

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

# COMMUNITY ACTION PIONEER VALLEY

KEEPING 25,000 OF OUR NEIGHBORS FED, WARM SUPPORTED & CONNECTED



**IN 2025, WE HELPED 25,000 NEIGHBORS STAY FED, WARM, SUPPORTED AND CONNECTED.**



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**Contact us: [www.communityaction.us](http://www.communityaction.us) • 413-774-2318**

393 Main Street, Greenfield, MA 01301 • 155 Pleasant Street, Northampton, MA 01060

# WELCOME

## to our 2025 Annual Report!

Community Action Pioneer Valley's vision calls us to celebrate our shared humanity and our diversity—to build a community where everyone has access to healthy food, safe and affordable housing, living-wage work, quality education from birth, and full participation in our democracy. It is a vision grounded in dignity, equity, and collective responsibility.

When I returned to Community Action Pioneer Valley this October as Executive Director, that vision was immediately tested.

My first weeks coincided with the loss of SNAP benefits, delays in fuel assistance funding, and growing fear that a federal government shutdown would further destabilize families already living on the edge. The contrast between what our community deserves and what many were facing could not have been clearer.

In that moment, the question was not whether our vision still mattered—but how we would live it.

The answer came quickly. Staff responded with urgency and creativity. Program participants shared insight shaped by lived experience. Board members offered steady leadership. Volunteers stepped forward. Donors acted with generosity and trust. Across the organization and the community we serve, people turned toward one another.

In a climate shaped by division, we chose care. We chose dignity. We chose love. We worked to keep our neighbors fed and warm, supported and connected, even as uncertainty loomed.

The best antidote we have to divisiveness is COMMUNITY. And the best antidote I know for fear is ACTION.



This report reflects a year in which our values were not just affirmed—they were exercised under pressure. It tells the story of an organization that meets challenge with compassion and resolve, and a community that refuses to look away when neighbors are at risk.

I am deeply grateful to our staff, board, volunteers, donors, partners, and the community we serve. It is an honor to return to Community Action Pioneer Valley in a moment that calls us so clearly to live our vision—not in ideal conditions, but in real ones.

*With gratitude and resolve,*  
**LEV BENEZRA,**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

*The best antidote we have to  
divisiveness is COMMUNITY.  
And the best antidote I know  
for fear is ACTION.*



# COMMUNITY ACTION PIONEER VALLEY

**Access ■ Opportunity ■ Community**

## MISSION

Community Action Pioneer Valley assists people who have low incomes to achieve economic stability and security. We work to build communities in which all people have the opportunity to thrive.



## VISION

Our vision is a community that celebrates our shared humanity as well as our diversity. We strive to build a community that invests in access for everyone to healthy food; safe, affordable housing; living wage work; high quality, affordable education from birth; and full participation in the democratic process. In service to that vision, Community Action Pioneer Valley relies on the leadership of people who have low incomes to define how we approach our work. We advocate for policies and resources that protect the vulnerable and disenfranchised, and open opportunity to all. Working with many partners, we create a community where children and youth are nurtured and protected, and everyone achieves their potential and prospers in the fullness of life.

## VALUES

- We see people as the experts on their own lives, as individuals and families who have strengths and dreams, and who also experience barriers to their success.
- We honor everyone's right to live with dignity and to be treated with respect and appreciation for diversity.
- We partner with individuals and families to develop the resources, skills, social connection, and resilience to be economically secure and successful according to their own values and hopes.
- We partner with families and communities to raise strong and healthy children and youth.
- We value workplace practices based on mutual respect, inclusion, transparency, and leadership development for all staff.
- We believe that engaging people with low incomes in decision-making and the overall direction of the agency is essential to our integrity and success.
- We are committed to participating in community development that assures that all people are housed, well-fed, warm, safe, and stable.
- We value building collaborative partnerships to find community-based solutions to meet community needs.

# ENERGY PROGRAMS

We lower our neighbors' energy use and bills with free major improvements to their homes.

**WARM: 1,566 HOUSEHOLDS HAVE SAFER HOMES AND LOWER ENERGY BILLS**

The average home we weatherize improves energy use by **25%**

Examples include insulation, weatherstripping, air-sealing, and installing energy-efficient heating systems. We also make other improvements to allow people to stay safely in their homes. In 2025, we hosted a public demonstration of our work, when we did a live insulation project at a home in Greenfield.

Weatherization reduces energy costs for low-income families and helps them to become more self-sufficient. This strengthens the local economy by keeping more dollars in our community, where they continue to support local jobs and businesses. **Every \$1 retained in the community produces an estimated \$3 in multiplier benefits.**

## BETH'S STORY:

**In the fall of 2024, my furnace was in desperate need of replacing. There was very little insulation in my home and the doors were drafty.** The house was very cold, and we were using space heaters that were expensive and not safe for long term.

**I found Community Action and called to see what they offered.** They sent some really kind people out to my house to look things over and told me they could help me. That started the ball rolling. I quickly got a new furnace installed by the nicest people. I was worried the whole time about how much it was going to cost me because no one had mentioned a price or loan details during it all. When I finally asked how the payment process would work, they said it was all covered. It was free to me. **The relief I felt in that moment was unbelievable!**



Over the next few months, a whirlwind happened with my home. Community Action's amazing workers applied for funds, set up everything needed to get permission for the projects, found local contractors and supervised it all to make sure it went smoothly. The teams chosen were kind and had great attitudes.

