



2019

ANNUAL REPORT

Finding the
Way Forward
TOGETHER

Message from MASSCAP



Joseph P. Diamond



Birgitta Damon

2020 has been extraordinary. Despite 55 years of experience addressing the needs of our community, this year has brought challenges beyond our imaginations. Low-income communities, particularly those with higher percentages of people of color, have been ravaged by the health and economic impacts of the deadly COVID-19 virus. Community Action Agencies (CAAs) responded by pivoting operations as soon as Governor Baker issued stay-at-home order in mid-March. CAA staff became essential workers, running emergency childcare centers, delivering diapers and food, and distributing critical financial relief. They were the feet on the ground, working the front lines for our neighbors in need. They continue to do this work today as we struggle to contain the virus.

By May, the social unrest following the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and many others further highlighted the existence of systemic racism and the disparities in health, economic, and social outcomes in our communities. We are engaging in renewed national and local conversations that are helping all of us to have a deeper understanding of the obstacles we face in this country to equal opportunity.

Our report on poverty in our communities, ***Obstacles on the Road to Opportunity: Finding a Way Forward for the Children and Families of Massachusetts***, continues to provide context for our work, as it has for nearly two decades. Delivered in partnership with MassBudget, the report's conclusions are both comforting and alarming.

The research shows that the programs Community Action delivers are effective and have contributed to a 50% reduction in poverty. However, low-wage jobs provide incomes that remain essentially at the same level as they did in the mid-1970s, confirming that poverty is the story of low-wage work.

The experience of 2019, combined with the crucible of 2020, offer us lessons in organizational and personal resilience. While the virus will subside eventually and we will return to our offices, how we work together and serve those in need will be different—better. It is likely we will retain the technical innovations and the streamlined and effective approaches to service and collaboration that we all “invented” over the past several months.

To be sure, COVID-19 makes the lives of low-income people even more unstable and causes others to face economic hardship for the first time. Racial inequity and structural racism are among the most virulent causes of poverty and must be addressed with as much effort, work, and dedication, if not more, as we have committed to the fight against the virus.

How do we, in the face of an unprecedented public health crisis, economic inequality and racism, advance that promise of equal opportunity? We do what we have always done. We promote programs and policies that advance economic justice and ultimately eliminate poverty. We pledge to not be silent, to raise the policies and issues that create and perpetuate racial inequities, and to work with our federal, state, and local allies, our boards, and the people we serve to make true change, raise awareness, and rededicate ourselves to strengthening and empowering our communities.

Joseph P. Diamond, Executive Director

Birgitta S. Damon, MASSCAP President & Chief Executive Officer, CEO



What is MASSCAP?

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 as well as other state agencies and other statewide allied organizations to open doors to economic stability and prosperity for Massachusetts residents living with low incomes.



The Promise of Community Action

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.



Our Mission

To strengthen and connect the statewide network of Community Action Agencies and collectively advocate for an end to poverty.



Our Vision

All Massachusetts residents will be able to meet their basic needs, access economic opportunities, build strong communities and move toward prosperity. The Community Action Network is strong and effective, known for its valuable work and excellent service delivery, and is considered a leading voice and advocate on the subject of poverty and inequality. MASSCAP provides effective training, advocacy and support to all Community Action Agencies.

MASSCAP Team

Joe Diamond, *Executive Director*

Jessica Benedetto, *Director of Training and Performance Management*

Lisa Clay, *Director of Communications and Member Services*

Amaris Kinne, *Project Coordinator, READYGO*

Martha Rogers, *Asset Development Grants Coordinator*

Kathy McDermott, *Consultant, Leadership & Training*

Patricia Pelletier, *Consultant, Planning & Workforce Development*





#CommunityAction Responds to COVID-19

Community Action immediately recognized that the effects of the pandemic will compound the needs of the people we serve. In addition, many families will experience hardship and will seek help for the first time. The programs we run and the services we provide are even more important in a time of crisis to help stabilize lives.

All agencies continued working, operating critical programs and services in creative and safe ways to continue to help, protect, and support the people we serve and our communities.

The most immediate increased need has been for food. We are grateful for the Department of Housing and Community Development's (DHCD) recognition of the urgent and increasing need for food due to the pandemic and for providing our network with additional resources to address food insecurity. Agencies are distributing food in safe ways including operating traditional and mobile food pantries, orchestrating food pickups and deliveries and working with local community partners to ensure that families have nutritious food during this time.



