

Action for Boston
Community Development, Inc.
Boston

Action, Inc.
Gloucester

Berkshire Community Action Council, Inc.
Pittsfield

Cambridge Economic
Opportunity Committee, Inc.
Cambridge

Citizens for Citizens, Inc.
Fall River

Community Action Agency of Somerville, Inc.
Somerville

Community Action Committee of
Cape Cod & Islands, Inc.
Hyannis

Community Action, Inc.
Haverhill

Community Action Pioneer Valley, Inc.
Greenfield

Community Action Program Inter-City, Inc.
Chelsea

Community Teamwork, Inc.
Lowell

Greater Lawrence Community
Action Council, Inc.
Lawrence

Lynn Economic Opportunity, Inc.
Lynn

Montachusett Opportunity Council, Inc.
Fitchburg

North Shore Community Action Program, Inc.
Peabody

PACE, Inc.
New Bedford

Quincy Community Action Programs, Inc.
Quincy

Self-Help, Inc.
Brockton

South Middlesex Opportunity Council, Inc.
Framingham

South Shore Community Action Council, Inc.
Plymouth

Springfield Partners for
Community Action, Inc.
Springfield

Valley Opportunity Council, Inc.
Holyoke

Worcester Community Action Council, Inc.
Worcester

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Joseph P. Diamond
Executive Direct

January 9, 2025

Her Excellency
Governor Maura Healey
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Healey,

Thank you for your longstanding support for Community Action Agencies (CAAs) and for the over 600,000 people living with low incomes across the state that we serve, including children, seniors, the disabled, and veterans. We also appreciate your commitment to making Massachusetts a more affordable and equitable state.

We know and very much appreciate, from your personal history and your history as a leader, that you can relate on a deep level to the lives of vulnerable people who often have to work two and three jobs - who are facing food insecurity, housing instability, rising health care costs, a higher cost of living, transportation challenges especially in rural areas, to name just a few.

Since the pandemic, life for thousands of our vulnerable friends and neighbors has gotten harder. Indeed, the poverty level in Massachusetts is a troubling 10.4 percent.

We are calling on you now, in light of the struggles the people we serve are facing and will likely face over the next few years, to make an investment in a line item which is critical to the health and wellbeing of the 600,000 people we serve. While your first two budgets did not include the CAA Line/State Anti-Poverty Line Item, we urge you to include this line item (7002-0025) in your FY 26 Budget proposal at the \$7.5 million level, matching its FY 2024 level.

Given the over 600,000 people we serve, the local coalitions to address emergent needs we lead, the unique wholistic program mix we offer, the communities we strengthen, and the local officials we work with to maximize the effect

of local social safety nets – this line item represents an important and critical return on investment to the Commonwealth.

Unfortunately for thousands of low-income residents around the state, the line item, which provides operating support to the CAAs, was cut by 30 percent in FY 25 to \$5 million. This reduction has impacted CAA services to residents in need and resulted in curtailment of critical programs including food pantries, homelessness prevention and emergency assistance services. Any further reduction to this line item in FY 26 would result in significant cutbacks to all those services and more that are essential to helping low-income residents meet their basic human needs.

Thank you very much for your commitment to helping vulnerable people across the Commonwealth that, like you, we hope will one day be more affordable and equitable. We join you in that vision and urgently and respectfully request that to achieve this you include Line Item 7002-0025 the CAA/Anti-Poverty Line Item in your FY 26 budget at the \$7.5 million level.

And we, like you, want to do all we can to help hundreds of thousands of our vulnerable friends and neighbors, as hard as they work now, to become economically stable and mobile and to experience the kind of well-being we all hope for.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Joseph P Diamond
Executive Director

Cc: Lieutenant Governor Driscoll