I will never forget how I felt when the work was done and I could step back and see it all completed. There was such a huge difference; so many things are safe now, and I am incredibly thankful. The government funding, some wonderful companies and some very dedicated employees at Community Action saved me. They gave me peace of mind and took away a bunch of things that used to keep me up worrying at night. **I felt like I had been drowning, and Community Action saved me.**

## ENERGY, HEATING SYSTEM & HOME REPAIRS

**1566**  
Total households served

Total dollars invested in OUR local economy of contractors, installers, and HVAC professionals:  
**\$11,731,047**



We saved 175 metric tons of carbon, the equivalent of taking 150 cars off the road for one year!

# CENTER FOR SELF-RELIANCE

At our two food pantries, shoppers pick their own groceries. We also deliver food to people's homes. We strive to carry culturally appropriate food for many different communities.

## FED: 3,486 NEIGHBORS KEPT FOOD ON THE TABLE IN 2025

**“With unexpected medical expenses, I found myself for the first time without the means to afford proper nutrition.** I then started to utilize the Community Action food pantry. Many people use the pantry after enduring hard times. Also, I know their delivery service helps elderly and disabled people unable to get to the pantry. I know how important it is for our community to be able to access the food pantry.”

— West County Pantry Shopper



“I have been volunteering here on and off for over 20 years. I love the community. I love that people get a choice of food instead of a handout. It brings dignity, and I think that's so important.”

— Natasha L., Volunteer



Erin-Leigh Hoffman photo

### BY THE NUMBERS



# FUEL ASSISTANCE

We help people pay a portion of their heating bills each winter, whether they use gas, electric, propane, kerosene, wood, or pellet stoves.

**WARM: 15,363 PEOPLE — ELDERS, CHILDREN, AND OUR NEIGHBORS — STAYED WARM THIS WINTER**



**“WORDS CANNOT FULLY DESCRIBE THE COMFORT OF BEING WARM THROUGHOUT MY HOME”**

**- Fuel Assistance Participant**

# HEALTHY FAMILIES

The Family Support Programs department includes the Healthy Families Program, which sends home visitors throughout Hampshire and Franklin counties to support first-time parents with information and resources about their child's development.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

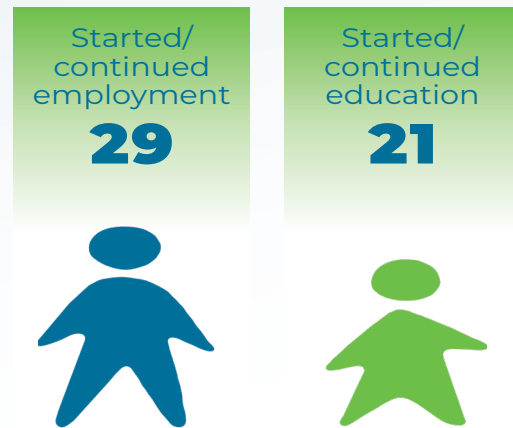
Parents in Healthy Families Massachusetts\* are...

- TWICE** as likely to complete at least 1 year of college!
- 31% LESS** likely to take part in **impulsive or risky behaviors** like smoking, drinking, or using drugs.
- 36% LESS** likely to report **parental stress**, a risk factor in child abuse
- 50% LESS** likely to see their child as "difficult"
- 20% LESS** likely to use corporal punishment

healthy families  
a children's trust program  
children's trust

\*Tufts University Healthy Families Massachusetts RCT Evaluation

## SUPPORTED: HEALTHY FAMILIES MADE 964 HOME VISITS TO LOCAL FAMILIES IN 2025



“The best way I can describe Healthy Families is just beyond phenomenal. At first, I didn't know what to expect. I was a bit anxious having a visitor I did not know come to my home every week, but now I am more than thrilled to have her come see my daughter and me.

When I was pregnant, I was provided lots of information on how to have a healthy pregnancy as well as labor and delivery information. I felt like I had a better understanding about labor. Since my daughter's birth, we have been provided with diapers, wipes, clothing, and baby items we were in need of.

We have built a bond of trust that is strong. I am currently taking a parenting course that has been provided by my Healthy Families home visitor that costs no money out of pocket. I can't thank Healthy Families enough for the amount of help and care my daughter and I have received.”

— McKailya Popkowski,  
Healthy Families Participant



McKailya Popkowski with her daughter Ellie and their Healthy Families Home Visitor

In 2026, we will be able to serve any first time parent – no age limits!

# THE FAMILY CENTER

A bright and bustling place where many programs come together to serve the families of Franklin County. We are a welcoming, vibrant hub for families where children & youth (0-18) come for fun, learning, and support.

**CONNECTED: 579 FAMILIES FOUND SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY AT THE FAMILY CENTER IN 2025**



"I also want to say how genuinely grateful I am for your kindness. **Being the parent who handles most of these processes in our family can feel incredibly lonely and isolating -especially with a child as complex as mine.**

Picking apart your child's needs in front of strangers, even well-intentioned ones, can leave you feeling judged or mis-understood. **It was such a relief to speak with someone who not only knows the system, but also approaches it with warmth and humanity.**

Every time I start to doubt myself or worry that I'm pushing too hard, I hear your voice reminding me that this is exactly what I should be doing for her. Thank you for giving me that reassurance."

— A Family Center Participant

"I am so proud of the connections I have made with our families. They want to tell me not just about struggles but also wins, fun activities they did over the weekend, etc. They not only want to connect when it comes to struggles but also want to just share about life. Many of my home visiting families sent me pictures of their kids Trick or Treating. They just wanted to share that moment with me, and that feels so incredibly special."

