



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 Budget Priorities



Strengthening Families through Affordable and Accessible Early Education and Care

- Increase Early Education Teacher Salary Line Item (3000-1042) - \$30M
- Designate Early Education Federal Discretionary Funding for Rate Reserve Add-On to Address Credentialing (3000-1042) - \$24.875M
- Increase Head Start Line Item (3000-5000) - \$15M
- Increase Child Care Resource Referral Access Management in Early Education Program (3000-2000) - \$11.1M



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 FY20 Allocation for Fuel Assistance - \$15M
- Add State Fuel Assistance Line Item for FY21 - \$10M
- Support Services for Unaccompanied Youth Housing and Wraparound Services (4000-0007) - \$8M



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
- Commission to Address Inequality, Create Opportunity, and End Poverty

#EndPovertyMA

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Our Legislative Priorities

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

H179/S91 Sponsors: Representative Tackey Chan and Senator Michael Moore

A Commission to Address Inequality, Create Opportunity, and End Poverty

An Act to promote housing choices

H4263 Sponsor: Joint Committee on Housing (introduced by Governor Baker as H3507)

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

H2431/S1640 Sponsors: Representative Linda Campbell and Senator Diana DiZoglio

An Act improving the earned income credit for working families

H2434/S1646/ Sponsors: Representative Marjorie Decker and Senator Jamie Eldridge

H2439/S1614/S1619 Sponsors: Representative Mindy Domb, Senator Jo Comerford, Senator Cynthia Stone Creem

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

S807 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



+12,000 received employment services



Provided education/cared for +20,000



160,000 received fuel assistance



+10,154 served by Head Start/Early Head Start



24,160 helped with Energy Efficiency improvements to their homes



+18,000 accessed free tax prep bringing back +\$33M in tax credits



699,259 volunteer hours donated, +74% from those we serve