

Community Action Line Item 7002-0025: \$10M

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.



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

Providing Housing Assistance

- Providing direct client assistance for rent and utility to ensure stable housing
- Increasing capacity for outreach, case management, housing rights advocacy, rapid re-housing and development of affordable housing
- Increasing affordable housing units

Addressing Food Insecurity

- Expanding capacity of food pantries with bigger, safer spaces, operational supplies, upgraded intake systems, and increased hours
- Increasing reach of food programs within existing service areas and into “uncapped” areas, including refrigerated, traveling food trucks and pop-up mobile markets.
- Providing SNAP application assistance

Increasing Access to Health/Mental Health Services

- Supporting operations for mental health clinic
- Reducing waiting list for mental health services
- Increasing access to health insurance reducing gaps in coverage

Ensuring Job Readiness

- Supporting Job and Education programs including providing job readiness training and ESOL classes
- Supporting youth workforce and leadership development programs



Supporting Local Communities and Family Needs

- Supporting community centers and community programming including youth programming to fill times when no other activities are available
- Supporting early childhood education and care programs and wrap-around services
- Increasing immigration services including citizenship classes, language classes, representation and case management
- Providing transportation to and from adult day health care facilities, hospitals, medical centers, rehabilitation facilities, doctors' offices, child care centers and schools



Supporting Critical Operations at Community Action Agencies

- Upgrading systems, facilities and policies that allow for safe and 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, diverse 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 **Quincy**, [Quincy Community Action Programs](#) opened their expanded Southwest Community Food Center distributing nutritional food to low-income households through monthly food orders and Pop-Up/Mobile Food Pantries. Their refrigerated van expands mobile food service to communities in Quincy, Weymouth and Randolph.
- In **Cambridge**, [Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee](#) is developing a Language Justice/Access Plan that establishes processes so that clients who prefer to communicate in languages other than English have meaningful access to our services.
- In **Lowell**, [Community Teamwork](#) is working with individual communities to assist them to increase their housing production in order to meet their affordable housing goals identified in their Housing Production Plans.
- In **Fitchburg**, [Making Opportunity Count](#) operates a mental health clinic. They have prioritized the hiring and development of therapists/staff of color including piloting a recruiting/internship project with higher education. They are planning a satellite clinic.

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