— A Family Center Staff

## AT THE FAMILY CENTER



# COMMUNITY RESOURCES & ADVOCACY


Welcome to the “front door” of Community Action Pioneer Valley. Many people’s first contact with Community Action happens here, when they reach out for help. Resource Advocates can tell people where to find help and assist them with applications for benefits.

## CONNECTED: 2,496 INQUIRIES ANSWERED IN 2025

Community Resources & Advocacy provided financial assistance to a participant in Ware for an oil delivery for her hot water this fall. She is in her 80s and was unable to come to our office for an in-person appointment. Without internet, she was unable to receive/ provide documents through our usual electronic

means for a phone appointment. A whole team of people helped this participant get her oil delivered; the CR&A team mailed her documents to her, and we worked with her local senior center to help complete her application. An oil delivery was arranged, after which time we received a letter from the participant:

*“I would like to thank you for your assistance in helping me obtain oil. It was a tremendous relief not to have to worry about being without heat and hot water. Knowing there are services like yours to help people is so appreciated.”*



Most calls to our CR&A line are about staying warm, preventing eviction and, putting food on the table.

# WIC

WIC helps families buy fresh fruits, vegetables, milk, cheese and bread if parents are pregnant, postpartum or have a child under 5. We pair this support with nutrition education for parents.


## FED: 2,531 FAMILIES HAD NUTRITIOUS FOOD WHEN THEY NEEDED IT


*“I just wanted to say thank you so much for your support. It has truly made a difference in my life and my child’s life. I do not have a village, as I moved here from the other side of the country. My life would be drastically different without y’all.”*


– WIC Participant




### NUTRITION AND HEALTH IMPACT

 Reduces food insecurity and poverty

 Improves health and birth outcomes

 Improves dietary intake


### CHILD AND FAMILY IMPACT

 Supports learning and development

 Supports healthy growth

 Supports economic stability

### ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

 Reduces health care costs

 Bolsters local economies through purchases made at food retailers

Graphic from the Food Research & Action Center

# YOUTH AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

We partner with young people as they build their futures — earning credentials, starting college, and securing paid internships and jobs that create real opportunity.

We create spaces where youth and young adults connect, lead, and strengthen their communities.



## SUPPORTED & CONNECTED: YOUNG ADULTS FIND ACCESS, OPPORTUNITY, AND COMMUNITY THROUGH YOUTH & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT'S SIX MAJOR PROGRAMS

### GENQ & DROP IN

LGBTQIA+ peer-led support spaces where young people build belonging, leadership, and creative expression through health, advocacy, and art-based initiatives. These programs reduce isolation and strengthen community by empowering youth to support one another.



*“Community Action’s youth and workforce development programs gave me the structure and confidence I needed to find my place in this community.”*

— Ezzy, former youth participant, now staff Specialist

## SKILL UP CAREER NAVIGATION

Career exploration, job readiness training, and paid internships for justice-involved youth ready to build a new path forward. Skill Up participants have successful early work experiences, explore different career fields, and gain real-world skills.

**Skill Up youth have a wide variety of interests. This year's internship sites included: family centers, social services, citizen's council, car detailing, boxing gym, computer repair, restaurants.**

## YOUTH COUNCIL

A leadership hub connecting youth across programs to build skills, amplify their voices, and lead social change in our community. Youth Council members design initiatives, influence decisions, and grow as emerging community leaders.

## YOUTH ACTION BOARD

YAB is a group that meets weekly to fight youth & young adult homelessness in our region. By turning experience into expertise, Youth Action Board members influence systems and policies that affect youth in our region.



## YOUNG PARENTS PROGRAM

Pregnant and parenting young adults earn their high school credential, pursue college or training, and move toward full-time employment while building stability for their families. This program strengthens two generations at once.

## RE-ENTRY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

This program serves people leaving incarceration, and returning/recently returned citizens from Franklin and Hampshire counties. We provide job readiness training, industry recognized credentials, and paid on-the job

training. Most importantly, our individual relationships and support help participants return to the community, get jobs and keep them. ReEntry Workforce Development serves adults of all ages.



Carol Lollis photo

Before his release from prison, Charles Worpek joined Community Action Pioneer Valley's Re-entry Workforce Development Program. Now, a year after his release, he works as a prep cook at Fitzwilly's Restaurant in Northampton. The program, Worpek said, made the transition possible.

*— Excerpt from an article originally written for the Greenfield Recorder, by Aalianna Marietta*

# VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA)

During tax season, we train local volunteers to prepare people's income tax returns in our free, VITA tax clinics.

## SUPPORTED: 618 FAMILIES KEPT MORE OF WHAT THEY EARNED

Imagine getting a deposit of 12% of your annual salary all at once. That's the reality for many of our taxpayers. The average refund is 12% of the average taxpayer income. For many of our families, that's the difference between stability and struggle.

Our IRS-certified volunteers go through twelve hours

of training and pass a rigorous test to serve our low income neighbors with accuracy and integrity. The VITA program has a lower rate of errors in filed returns than many major tax preparation companies. We offer a high quality service that brings over a million dollars back to our neighborhood businesses each year – and we don't take a dime.

