



# MASSCAP

Massachusetts Association for Community Action

Creating Opportunity. Changing Lives. Ending Poverty.

## Public Policy Priorities

*Our public policy priorities support our mission to collectively advocate along with the State's 23 Community Action Agencies for an end to poverty. Every day we work together to help MA residents living with low incomes to stabilize their lives and achieve economic prosperity.*



## Our FY19 Budget Priorities



### **Strengthening Families through Affordable and Accessible Early Education and Care**

- **Increase Early Education Teacher Salary Line Item (3000-1042) - \$20.4M**
- **Increase Head Start Line Item (3000-5000) - \$12M**
- **Increase Child Care Resource Referral Access Management in Early Education Program (3000-2000) - \$8.675M**
- **Maximize Facilities: Early Education and Out of School Time Capital Fund (EEOST)**
- **Support Education and Transportation through Graduated Income Tax**



### **Bridging the Wage Gap**

- **Expand State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to 30% of Federal - \$260M**
- **Increase Resources for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program Sites (1201-0100) - \$800,000**
- **Raise the Minimum Wage to \$15/hour over 4 Years**



### **Creating a Foundation for Economic Opportunity**

- **Add Supplemental FY18 Allocation for Fuel Assistance (7004-xxxx) - \$25M**
- **Support Services for Unaccompanied Youth Housing and Wraparound Services (4000-0007) - \$4M**
- **Restore End Family Homelessness Fund (1599-0017) - \$1.5M**
- **Renew Sewer and Water Rate Relief (LISAWAP) Program - \$1.4M**
- **Increase MA Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) - \$120M**
- **Remove Family Cap on Kids**



### **Strengthening Critical Human Services Infrastructure**

- **Create State Line Item to Support Community Action Agencies - \$5M**
- **Provide Additional Resources for MA Legal Assistance Network (0321-1600) - \$23M**



## Our FY19 Policy Priorities

We join our allies to support the following legislative initiatives:

 **H.659: Protect Families Experiencing Homelessness from Having to Sleep in Unsafe Places (Representative Decker)**

 **S.1305 and H.3269 Safe Communities Act (Senator Eldridge and Representative Matias)**


 **S.81 and H.2420 Great Neighborhoods Zoning (Senator Chandler and Representative Kulik)**


## About MASSCAP and Community Action

The Massachusetts Association for Community Action (MASSCAP) is the statewide association of the 23 Community Action Agencies operating in Massachusetts. Through the combined skills and vision of its members, MASSCAP works to enhance the ability of each agency to better serve its clients. We work with the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development and other state agencies to open doors to economic prosperity for low-income Massachusetts residents.


Since their inception as part of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, Community Action Agencies have helped low-income Americans escape poverty and achieve economic security. Through programs such as Head Start, job training, housing, food banks, energy assistance, and financial education, Community Action Agencies tailor their services to meet the needs of the individuals and communities they serve. They put a human face on poverty, advocate for those who don't have a voice, and provide opportunities.


## Our Statewide Impact


 +600,000 served annually


 +30,000 obtained child care including before/after school care


 +8,500 served by Head Start

 +17,000 accessed free tax prep bringing back +\$32M in tax credits

 3,114 obtained employment

 +160,000 received fuel assistance

 3,664 households weatherized

 614,253 volunteer hours donated from those we serve