;
- expanded health care, community development, and organizing initiatives.

In just 5-6 months¹, Massachusetts community action agencies have already produced impressive outcomes with ARRA funds:

Jobs: 2085 jobs

- **279 jobs created** and **95 jobs retained** at 22 Massachusetts community action agencies;
- **1142 summer jobs** and **309 after school jobs** provided for youth;
- **133 other subsidized jobs** (transitional employment, employment for ex-offenders, and foster grandparents);
- **132 private sector jobs created.** Massachusetts community action agencies worked with the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development to expand the number of trained and approved Weatherization Assistance Program contractors from 55 to 88. These 33 contractors have hired 132 employees to complete Weatherization Assistance Program jobs.

With ARRA funds, community action agencies are helping unemployed people get back to work. Job developers, and counselors at MASSCAP agencies have placed **209** low income individuals in **unsubsidized jobs in the private sector.**

An additional 1,154 people are enrolled in new education and training programs created with ARRA funds. These include Adult Basic Education, English as a Second Language, job coaching and job development services, job readiness workshops, and professional training programs. Professional training programs have been developed or expanded to train unemployed individuals to become early childhood teachers, certified nursing assistants, home health aides, machinists, weatherization installers, office managers, or construction workers (Youthbuild).

Weatherization: 1825 Housing Units Weatherized

- 1825 housing units weatherized;
- 3 hands-on weatherization training centers established.

Housing: 822 Households in Housing

- 658 households prevented from becoming homeless and 164 homeless families placed in permanent housing. Services provided include: Short and medium term rental assistance: 304; Utility assistance: 53; Legal services: 96; Case management including advocacy and/or housing search: 822;
- 84 homeless individuals provided emergency shelter in program that would have otherwise closed due to State budget cuts.

Food: 3000+ Households Fed

- 2476 households provided food vouchers and food;
- 108,098 pounds of food provided to community agencies for distribution to additional households;
- 513 households provided assistance applying for SNAP (Food Stamps) benefits.

Children: 369 more Head Start slots and 60 youth in after school programs

- 188 children in new Head Start programs, including Early Head Start, and another 181 Head Start openings slated to open by August 2010;
- 60 youth in after school programs.

Health Care: 1852 access health insurance/health care

- 967 people provided help applying for and maintaining health insurance;
- 752 people receive health care services (family planning, health screenings immunizations, nutrition education, at-home Alzheimers case management, mental health counseling);
- 133 people receive assistance resolving medical debts.

Assets: 2000+ receive financial education/taxpayer assistance

- 899 provided financial education including workshops and individualized counseling;
- 7 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance programs maintained, 61 volunteers recruited, and 1205 tax returns submitted (\$2,524,229 in Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Care Tax Credit returned to low income Massachusetts taxpayers);
- 21 low families open new IDA accounts;
- 18 low income families purchase first homes.

ⁱ Outcomes represent a. reported CSBG ARRA outcomes from July 2009-December 2009 for 22 of 24 Massachusetts community action agencies; b. Massachusetts Weatherization Assistance Program production from September 2009-January 2010; c. Workforce Investment Act ARRA 2009 summer jobs funding for Massachusetts; d. Head Start ARRA outcomes for 22 of 24 community action agencies (July 2009-present); and e. HPRP outcomes (CAAs received HPRP funds at different times over the program year, with most receiving and reporting for December 2009-January 2010 only).