



Request for Proposals for Professional Services: Legislative-Executive Agent

September 7, 2018

MASSCAP is the association of the 23 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) – federally mandated anti-poverty agencies – operating in Massachusetts. CAAs were created 50 years ago as part of the Great Society programs to eliminate the paradox of poverty amidst plenty and to foster economic stability and mobility among our vulnerable friends and neighbors living with low incomes. MASSCAP’s mission is to strengthen and connect the statewide network of CAAs and collectively advocate for an end to poverty.

MASSCAP’s public policy agenda includes but is not limited to the following goals:

Strengthening Critical Human Services Infrastructure:

- Create State Line Item to Support Community Action Agencies

Creating a Foundation for Economic Opportunity:

- Create a Fuel Assistance Line Item (7004-xxxx)
- Support Services for Unaccompanied Youth Housing and Wraparound Services (4000-0007)

Strengthening Families through Affordable and Accessible Early Education and Care:

- Increase Early Education and Care Teacher Salary Line Item (3000-1042)
- Increase Head Start Line Item (3000-5000)

Bridging the Wage Gap:

- Expand the State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
- Increase Resources for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program Sites (1201-0100)

MASSCAP is seeking a legislative-executive agent to provide strategic and tactical advice and direction and to work with its Executive Director, its Public Policy Committee, and MASSCAP members to develop, pursue, and advocate for its public policy agenda.

The legislative-executive agent shall support MASSCAP’s public policy agenda by:

- Integrating into day to day activities the pursuit of MASSCAP's public policy agenda which includes, but is not limited to: legislative and regulatory initiatives that benefit the low-income and working families that CAAs serve;
- Maintaining an understanding of key CAA programs on the state and federal level;
- Providing a physical presence at the State House and actively representing CAAs and MASSCAP;
- Educating elected and appointed officials about CAAs, MASSCAP, and the needs of the low-income and working families;
- Working proactively to set up meetings throughout the year, and especially early in the state budget cycle, with the Speaker of the House, President of the Senate, the Chair people of House and Senate Ways and Means Committee and other legislative leaders as appropriate;
- Joining the Executive Director and MASSCAP member CAAs at the State House and other state government buildings to meet with state legislators, their staffs, and appointed officials and their staffs;
- Participating in MASSCAP Public Policy Committee meetings/calls and other relevant committee meetings and attending every MASSCAP board meetings and reporting via email on the progress of MASSCAP's pursuit of its public policy agenda;
- Proactively seeking, developing, and presenting legislative and budget opportunities to advance and support CAAs, MASSCAP, and its public policy agenda;
- Providing both strategic advice and outlining specific and detailed tactical steps in pursuit of the passage of legislation or the inclusion of budget line items that support MASSCAP's public policy goals.

These legislative and regulatory initiatives will include, but not be limited to, the components of MASSCAP's public policy agenda.

Please respond with an expression of interest and a brief summary of qualifications related to public policy advocacy and government relations. Please be sure to include a representative list of clients as well as examples of successful legislative and budget initiatives and/or outcomes.

Please send to Joe Diamond, MASSCAP Executive Director, at: joediamond@masscap.org by 5:00 PM on September 21, 2018.