*"By helping people keep more of what they've earned and ensuring those dollars stay local, VITA makes a meaningful impact on both household stability and the regional economy."*

– Tony Worden, CEO of Greenfield Cooperative Bank, a local sponsor of the VITA program

*"I feel more confident doing my taxes with Community Action because they listen, answer your questions and best of all it is free. You kind of feel like you're at home having a conversation with your neighbors. They also always treat you with kindness."*

*"The team was so kind and patient with our disorganized paperwork. As an English as a second language speaker, their kindness was more than I could appreciate. It's priceless. The team members did above and beyond, not just filing taxes, but also were so generous in sharing life, wisdom, and tricks to save money!"*

### VITA IN 2025

**618**  
taxpayers served

**\$19,052**  
average taxpayer income

**\$2,263**  
average refund

**39**  
IRS-Certified volunteer tax preparers

**12**  
hours of training per volunteer

**\$1,235,843**  
returned to the community

Filing your taxes with us is easy, accurate, and best of all — free!



Support proudly provided by



GREENFIELD  
Cooperative Bank

NORTHAMPTON  
Cooperative Bank A Division of Greenfield Cooperative Bank



MEMBER FDIC  
MEMBER DIF

# RSVP

RSVP is the “volunteer connector” for people 55+ in the Valley. An AmeriCorps Seniors program, RSVP makes thoughtful matches between skilled community members and organizations that need their help.

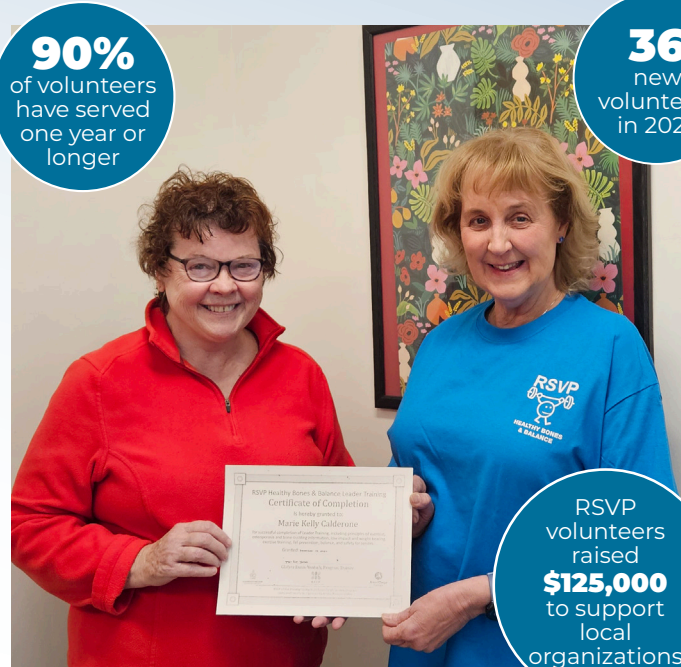
**CONNECTED: 390 VOLUNTEERS SERVED 57,000 VOLUNTEER HOURS AT 56 LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS**

*“Our RSVP volunteers raise funds and host fantastic community events including lunches and dances. They volunteer and serve during these events. Our senior center and entire community is uplifted and brought together due to their compassion and commitment.”*

— Andrea Barouxis, Volunteer Coordinator, Southampton Senior Center

*“RSVP volunteers are vital to our success at Homework House. Their experience, reliability, and compassion help us provide consistent, high-quality support to the children we serve. They build meaningful relationships with our students and allow us to reach more kids with the individualized attention they need. We’re truly grateful for their impact.”*

— Dave Haslam, Executive Director, Homework House



**90%** of volunteers have served one year or longer

**36** new volunteers in 2025

RSVP volunteers raised **\$125,000** to support local organizations

## HEALTHY BONES & BALANCE

Healthy Bones & Balance, a volunteer-led senior exercise program offering 70 classes per week at 30 sites around the Valley, is RSVP’s signature program.



**94%** of HBB attendees made friends or built on existing friendships

**60** volunteers lead weekly HBB exercise classes

*“This class has been so beneficial. There are many health benefits physically. The class is enjoyable, the leaders are dedicated and everyone participating has been so friendly, supportive and concerned about their fellow participants. The social interaction is so very positive.”*

*“I appreciate the pointers our instructors make - how to properly*

*do the exercises/what not to do and why. Their devotion is inspiring! I look forward to class every week.”*

*“We are always learning, moving, inspired and leave with smiles each day! This class helped me learn “how” to catch yourself if you are falling. I’ve told many seniors how beneficial it has been. It’s also nonjudgmental and welcoming to all.”*

# SUPPORT FROM OUR COMMUNITY



Keeping our financially vulnerable neighbors **warm, fed, supported,** and **connected.**

**COMMUNITY ACTION  
PIONEER VALLEY**

Learn more at [communityaction.us](https://communityaction.us)



Growing stability in challenging times.

GREENFIELD Cooperative Bank



NORTHAMPTON Cooperative Bank



We had more requests from community members than ever before this year – asking not what Community Action could do for them, but what they could do for Community Action. We had people use their birthdays to raise funds for their neighbors, schools collecting supplies for the Family Center, private events with proceeds going to our Heat Up fund, and even a concert.

Our annual Heat Up Campaign, which helps cover the gaps in people's heating bills, featured our first-ever collaboration with local restaurants in December 2024.

**JADUKE**  
JaDuke Theater

**LIGHTS COMMUNITY ACTION**

Lights, Community, Action!  
A Fundraiser for Community Action

Underwritten by Greenfield Savings Bank

JaDuke Theater organized a production to benefit our Center for Self Reliance Food Pantry called Lights! Community! Action!



