

Community Services Block Grant in Action in MA

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) is the only federal program with the explicit and overarching goal of reducing poverty, regardless of its cause. CSBG pursues this goal by providing critical core funding to the national network of Community Action Agencies (CAAs)—local and trusted institutions—that serve our most needy children, families, and seniors, by providing programs and initiatives of documented success and enormous payback to society. In MA, the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) manages CSBG and distributes funds to our 23 CAAs. This flexible resource provides up to 10% of the CAA’s funding.

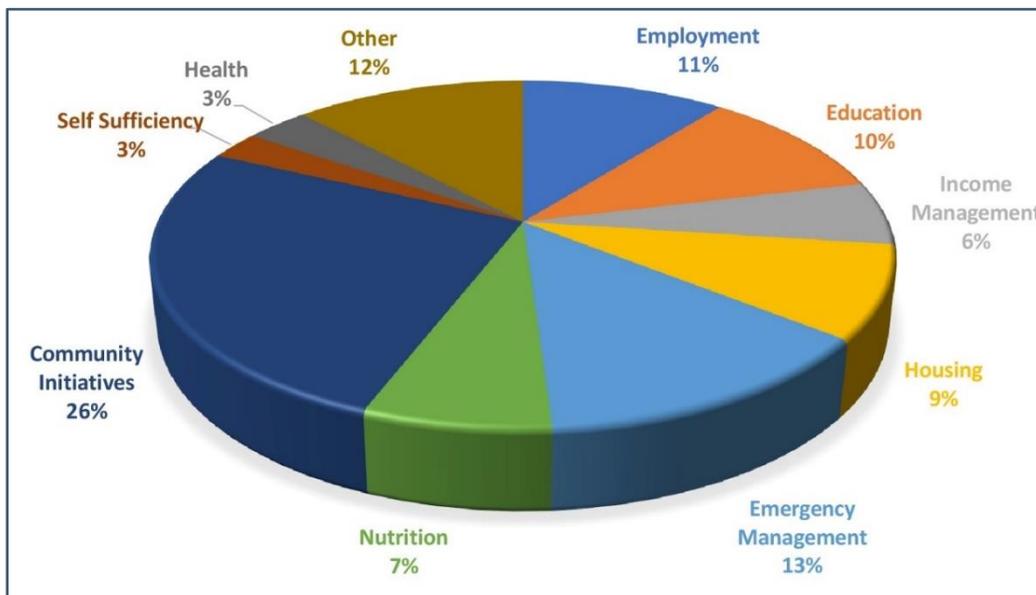


Who We Serve

-  Approximately 600,000 served annually with up to 75 different programs and services
-  46% of families served lived below 100% of the Federal Poverty guidelines
-  21% of families served were in severe poverty, below 50% of Federal Poverty Guidelines
-  Nearly 50% of individuals served work  Approx. 25% of individuals served are elderly

CSBG Network Resources

In FY17, more than \$16M was distributed to our 23 CAAs and used in the following way:



CSBG Supports Community Action Across MA

CSBG supports the work of Community Action Agencies, enabling them to create opportunities for our low-income neighbors and friends to become economically independent.

-  **Across MA**, 19 Agencies provide **free tax preparation** for low-wage working families.
-  In the **Boston** area, Action for Boston Community Development operates 14 **neighborhood-based community service centers**.
-  In **Lynn**, Lynn Economic Opportunity holds **English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes** for parents.
-  In **Gloucester** and **across the North Shore**, Action Inc. is partnering with cities and health organizations in a collaborative initiative to **address substance use disorders** through intensive case coordination, improved access to treatment and provision of recovery services.
-  In **Fitchburg**, Montachusett Opportunity Council is working with the public schools, child care providers and local businesses to increase access to **high quality early education and child care**.
-  In **Worcester**, Worcester Community Action Council works collaboratively with several community partners to develop/offer career pathway training opportunities, seeking to **increase sustainable employment** within the food services and healthcare industries.
-  In **Chicopee**, Valley Opportunity Council is working to **increase the number of affordable housing units** including renovating a former school to create low income and market rate housing units.
-  In the **Berkshires**, Berkshire Community Action Council is working with local financial institutions, car dealers and other nonprofits to operate the Community Action Rides (C.A.R.) program to address the need for **affordable and reliable transportation**.
-  In **Plymouth County**, South Shore Community Action Council runs a regional **Food Resource Program** distributing more than 480,000 pounds of food annually.

Community Action Agencies: Trusted, Local Institutions

Community Action Agencies in Massachusetts, and throughout the nation, embrace the principle of accountability through National Performance Standards, routinely prepare and submit independent audited financial statements, and are reviewed and monitored on an annual basis by federal and state funders.

Community Action Agencies provide reports to the U.S Department of Health and Human Services—under a federal requirement known as Results Oriented Management Accountability—detailing service outcomes for all programs that they administer.