PACE operates a mobile food pantry in the greater New Bedford area increasing access to food for those in need.



South Shore Community Action Council (SSCAC) teamed up with The Cape Cod Family Table Collaborative and Cape Cod 5 on a "Dinner Drive Through" event, providing nutritious meals and bagged food to those in need.



In Boston, **Action for Boston Community Development** Head Start staff prepare and provide food to families to ensure nutritious meals.



This report is focused on sharing our impact from 2019; however, we would be remiss not to mention the drastic changes in our reality in 2020 due to COVID-19 and how we are responding to it.



In addition, other critical programs have adapted and are safely serving:



Free Tax Preparation: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites provide free tax preparation and help people access the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and other tax credits — funds that will be even more critical during this time. Community Action VITA sites operate remotely.



Heating Help Programs: Heating Help programs including Fuel Assistance helps people stay safe in their homes — staying home is even more critical to stay healthy during this time. Fuel Assistance Agencies are taking applications over the phone for both new and returning applicants.



Education: Agencies are offering remote learning opportunities for Head Start and early education families as well as adult education programs including providing activity calendars and educational information through social media.



Housing and Shelter: Many agencies continue to operate shelters and are working with local programs to ensure day and night space.



Relief Funds: Many are establishing relief funds such as Cape Ann Emergency Relief Fund and Community Action Pioneer Valley COVID-19 Relief Fund.



General Wellbeing: Agencies are finding ways to meet local needs, including providing diaper and toiletry supplies and helping with access to healthcare and other needed services.

Together, we pledge to continue to find new ways to collaborate both locally and statewide to address pressing needs. We continue to advocate on behalf of the agencies, staff and clients.

MAINTAIN
SOCIAL
DISTANCE



Poverty in Massachusetts and FINDING THE WAY FORWARD

Public programs cut child poverty by more than half, in Massachusetts.

These benefits, many of which were created as part of the War on Poverty, have moved approximately:

920,000 people in Massachusetts (including close to 200,000 children) over the poverty line (see graphs).

150,000 kept out of poverty by the Earned Income Tax Benefit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC).

140,000 kept out of poverty by SNAP.

For more information, read our updated report *Obstacles on the Road to Opportunity: Finding a Way Forward for the Children and Families of Massachusetts* written by MassBudget. The report is available on the MASSCAP website at www.masscap.org.

NOTE: These numbers have more than likely changed in 2020 due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. We expect an increase in poverty numbers and food insecurity.



1 out of **11** Households in Massachusetts is “Food Insecure”



Poverty DATA



10%



Poverty Rate in MA

12.2%

Child Poverty
Rate in MA



About **90,000** children live in high-poverty neighborhoods, in which **30%** or more of the residents have incomes below the poverty line.

There are neighborhoods in Boston, Worcester, Springfield, Lowell, and Holyoke where well more than half of the families live on incomes below the poverty line.



22%

Near Poor
in MA



27%

Children Near
Poor in MA.

2/3

of children or more are near
poor in many communities,

69%

in Holyoke

65%

in Lawrence

61%

in Springfield



Public Policy **AGENDA**

Through broad-based education and advocacy efforts, we worked with allied organizations and legislators to effect change. Our four broad public policy goals are:



Strengthening Families through Affordable and Accessible Early Education and Care

Early Education and Care programs prepare children for success in school and life. We supported and advocated for budget initiatives that will improve access to quality affordable early education and care for thousands of families across the state through the retention of good teachers, enhanced referral, improved facilities and support for Head Start.

- **Continued to advocate to increase resources** for early education and care workforce salaries
- **Increased** Head Start funding from \$9.6M to \$12M to increase access
- **Increased** funding for Child Care Resource Referral Access Management from \$8.675M to \$10.065M



Bridging the Wage Gap

We supported the work of Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites run by CAAs and others. We continue to fight for more support for these sites. At VITA sites, volunteers provide free tax prep and access to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)—considered one of the most effective anti-poverty programs. They also help with other tax credits to low-income taxpayers allowing them to pay bills, cover essential needs and save. Low-income taxpayers who come to VITA sites are also linked to other critical services that strengthen families and the local economy. While there are 30,000 served at 80 VITA sites in Massachusetts, there are still an estimated 75,000 left unserved.