*Thank You!*

We are so grateful to all the sponsors, donors and guests of

**COMMUNITY in ACTION**  
CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF CLARE HIGGINS

*Baystate Health, Smith Bros. Insurance, Hyphen, Jones Whitsett Architects, Finch & Perras, PC Connection Business Solutions, Servicenet*

In these turbulent, uncertain times, help keep our neighbors in need **fed, warm, supported and connected** through the Clare Higgins Fund for Community Resilience.



After fourteen years of captaining the Community Action ship, we sent Executive Director Clare Higgins into retirement in style, with a fundraising event and retirement celebration at the Log Cabin in Holyoke. With hosts Monte Belmonte and Kelsey Flynn, the night was filled with banter and praise for Clare's accomplishments over a long and storied career. It was a glorious way to pass the baton from a respected and beloved leader to our exciting and dedicated new director, Lev BenEzra.

# THREE COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE

The Three County Continuum of Care (3CoC) works to prevent and end homelessness across Berkshire, Franklin, and Hampshire counties. The CoC distributes funding and strengthens coordination among resources and housing programs. The CoC also gathers important data about homelessness in our region.

## SUPPORTED: \$3.7 MILLION BROUGHT HOME TO HELP NEIGHBORS FIND STABLE HOUSING

The CoC partners with local agencies, people with lived experience of homelessness, and community stakeholders to promote housing stability.

A key component of this work is the annual Point in Time (PIT) Count, a collaborative effort involving service providers, volunteers, and outreach teams to identify and count people experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness.

**In January of 2025, we identified 867 people experiencing homelessness on one of the coldest nights of the year.**

Federal funds supported 196 spots within Permanent Supportive Housing, Transitional Housing, and Rapid-Rehousing programs. These programs include full time staff and other wraparound supports for their participants.

### OUR LOCAL PARTNERS:

**A Positive Place**  
**Making Opportunity Count**  
**Louison House**  
**DialSelf**  
**Independent Housing Solutions**  
**Hilltown CDC**  
**Salasin Project**  
**The Gandara Center**  
**Community Action Youth & Workforce Development Programs**

**\$3.7 million dollars**  
distributed to 9 local organizations that work to end homelessness.

**18 Federal Grants**



The CoC's People with Lived Experience Action Board held their Emergency Summer Cooling Kit Drive for our unhoused neighbors. Pictured here is a community partner and CoC staff member. We created kits with clothing, ice packs, toiletries, hanging camping showers, tents, and solar powered chargers – all critical to surviving outside in the blistering summer heat.

The CoC also conducted their first Summer Point in Time Count and identified 568 people experiencing homelessness across all three counties.

# FUNDERS

We gratefully acknowledge the support and partnership of the following organizations that contributed financially to our work in FY2025

Each funding source is listed under the organization from which the funding originates, with any intermediaries following.

## FEDERAL

**Corporation for National and Community Service,**  
Senior Corps, RSVP

### U.S. Department of Agriculture

- Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Child and Adult Care Food Program
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Program
- Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance, University of Massachusetts Medical School Establishment Grant for the Affordable Care Act and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

### U.S. Department of Energy

- Weatherization Assistance Program, via Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities

### U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

- Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start
- AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps Seniors
- Childcare and Development Block Grant, via the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care
- Heating Emergency Assistance Retrofit Task Weatherization Assistance Program (HEARTWAP), via Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities
- Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), via Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities
- Office of Community Services, Community Services Block Grant via Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration STOP Act Grant, via Franklin Regional Council of Governments Partnership for Youth

### U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

- Community Development Block Grants, via Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and

Livable Communities and

- Town of Buckland
- City of Greenfield
- City of Northampton
- Town of Shelburne
- City of West Springfield

- Continuum of Care Program
- Older Adult Home Modification Program
- Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program

**U.S. Internal Revenue Service VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program,** via MASSCAP (Massachusetts Community Action Partnership)

## STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**City of Northampton, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA),** Community Recovery Projects

### Massachusetts Children's Trust

- Healthy Families
- Massachusetts Family Center

### Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care

- Commonwealth Cares for Children (C3)
- Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative through Northampton Public Schools
- Coordinated Family and Community Engagement
- Disabilities/Special Needs Flexible Spending Pool
- Head Start State Supplemental
- Income-Eligible Child Care
- Parent-Child+
- Supportive Child Care

### Massachusetts Department of Public Health

- Bureau of Community Health and Prevention, Social Services Organization Flexible Services Preparation Fund and Healthy Relationships grant via Safe Passage
- Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS): Community Innovation in Responding to Adolescent & Young Adult Substance Use
- Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS): Peer Ambassador Program via Franklin County Regional Council of Governments

- HIV/AIDS Bureau -- Boston Alliance of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth (BAGLY)
- Maternal and Child Health WIC (Women, Infants, and Children)
- Youth Violence Prevention through Healing, Equity, and Leadership (HEAL)/Safe Spaces for LGBTQIA Youth

**Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance – Young Parents Program**

**Massachusetts Department of Youth Services, Skill-Up, in collaboration with Commonwealth Corporation**

**Massachusetts Department of Children and Families**

**Massachusetts Family Resource Center**

**Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services**

- Homeless Youth Services
- MassHealth via Community Care Cooperative (C3) Accountable Care Organization
- MassHealth via Partners Healthcare
- Office of Medicaid, Provider Technology Grant Program

**Massachusetts Department of Revenue via MASSCAP (the Massachusetts Association for Community Action)**

**Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities**

- Community Services Block Grant

**Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development**

- Commonwealth Corporation, Re-entry Workforce Development Demonstration Program

**Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General**

- Heating fuel assistance through the Massachusetts Association for Community Action

