

## Public Policy Priorities

*Our public policy priorities support our mission to collectively advocate along with the state's 23 Community Action Agencies to advance economic, racial, and social justice and to create communities where everyone thrives. Every day we work together to help MA residents living with low incomes to stabilize their lives and achieve economic prosperity.*



## Our FY24 Budget Priorities



### Strengthening Critical Human Services Infrastructure

- Address inequality, promote opportunity and end poverty by supporting Community Action Agencies (7002-0025) - \$10M
- See attached fact sheet for information about how Community Action Agencies are investing this resource to support our vulnerable friends and neighbors and strengthen communities.*



### Strengthening Families through Affordable and Accessible Early Education and Care

- Support Early Education Teacher Salary Line Item (3000-1042) - \$100M
- Support for Access to Income-Eligible Child Care (3000-4060) (\$112M)
- Support for Early Education and Care for the Workforce (3000-1046) (\$20M)
- Support Head Start Line Item (3000-5000) - \$17.5M
- Support Child Care Resource Referral Access Management in Early Education Program (3000-2000) - \$20M



### Bridging the Wage Gap

- Increase Resources for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) (1201-0100) - \$2M
- EITC: Increase to 50% of Federal Credit, Include ITIN Holders, Remove Family Cap
- Establish a Robust Child and Family Tax Credit (CFTC)

#CommunityActionMA #CommunityActionWorks #EndPovertyMA

## Our FY 24 Legislative Priorities

- An Act to reduce poverty by expanding the EITC and the child and family tax credit, *filed by Senator Eldridge (SD.1224)*
- An Act to increase family stabilization through the earned income tax credit, *filed by Representative Decker, Representative Vargas, and Senator DiDomenico (HD.3457/SD.2122)*
- An Act establishing a child and family tax credit, *filed by Representative Decker, Representative Vargas, and Senator DiDomenico (HD.3288/SD.2010)*
- An Act addressing the racial wealth gap, *filed by Representative Andy Vargas, Senator Paul Feeney, and Treasurer Deborah Goldberg (HD783/SD711)*
- An Act requiring financial education in schools, *filed by Senator Patrick M. O'Connor and Treasurer Deborah Goldberg (SD1451)*

## 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


 Approximately 600,000 served annually


 Provided education/cared for +16,000


 +8,200 served by Head Start/Early Head Start

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

 +2,900 obtained employment

 +134,000 received fuel assistance

 +26,000 helped with Energy Efficiency improvements to their homes

 407,994 volunteer hours donated, +85% from those we serve

*\*Based on FY21 and FY22 statewide data*