- **Secured \$200,000** in resources for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program sites
- **Continued to advocate** for an increase to 50% to the State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). It is currently 30% of Federal





Creating a Foundation for Economic Opportunity

CAAs have many programs that help low-income households meet fundamental needs and enjoy a measure of stability, which is a platform for economic opportunity and mobility. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is one such example.

- **Secured** \$30M in fuel supplemental funds for fuel assistance to keep vulnerable households warm, safe and healthy during our cold winters
- **Continued to advocate** for a state fuel assistance line item to ensure being able to continue to keep vulnerable households warm, safe and healthy moving forward
- **Supported** an increase in funding for the Unaccompanied Youth Housing and Wraparound Services line item, a program that helps youth who are homeless or at risk, escape from it. Early intervention and prevention can change lives. The funding was increased from \$3.3M to \$5M



Strengthening Critical Human Services Infrastructure

Effective, trusted, local and long-standing community-based organizations such as Community Action Agencies make up a system of comprehensive services that support economic mobility for hundreds of thousands of low-income individuals and families in the Commonwealth.

Together, these networks comprise a human services infrastructure of care that is as essential to the well-being of the state's residents as health care institutions, public safety including police and fire, and public transportation.

- **Continued to advocate** for legislation and a line item to update the state Community Action statute to reflect the depth and breadth of our central role in fighting poverty in virtually every city and town in the state. The legislation also creates an inter-agency council that will foster collaboration and alignment between state agencies in addressing inequality and fighting poverty.



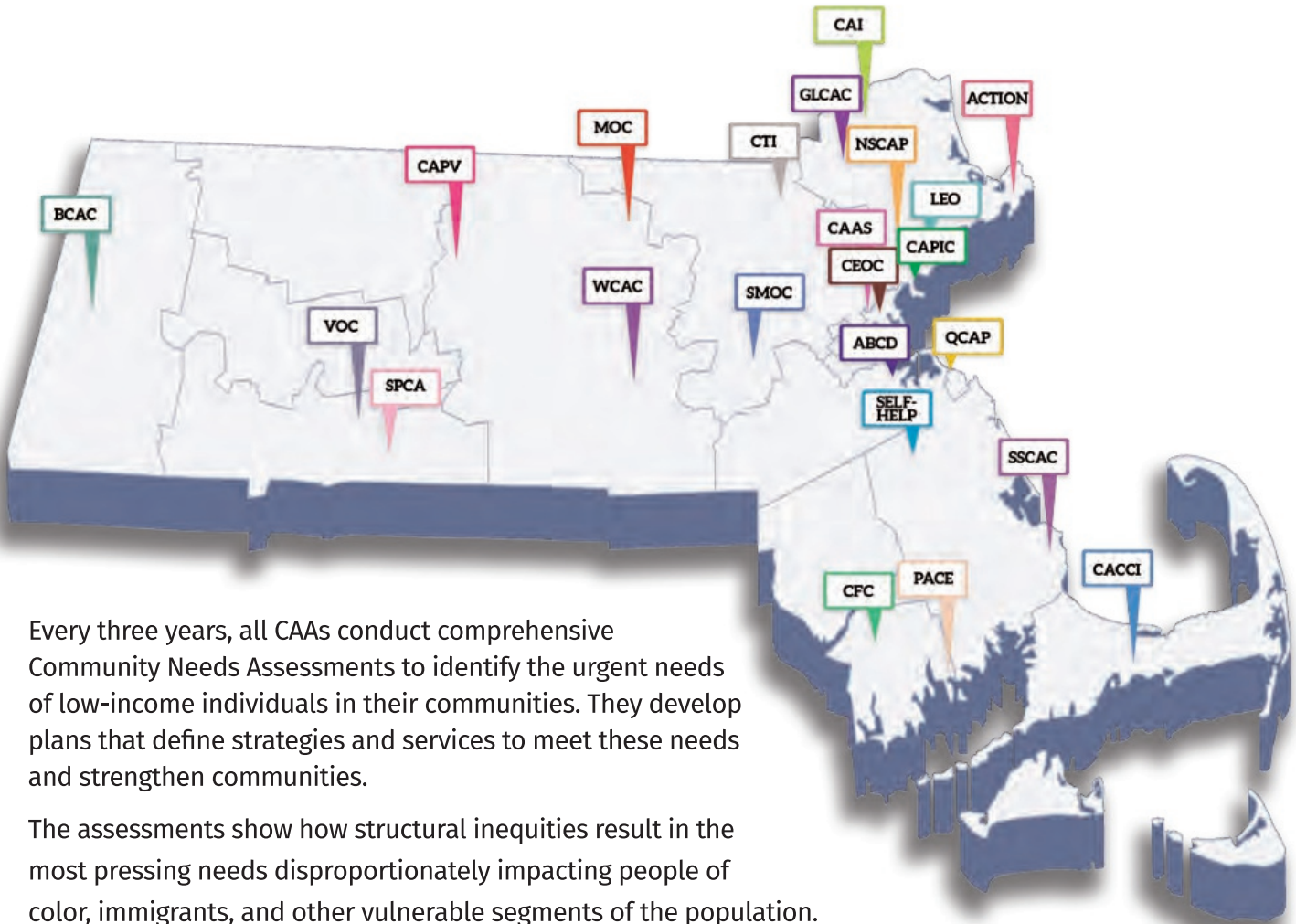
DID YOU KNOW?