**Businesses:**

- Applied Mortgage
- Baystate Health/Health New England
- CJC Lighting & Production
- Common Media
- CopyCat Northampton
- Eversource
- Finck & Perras
- Franklin Community Co-op
- Greenfield Cooperative Bank
- Greenfield Savings Bank
- Hyphen

- Jaduke Theater
- Jones Whitsett Architects
- Laura Arbeitman Attorney
- Lesser, Newman, Aleo & Nasser LLP
- Newspapers of New England
- Northampton Open Media
- PeoplesBank
- PC Connections Business Solutions
- Servicenet
- Smith Brothers Insurance
- Whalen Insurance

**PRIVATE**

- All Souls Church Unitarian Universalist, Greenfield
- Berkshire Gas, via Center for Eco Technology
- Berkshire-Taconic Community Foundation
- Charles Hall Foundation, via Bank of America Philanthropic Solutions
- Columbia Gas of America, via Greater Lawrence
- Community Software Group
- Cooley Dickinson Healthcare
- Eversource, via Action for Boston Community Development
- Franklin County People's Fund
- Franklin County Regional Council of Governments
- Greenfield Savings Bank
- Greenfield Cooperative Bank
- Health New England: DEIB Mini-grant
- Jane Sanders Fund for Women, Children and Families
- John Timothy and Kelsey Crowley Fund
- The M&T Charitable Foundation
- National Grid, via Action, Inc.
- Perpetual Trust, via Bank of America Philanthropic Solutions
- Shurtleff Children's Services
- SPIFFY Coalition, Collaborative for Educational Services
- TD Charitable Foundation
- United Way of the Franklin and Hampshire Region
- Walter Phillips Fund/Vanguard Charitable Fund
- Western Massachusetts Alliance for Digital Equity via Baystate Health
- Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness, via United Way of the Franklin and Hampshire Region

# FINANCIALS

## COMMUNITY ACTION PIONEER VALLEY AND SUBSIDIARIES CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

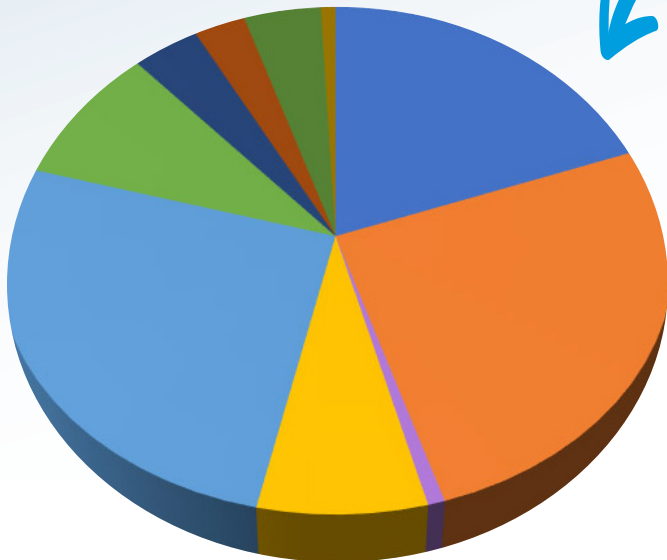
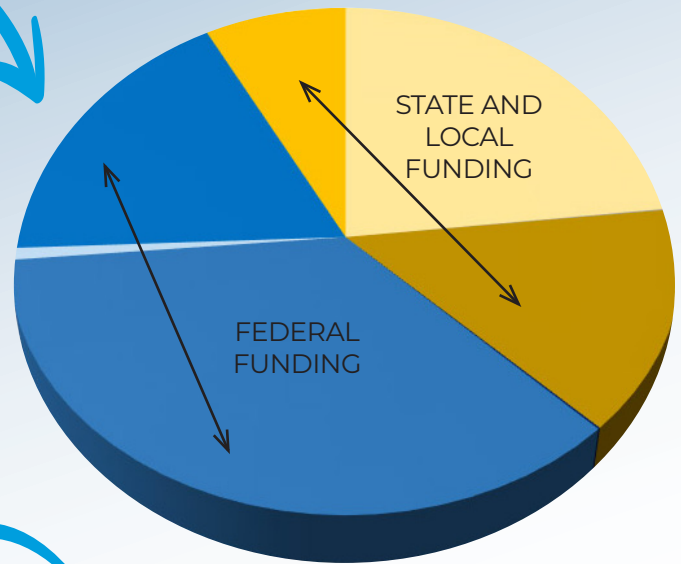
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2025  
WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 2024

	Total 2025	Total 2024
<b>Expense</b>		
<b>Revenue and support:</b>		
Federal and State contracts	\$32,023,417	\$33,931,084
Other contracts and grants	\$10,070,133	\$9,750,335
In-kind	\$2,947,380	\$3,004,696
Donations	\$521,721	\$266,413
United Way	\$33,558	\$73,269
Parent and other program service fees	\$704,226	\$492,014
Investment income	(\$3,476)	\$9,452
Other revenue	(\$69,558)	\$103,143
Net assets released from restrictions	-	-
<b>Total revenue and support</b>	<b>\$46,227,401</b>	<b>\$47,630,406</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Program	\$42,875,090	\$43,098,663
Administrative	\$3,439,239	\$3,345,291
Fundraising	\$146,096	\$85,204
Total expenses	\$46,460,425	\$42,529,158
<b>Change in net assets</b>	<b>(\$233,024)</b>	<b>\$1,101,248</b>
<b>Net assets - beginning of year</b>	<b>\$4,786,950</b>	<b>\$3,685,702</b>
<b>Net assets - end of year</b>	<b>\$4,553,926</b>	<b>\$4,786,950</b>



