

Community Action Line Item 7004-xxxx: \$7.5M

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 utilities 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, job fairs and ESOL classes
- Supporting youth workforce and leadership development programs



Supporting Local Communities and Family Needs

- Supporting early childhood education and care programs and wrap-around services
- Supporting new arrivals with wrap-around services and 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

In the Community

What does this look like in our communities?

- In **Malden and Medford**, Action for Boston Community Development was able to provide move-in costs assistance. They have been able to leverage funding to gain additional support from municipalities in **Boston** and the **Mystic Valley region** to support homelessness and eviction prevention efforts.
- In **Quincy**, [Quincy Community Action Programs](#) expanded their Southwest Community Food Center distributing nutritional food to low-income households including making deliveries to disabled and homebound individuals/families. The Food Center not only provides healthy food but also much needed social interaction.
- In **Chicopee**, [Valley Opportunity Council](#) was able to provide food and toiletries to migrant families before they had an EA contract in place. They were also able to provide mental health support to EA migrant families who were not yet on MassHealth.
- In **Plymouth**, [South Shore Community Action Council](#) provided older adults and individuals with disabilities with door-to-door paratransit service from their homes to health care and adult day habilitation programs in accessible vehicles with drivers who are specially screened, trained, and supervised to ensure high quality, safe service.
- In **Lynn**, [LEO Inc.](#) expanded the Community Services Department to provide added services and advocacy to the community, including emergency services, housing stability and equitable food access.

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