CAAs help people prepare their taxes for free and access the Earned Income Tax Credit and other tax credits allowing them to pay bills cover essential needs such as rent, save, and plan for the future.



Serving the ENTIRE STATE

The **23 CAAs** served close to **600,000 people** with more than **100 programs and services** in virtually every city and town across the state.



Every three years, all CAAs conduct comprehensive Community Needs Assessments to identify the urgent needs of low-income individuals in their communities. They develop plans that define strategies and services to meet these needs and strengthen communities.

The assessments show how structural inequities result in the most pressing needs disproportionately impacting people of color, immigrants, and other vulnerable segments of the population. We recognize these inequities and pledge to advocate for equity.

The top needs identified across the state are:

- ▶ Housing
- ▶ Basic Needs: Food, Heat and Health
- ▶ Workforce Development
- ▶ Financial Capability
- ▶ Early Education and Care

We believe that all people should be treated with dignity and respect and recognize that structural race, gender and other inequities remain barriers that must be addressed.

BLACK LIVES MATTER

Taking Action Against Structural Racism

ABCD | Action for Boston Community

178 Tremont Street | Boston | 02111

ACTION | Action Inc.

180 Main Street | Gloucester | 01930

BCAC | Berkshire CommunityAction Council, Inc.

1531 East Street | Pittsfield | 02101

CAAS | Community Action Agency of Somerville, Inc.

66-70 Union Square | Somerville | 02143

CACCI | Community Action Committee of Cape Cod & Islands, Inc.

372 North Street | Hyannis | 02601

CAI | Community Action Inc.

145 Essex Street | Haverhill | 01832

CAPIC | Community Action ProgramsInter-City, Inc.

100 Everett Ave., #14 | Chelsea | 02150

CAPV | Community Action Pioneer Valley

393 Main St., 4th Fl. | Greenfield | 01301

CEOC | Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee, Inc.

11 Inman Street | Cambridge | 02139

CFC | Citizens for Citizens, Inc.

264 Griffin Street | Fall River | 02724

CTI | Community Teamwork, Inc.

55 Merrimack Street | Lowell | 01852

GLCAC | Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc.

305 Essex Street, 4th floor | Lawrence | 01840

LEO | Lynn Economic Opportunity, Inc.

156 Broad Street | Lynn | 01901

MOC | Montachusett Opportunity Council, Inc.

133 Prichard Street | Fitchburg | 01420

NSCAP | North Shore Community Action Programs, Inc.

119 Rear Foster St., Bldg 13 | Peabody | 01960

PACE | People Acting in Community Endeavors, Inc.

166 Williams Street | New Bedford | 02742

QCAP | Quincy Community Action Programs, Inc.

1509 Hancock Street | Quincy | 02169

SELF-HELP | Self-Help Inc.

780 West Main Street | Avon | 02322

SMOC | South Middlesex Opportunity Council, Inc.

7 Bishop Street | Framingham | 01702

SPCA | Springfield Partners for Community Action, Inc.

721 State Street, 2nd floor | Springfield | 01109

SSCAC | South Shore Community Action Council, Inc.

71 Obery Street | Plymouth | 02360

VOC | Valley Opportunity Council, Inc.

300 High Street | Holyoke | 01040

WCAC | Worcester Community Action Council, Inc.