## Sources of Funds

- Federal Funding - Through Organizations **\$27,965 • 0.1%**
- Federal Funding - Through State **\$16,639,358 • 36.0%**
- Federal Funding - Through Local Governments **\$345,022 • 0.7%**
- Federal Funding - Direct **\$8,417,864 • 18.2%**
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts **\$6,593,208 • 14.3%**
- United Way **\$33,558 • 0.1%**
- Contributions & In-Kind Donations **\$3,469,101 • 7.5%**
- Other **\$10,701,325 • 23.1%**



## Uses of Funds

- Energy **\$12,078,565 • 26.1%**
- Head Start & Early Learning Programs **\$12,017,215 • 26%**
- Direct Client Benefits **\$8,893,760 • 19.2%**
- CoC - Three County Continuum of Care **\$4,235,578 • 9.2%**
- Administration **\$3,439,239 • 7.4%**
- Family Support **\$1,878,034 • 4.1%**
- Community Services **\$1,708,217 • 3.7%**
- Youth & Workforce Development **\$1,274,693 • 2.8%**
- Fundraising **\$346,957 • 0.8%**
- RSVP **\$355,142 • .08%**



# HEAD START & EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS

## DIRECTOR'S LETTER

*Dear Families and Friends of Head Start,*

In May of 2025, we marked 60 years of Head Start, and we celebrated our history alongside the graduation of another year of children. Over these 6 decades, millions of families across the country and tens of thousands here in our region have strengthened their children's futures and advocated for the future of Head Start. Their partnership is fundamental to the work we do. We want to share here just a few stories of families who brought so much to our program as leaders on our Policy Council, and where they are today.

*Please enjoy,*



Anat Weisenfreund,  
Director Head Start & Early Learning Programs



### Deana Currie

*Current Policy Council Chair*

Deana's Head Start graduates Adeline and Avery are now 6 and 10, in 1st and 5th grade! Avery first enrolled in Head Start when they moved to the area with, as Deana says, "no village." Asked what she remembers most of their time with Head Start, Deana describes how during the COVID pandemic, "Our family got sick and our Family Advocates went out of their way to bring us Covid tests and check in on us. They also helped us secure after school care as our children transitioned to kindergarten." The impact of Head Start continues: "Both of my children have thrived in elementary school—academically, socially, and emotionally. They were given the skills to seamlessly adjust and continue a love for learning that was instilled in them from both of us, their parents, and Head Start." Along with the friends and connections she's made through Policy Council, Deana celebrates that, "I have been able to be a part of something that means so much to so many families like my own. It has also given me opportunities to make an impact on a program which I believe in and gives so much back to children and families."



he was part of both part-day Head Start and Head Start at Home. What stands out from their experience in the programs are their fabulous home visitors: Daniel, Leslie, and Deirdre! Alena reports that Gabriel, now five, "loves kindergarten, especially learning math and reading!" And her time leading the Policy Council and deepening family engagement in program leadership, has left Alena with "an appreciation for the intensive nature of compliance with federal regulations."



### Maria Moreno

*Policy Council Chair 2015-2017, 2021-2022*

Maria first heard about Head Start when a neighbor recommended it for her oldest child, Isabel. "We decided to visit and immediately felt it was the right place for our family." Over time, the family enrolled Olivia and William as well. Maria remembers that, "The teachers made all the difference for us. Ms. Kristi, Ms. Debbie, and Ms. Heather were such an important part of our children's development and happiness during their preschool years. We were very lucky that the same wonderful team worked with all three of our kids."



### Alena Bartoli

*Policy Council Chair 2022-2025*

Alena first enrolled her son Gabriel in Head Start in search of affordable child care, and over time



## 2024-2025 POLICY COUNCIL

### Head Start Parent Members

Deacon Almedina  
Yashira Baez  
Alena Bartoli (Chair)  
Lisa Blair  
Daniana Bisono  
Caitlin Martin  
Jill Wessel  
Andrea Willet  
Melissa Winot

### Community Members

Deana Currie, Past Head Start  
Parent (Vice Chair, Chair)

Cathi Erland-Flynn, MA  
Department of Children and  
Families (Secretary/Treasurer)

Nicole Lyman,  
Valuing Our Children

Sarah Patton, Infant and Early  
Childhood Mental Health  
Consultant

Natalie Spatcher,  
CAPV Board Liaison

Robin Sudlow,  
REACH Early Intervention

The Head Start Policy  
Council partners in shared  
governance with the CAPV  
Board of Directors.

### Maria Moreno, continued

They made us feel comfortable and safe, and the children were always happy and excited to go to school.” Today the children are 14, 12, and 8, and Maria describes their passions and pursuits of art, theater, science, and sports. And she says, “All three of them have a strong love of reading, which I credit Head Start for helping to nurture.” Maria, who remains a member of the CAPV Board of Directors, describes her time on Policy Council by saying, “At first, I didn’t know exactly what the Policy Council did or what my role would be, but it turned out to be such a meaningful experience. I learned so much about how the organization works, and I truly felt part of building the program alongside the administration and staff. It was my way to contribute and give back in exchange for my children’s education, and to help strengthen the program for future families. Being part of the Policy Council gave me confidence in making decisions and inspired me to get more involved in organizations that work toward a better future.”

