

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 through more than 100 different services



44% of families served lived below 100% of the Federal Poverty guidelines



23% of families served were in severe poverty, below 50% of Federal Poverty Guidelines



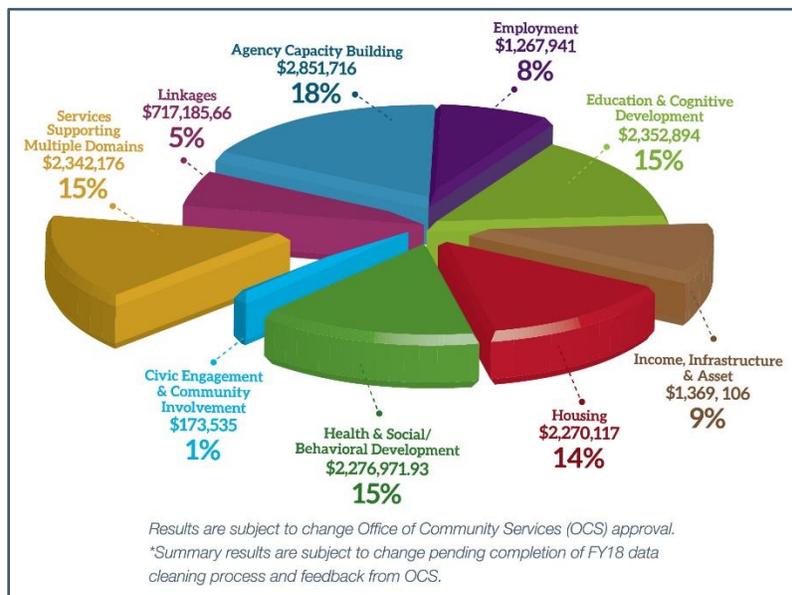
Nearly 50% of individuals served work



Approx. 26% of individuals served are elderly

CSBG Network Resources

In FY18, nearly \$16M was distributed to our 23 CAAs and used in the following way:



CSBG Supports Community Action Across MA

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

-  **Across MA**, 21 Agencies provide **free tax preparation** for low-wage working families, serving +18,000 and bringing back +\$33M in tax credits annually.
-  In the **Boston** area, Action for Boston Community Development operates 14 **neighborhood-based community service centers**.
-  In **Lynn**, LEO organized Impact Lynn, engaging local partners to create systems change to **improve education and income levels** and **community engagement**.
-  In **Gloucester** and **across the North Shore**, Action Inc. is partnering with cities and health organizations through the Gloucester High Risk Task Force to **decrease substance abuse disorders**.
-  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 organizes the Working Cities Challenge Worcester initiative seeking to **increase sustainable employment** within the food services industry.
-  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

CSBG enables CAAs to be trusted, responsive, accountable local institutions. More than 2,000 Community Action staff members hold professional certifications. In Massachusetts, and throughout the nation, CAAs embrace the principle of accountability through National Performance Standards, routinely submit independent audited financial statements, and are reviewed and monitored on an annual basis by federal and state funders. Community Action Agencies provide regular reports to the U.S Department of Health and Human Services detailing service outcomes for all programs that they administer.