484 Main Street, 2nd floor | Worcester | 01608

7 Bishop Street | Framingham | 01702

2019 Statewide Impact

Approximately
600,000
served


Provided education
and care for
+20,000


Managed childcare
subsidies for
20,884



10,378
served by Head Start
and Early Head Start


+4,200
obtained employment



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

Approximately
160,000
received 
Fuel Assistance


Prevented
Emergencies for
69,664
households


Restored Heat for
+4,800
Households


860,761
Volunteer Hours
donated plus
+64%
from those we
served goes with


34,770
helped with Energy
Efficiency improvements
to their homes

Participated in **+50**
Community Anti-Poverty
Initiatives

2,000  Community Action Staff
hold professional
certifications – in child development, family
development, home energy, planning, quality
control, housing quality standards, etc.

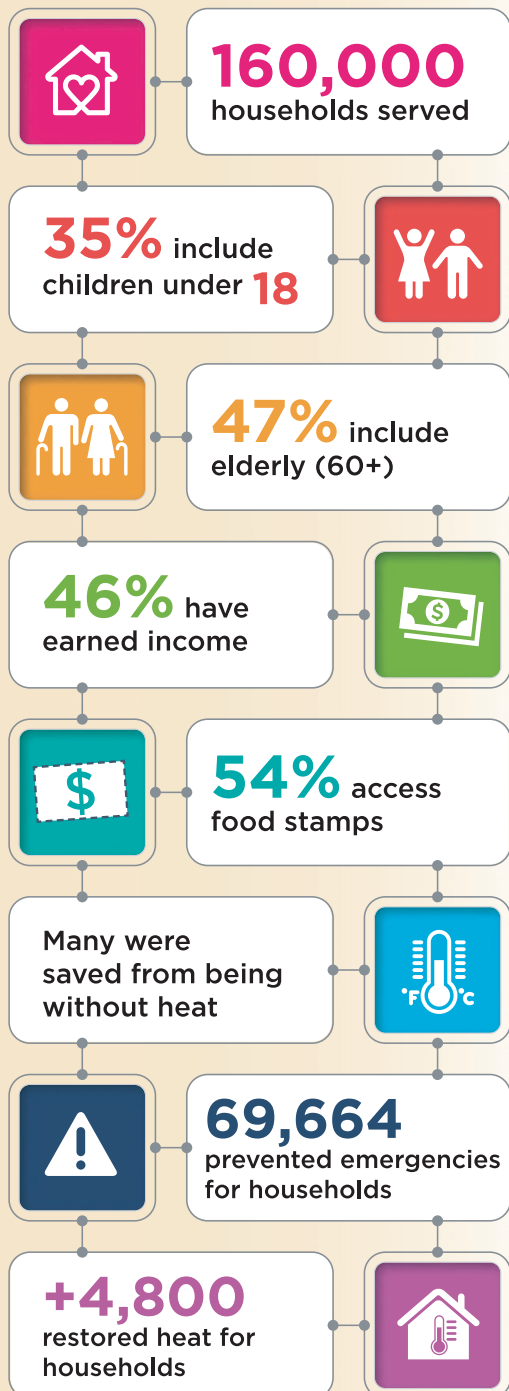
105,249 Hours
of agency staff in
capacity-building
activities

5,380 Hours
of board members in
capacity-building
activities

Community Action **IN ACTION**



Who We **SERVED**



HEATING HELP STATEWIDE CAMPAIGN

Fuel Assistance, or the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), is a federal program that helps low-income households address energy costs. The program is administered in Massachusetts by a network of 22 community-based organizations, including 20 Community Action Agencies (CAAs), the City of Cambridge, and the New England Farm Workers Council.

3RD ANNUAL STATEWIDE KICKOFF

CAA Partnering Agency: LEO, Inc. (Lynn)

Hosted by: Representative Donald Wong at The Kowloon, Saugus

When: October 29, 2019

Who: ▶ Representatives from Senator Elizabeth Warren's office and Senator Edward Markey's office
▶ State Senator, Bruce Tarr
▶ Janelle Chan, the Undersecretary of the Department of Housing and Community Development
▶ Representatives from the utility companies, the MA Energy Directors Association and other connected agencies

Bottom line is "You Work Hard, Heat is Expensive."

Heating help includes fuel assistance and energy efficiency programs. These deliver economic support and address health and safety. Visit www.heatinghelpma.org for more information.

“Warmth is not a luxury—not in New England. It is a public health and safety issue. When people are cold, they go to extreme measures to change that situation, often choosing between heat, food and medicine and using unsafe methods for heat. Community Action Agencies are integral to connecting low-income families and individuals to the support they need. It is our responsibility to share our experience with decision-makers at all levels to encourage adequate investment to safeguard our communities.”

