

Funding Community Action: \$7.5M for FY23

State resources have enabled Community Action Agencies to address unmet needs in their communities by enhancing or creating programs, providing direct benefits to those who need it most, and enhancing their own operations to ensure more timely administration of services as well as increased breadth and reach of services. Please support line item 7002-0025: \$7.5M



State Resources Support A Critical System of Care: Community Action Agencies Across Massachusetts

Addressing Food Insecurity

- Expanded capacity of food pantries with bigger, safer spaces, operational supplies, upgraded intake systems, and increased hours
- Increased reach of food programs within existing service areas and into “uncapped” areas.
- Partnered locally with allies to provide more meals and food to those in need.

Providing Housing Assistance

- Provided direct client assistance for rent and utility to ensure stable housing
- Increased capacity for outreach, case management, rapid re-housing and development of affordable housing
- Partnered with local allies to expand reach and support RAFT processing

Increasing Access to Mental Health Services

- Supported operations for mental health clinic
- Reduced waiting list for mental health services

Ensuring Job Readiness

- Supported Job and Education programs including providing job readiness training
- Provided ESOL classes

Supporting Local Communities

- Support for community centers and community programming including youth programming to fill times when no other activities are available

Supporting Critical Operations at Community Action Agencies

- Ensuring office spaces are safe for client intake
- Supporting programs with reduced revenue
- Implementing systems that allow for easy access to files and information across agency programs and locations
- Increasing staff capacity to ensure ability to meet the needs and to better coordinate integrated services across our large service areas
- Increasing support to staff to create space to have safe, courageous conversations about diversity, equity and inclusion and improving delivery of services

In the Community

What does this look like in our communities?

- In **Fall River** and **Quincy**, [Citizens for Citizens](#) and [Quincy Community Action Programs](#) were able to move into a larger facility and therefore, expand their food programs as well as keep staff and clients safe.
- In **Cambridge**, [Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee](#) opened a second food pantry in an area of the city with limited resources nearly doubling their reach.
- In **Lowell**, [Community Teamwork](#) was able to fully institutionalize their program to address homelessness by adding capacity as well as partnering locally with the City of Lowell, Life Connection Center, and Lowell Transitional Living Center to provide outreach and case management allowing for rapid re-housing.
- In **Fitchburg**, [Making Opportunity Count](#) is able to operate a mental health clinic and has been able to address a waiting list for mental health services in **Northern Worcester County** of more than three months.
- In **Quincy**, [Quincy Community Action Programs](#) was able to retrofit their main floor of their office to allow for walk-in access to staff, client intake and document drop off.
- In **Worcester**, [Worcester Community Action Council](#) has been able to provide DEI support and create space for staff to have safe, courageous conversations about how to improve their work and deliver services while also supporting staff in a new way.

#COMMUNITYACTIONWORKS

www.masscap.org|@masscap1