



MASSCAP

Massachusetts Association for Community Action

Creating Opportunity. Changing Lives. Ending Poverty.

Public Policy Priorities

2/6/19

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 FY20 Budget Priorities



Strengthening Families through Affordable and Accessible Early Education and Care

- Increase Early Education Teacher Salary Line Item (3000-1042) - \$24.45M
- Increase Head Start Line Item (3000-5000) - \$15M
- Increase Child Care Resource Referral Access Management in Early Education Program (3000-2000) - \$9.675M
- Maximize Facilities: Early Education and Out of School Time Capital Fund (EEOST)



Bridging the Wage Gap

- Increase Resources for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program Sites (1201-0100) - \$800,000
- Expand State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to 50% of Federal (\$460M)



Creating a Foundation for Economic Opportunity

- Add Supplemental FY19 Allocation for Fuel Assistance (7004-xxxx) - \$30M
- Support Services for Unaccompanied Youth Housing and Wraparound Services (4000-0007) - \$5M
- Renew Sewer and Water Rate Relief (LISAWAP) Program - \$1.4M
- Increase MA Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) - \$130M
- Remove Family Cap on Kids



Strengthening Critical Human Services Infrastructure

- Support legislation to address inequality, promote opportunity and end poverty. Authorize a line item to strengthen communities and support Community Action Agencies - \$5M
- Provide Additional Resources for MA Legal Assistance Network (0321-1600) - \$26M



Our Legislative Priorities (Partial)

An Act to address inequality, promote opportunity, and end poverty

HD783/SD867 *Sponsors: Representative Tackey Chan and Senator Michael Moore*

An Act to support voluntary income tax assistance sites and expand access to the earned income tax credit

HD1531/SD173/SD699 *Sponsors: Representative Linda Campbell, Senator Diana DiZoglio, Senator James Welch*

An Act improving the earned income credit for working families

HD3052/SD863 *Sponsor: Representative Marjorie Decker and Senator Jamie Eldridge*

An Act to provide Water and Sewer Rate Relief for Low Income Households

SD806 *Sponsor: Senator Mark Montigny*

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

#EndPovertyMA

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