Birgitta S. Damon
President, MASSCAP and Chief Executive Officer of LEO Inc.

Community Action **IN ACTION**

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Statewide Kickoff

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites not only offer free tax preparation to low-income wage earners by IRS-certified volunteers, but also ensure access to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and other tax credits. In addition, they work with taxpayers to plan for the future and save, as well as access other critical services.

The VITA program helps bridge the wage gap and puts money back into communities. It is one way we help individuals overcome structural barriers and move out of poverty.

The majority of Community Action Agencies run VITA sites (we are responsible for almost half of the 80 VITA sites in the state and more than half of the clients served).



4TH ANNUAL STATEWIDE KICKOFF

Host and Partnering CAA: Making Opportunity Count (Fitchburg)

When: January 25, 2019

Who: ▶ Representatives from Senator Elizabeth Warren's Office
▶ State Senator, Dean Tran (Worcester and Middlesex)
▶ State Representative, Stephan Hay (3rd Worcester)
▶ State Representative, Natalie Higgins (4th Worcester)
▶ Fitchburg Mayor, Stephen Dinatale
▶ Department of Revenue Commissioner, Christopher C. Harding
▶ MassBudget
▶ Children's Healthwatch

STATEWIDE FACTS:

80 VITA sites (+40 are Community Action sites)

60,000 SERVED (+33,000 by Community Action sites)

+1300 VOLUNTEERS

+40,000 VOLUNTEER Hours

\$60M RETURNED in tax credits

ESTIMATED \$1.44 activity generated per \$1 accessed

COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS & SERVICES



Early Education & Care

- Head Start
- Child Care Vouchers
- Child Care Resource & Referral
- Parent Education



Adult Education & Workforce Development

- Job Readiness/Training
- Adult Basic Education



Financial Management

- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)
- Financial Literacy



Housing Programs

- Eviction Prevention
- Individual and Family Shelter
- Affordable Rental Units & Housing Development
- Home Ownership Assistance
- Energy Programs
 - ▶ Heating Assistance/Utility Discounts
 - ▶ Heating System Repair & Replacement
 - ▶ Energy Conservation



Food, Nutrition & Health

- Food Banks & Pantries
- Behavioral Health Services
- Community Partnerships (Social Determinants of Health)



Access to Benefits

- SNAP

MASSCAP Training CENTER (MTC)



OUTCOMES

- ▶ 50 in-person and remote training sessions
- ▶ 840 registrations
- ▶ 10 sessions at Southern New England Community Action Conference
- ▶ 326 views of online training videos
- ▶ ALL 23 CAAs engaged in Communities of Practice
- ▶ 19 Leadership Development Institute I graduates
- ▶ 8 Leadership Development Institute II graduates
- ▶ 90% or higher overall training satisfaction rate
- ▶ Customized CAA board and direct service staff trainings
- ▶ Quarterly training program for Community Teamwork Inc. housing staff
- ▶ New Training: Setting Professional Boundaries



READYGO

MASSCAP was awarded a synergy grant from The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts (THFCM) for a new early education and care workforce development initiative called **READYGO, Readyng Educators And Developing Young children for Great Outcomes.**

GOALS

- ▶ Maximize early childhood experiences and number of children receiving services
- ▶ Encourage staff development through training in adverse childhood experiences, creating trauma-informed learning environments and the skills need to address challenging behaviors
- ▶ Enhance the workforce career ladder for early educators
- ▶ Foster more equitable educational outcomes
- ▶ Create a scalable solution that can be implemented statewide to give early educators the skills and credentials they need

PARTNERS

Making Opportunity Count
Worcester Community Action Council
YMCA child care programs
Mount Wachusett Community College
Quinsigamond Community College



The mission of the MASSCAP Training Center is to enhance the organizational performance of Community Action Agencies and other community-based organizations through a system of training and professional development. The MTC has continued to grow and evolve since its inception in 2015. The number of trainings, the number of people trained and the diversity of content and audience have increased over the past four years.



Expanded Focus on Leadership Development

We held our third Leadership Development Institute, and expanded our offerings to include a Leadership Development Institute Level 2.

Level 1 is a comprehensive, interactive series of professional development sessions for mid and senior-level managers designed to identify, refine, develop and practice leadership abilities both personally and professionally. An important part of the learning is participation in a Capstone project, a multifaceted team project designed to respond to an identified need or to add value to a program, agency or community.

