



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 Top FY21 Budget Priorities



Creating a Foundation for Economic Opportunity

Fuel assistance is critical in helping families meet fundamental needs and achieving stability serving as a platform for economic opportunity and mobility.

- **Add State Fuel Assistance Line Item for FY21: \$10M**

Fuel assistance is a defacto federal and state partnership; the state has supplemented the federal program about half of the time over the past 30 years.



Bridging the Wage Gap

For low-income wage earners, the resources they access at VITA sites make all the difference. VITA sites not only provide free tax prep and access to EITC and other tax credits, but also offer financial education and links to other critical services, strengthening families and the local economy.

- **Increase Resources for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program Sites (1201-0100): \$800,000**



Strengthening Families through Affordable and Accessible Early Education and Care

Early Education and Care programs prepare children for success in school and life. Support for retaining early educators and the Head Start program is essential.

- **Increase Early Education Teacher Salary Line Item (3000-1042): \$30M**
- **Increase Head Start Line Item (3000-5000): \$15M**

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Our Full List of FY21 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): \$12.1M



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 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

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*