The third class included **19 participants, 16 from the Community Action Network** and **three external human services professionals**. They ultimately produced six Capstone projects on the following topics: Engaging Families in their Child's Educational Journey, Integrated Service Delivery, Boosting the Balance Sheet, Thoughtful Collaboration Development and Maintenance, Strength-based Collaboration to Achieve a Common Mission, and Inequality and its Role in Accessing Opportunity.

Level 2 was developed based on demand from the first two classes of Level 1. Eight LDI 1 graduates delved further into developing themselves as leaders by understanding themselves better, working on public speaking, identifying organizational challenges, learning through case studies and visiting with a sophisticated agency management team.

Quote From Level 1 Participant:

“In summary, it was an amazing experience to work on the CAPstone project and to be a part of the Leadership Development Institute. It was enlightening, energizing and inspiring. All the presenters were very knowledgeable and passionate about their subject matter. I am grateful for the opportunity to participate at the Institute. The leadership training has equipped me with valuable leadership skills. I am looking forward to putting them into practice in my role at the agency.”



Financial REPORT

Masscap, Inc. Financial Report
for Year Ending 9/30/2019

REVENUE

Mass Training
Center Fees
49,382

Total Support
and Revenue
2,044,814

SUPPORT

Government
Grants and
Assistance
1,613,891

Contributions
and Others
5,525

In-Kind
Contributions
237,216

Membership
Dues
138,800

Expenditures



Program Services
1,358,815



Management
and General
402,462



Fundraising
33,192



In-Kind Expenses
234,216



Total Expenditures
2,028,685



Change in Net Assets
16,129

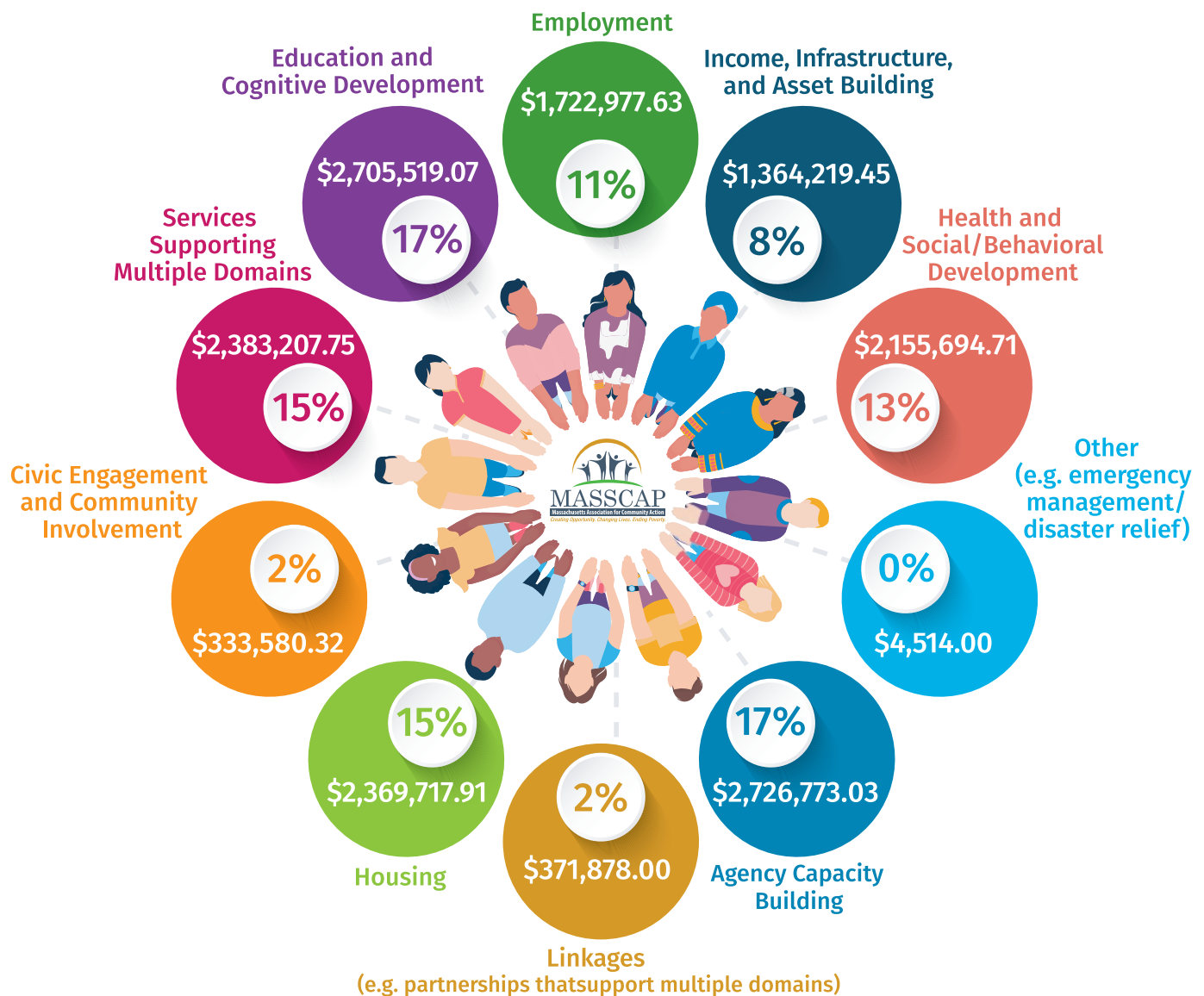


Net Assets 9.30.2019
103,104



MASSCAP revenue comes from government and private grants. Additional revenue is received from MASSCAP agencies as well as fees collected for the MASSCAP training center.

MA CAA FUNDING SOURCES



Results are subject to change pending completion of FY19 data cleaning process and feedback from the Office of Community Services.

MA CAA Funding Sources

CAAs receive their core operational funding from the federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). With that funding (more than \$16M in FY2019), CAAs are able to leverage additional funds, create partnerships, conduct local assessments and planning, and organize volunteers. CAAs directed more than \$874M toward putting an end to poverty in 2019.

2019 Funding Sources for MA Network

Federal CSBG	\$16,000,075
Federal Non-CSBG	\$449,170,150
State	\$189,914,551
Local	\$4,233,121
Private	\$215,268,758
TOTAL FUNDING	\$874,586,654



Our **PARTNERS**

Partnerships are critical to achieving our mission.

There is strength in collaboration. **We thank all our partners:**



Department of Housing and Community Development

DHCD is the state's CSBG lead agency responsible for distributing CSBG dollars to the 23 Community Action Agencies as well as monitoring and training them. As our partner, they support our capacity to serve the network and to run our training center.



Community Action Partnership (CAP)

As the national membership organization for Community Action Agencies, it is the mission of the Community Action Partnership to ensure the causes and conditions of poverty are effectively addressed and to strengthen, promote, represent, and serve the Community Action network.



Community Action Program Legal Services, Inc. (CAPLAW)

As a national membership organization of the Community Action network, CAPLAW is dedicated to providing the legal, governance and management resources necessary to sustain and strengthen the national Community Action Agency (CAA) network.



Eastern Bank

Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation supports organizations that provide services to the underserved and neediest members of our community. Eastern Bank works to ensure that all our neighbors have equal access to employment, education, healthcare, housing, childcare, healthy meals and other essential support services.



The Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center

The Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center (MassBudget) produces non-partisan policy research, analysis, and data-driven recommendations focused on improving the lives of low- and middle-income children and adults, strengthening our state's economy, and enhancing the quality of life in Massachusetts.



National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSP)

As the national membership organization for state CSBG lead agencies, the National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSP) is charged with advocating and enhancing the leadership role of states in preventing and reducing poverty.



National Community Action Foundation (NCAF)

The National Community Action Foundation (NCAF) seeks to represent the funding and policy interests of Community Action Agencies and their state and regional associations in Washington, D.C. by ensuring the federal government honors its commitment to fighting poverty through support of the Community Action Program.



New England Community Action Program (NECAP)

The New England Community Action Partnership (NECAP) serves the collective interests of its member Community Action Agencies (CAAs) and the low-income population of New England through representation and education. It is the official association of the Region I Community Action Agencies, comprised of 64 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) and the six state associations (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT). MASSCAP takes a leadership role in planning training activities and forums for the region.



President Lyndon B. Johnson gives pen he used to sign the Civil Rights Act to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., August 6, 1965. (Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library, National Archives)

“ **Until** justice is blind to color,
until education is unaware of race,
until opportunity is unconcerned
with the **color of men’s skins**,
emancipation will be a **proclamation**
but not a **fact**. ”

Lyndon B. Johnson



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