### Josh Bain

*Policy Council Chair 2017-2020*

Josh’s family was first connected to Head Start by a social worker, to support foster children placed in their care. Over time Kayden, Felix, Cora, and Etta – now ranging from 7 to 16 – all enrolled. As Josh remembers it, “The teachers and staff made lifetime memories for me and my family. We often talk about sayings, songs, or activities that we learned while attending Head Start. It was an extension of our family.” Today the children, all adopted, are doing great: “Having already experienced learning in a Head Start classroom, our transition to public schools was seamless.” And Josh has powerful memories of what he experienced as a part of Policy Council. “Whatever challenge I felt my family was facing, there was someone stronger who was taking on more than I was. Seeing the strength and courage of other council members reinforced why we were all there.”



### Jennifer Allen

*Policy Council Chair 2012-2013*

Jennifer’s family first got involved with Head Start because she was looking for an early childhood setting that offered, “both quality education and strong family support.” She remembers her children RJ, Asa, Lydia, and Isaiah loving the food, the graduations, and “the friendships we built with other families.” Today her Head Start graduates are 17, 18, 20, and 27 and doing well in high school, college, and beyond. Jennifer remembers her time working with Policy Council fondly, saying, “I learned so much about how boards operate and the important work that happens behind the scenes to support families and children.”





## OUR HISTORY

Head Start has a long history in our region providing early education and care alongside a wide range of services for very low-income pregnant parents, infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families. Our service area spans nearly 1,600 square miles in the Pioneer Valley and includes three mostly rural and semi-rural counties from the border of Vermont to the border of Connecticut. In 2024-25 we operated eight center-based sites with locations and hours based on community needs, as well as our Head Start at Home home visiting program which spans our whole service area. Our work is rooted in the Brazelton Touchpoints Approach (TM) and deep relationships formed among staff and families.

## OUR MISSION

We partner with families in all that we do and believe that parents are the experts on their children. Together, we build a solid foundation for resilient and resourceful caregivers; caring, confident, and curious children; and responsive, invested communities.

## OUR PROGRAM GOALS

In 2023-2024 we launched a new five-year grant cycle with a set of goals that are rooted in our work so far. Our goals highlight our values and priorities as we aim, always, to enhance and strengthen our work. These goals are deeply related to our School Readiness Goals and all support children and families being ready for school and for life.



**Access & Program Design:** Based on community needs and workforce realities, we will design and implement a program structure that will ensure full enrollment and maximize quality.



**Workforce:** Because stable relationships with highly competent caregivers are essential to child development and to partnership with families, we will invest in strategies to increase wages, decrease turnover, and enhance the experience of working at HS & ELP.



**Relationships:** Because development occurs at the intersection of relationships between children, families, and program staff, we will deepen partnerships with parents and caregivers and enhance resources to help their children thrive.



**Health & Safety:** Because health is a foundation for school readiness, we will improve children's up to date health and dental status and support nutrition and physical well-being in our settings.

## ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY

Community Action Pioneer Valley learns about our region using data from the Census and other sources, surveys of participants and service providers, and the first-hand knowledge of community members including leaders on our Policy Council and Board of Directors. We use this information to make decisions about our program's locations, hours, and services as well as which children and families are most in need of Head Start and Early Head Start. Our most recent Community Needs Assessment was completed in summer 2023 and updated in winter 2024. It found:



- There is only enough licensed child care and pre-K capacity in our region to serve about two-thirds of all young children, with particular challenges in rural areas
- Child poverty in our region rose slightly from 2022 to 2023 and reached 21% of children under 5 in Franklin County
- Rising costs of housing, utilities, and food have put additional burdens on families
- Homelessness among pre-K to 12 students rose 16% from 2022-23 to 2023-24, with the highest rates in Greenfield, West Springfield, and Orange
- Transportation remains a major barrier to accessing services and can reinforce families' isolation
- Children's experiences during the past several years have had lasting impacts on their development

Even in this context, we have witnessed incredible resilience among children and families, and we have seen the kinds of growth and progress they can make in partnership with our program.

In 2024-2025, Community Action Pioneer Valley's Head Start and Early Learning Programs (HS & ELP) provided services to 161 infants and toddlers and 9 pregnant women in Early Head Start from 144 families and 268 preschoolers in Head Start from 247 families.

## SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

Children and expectant parents are eligible for Early Head Start and Head Start services based on their age (birth to age 3 for EHS and 2 years 9 months to age 5 for HS) and their income (at or below the Federal Poverty Level, which was \$32,150 for a family of four in 2025). Children are also eligible if they are in foster care, they are homeless, or their families receive public assistance. We are able to enroll about one in thirteen low-income children who are potentially eligible for Head Start, so we prioritize among applicants to serve the children and families most in need of support.

During the months when all program options were open (September through May), average enrollment was 98% for both Head Start and Early Head Start.



# SCHOOL READINESS MISSION

Head Start & Early Learning Programs seek to build a foundation for lifelong learning. We work with families and the community so that children can develop caring relationships, confidence, and curiosity. Caring, confident, and curious children are ready for school.



We integrate data on learning and development in these areas with our holistic knowledge of the children in our program. We study how children's attendance, primary languages, classroom features, disability status, and more relate to their progress over time. This year we

found that nearly 2/3 of children had a disability or developmental delay, needed mental health supports, were involved with the Department of Children and Family Services, were homeless, or experienced more than one of these factors. In areas where children made progress over the year but a smaller proportion met our School Readiness Goals than we aimed for, we used this context to understand patterns of needs and to strategize how to respond. Classroom quality is measured with the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS), and children's progress is tracked using SmartTeach.

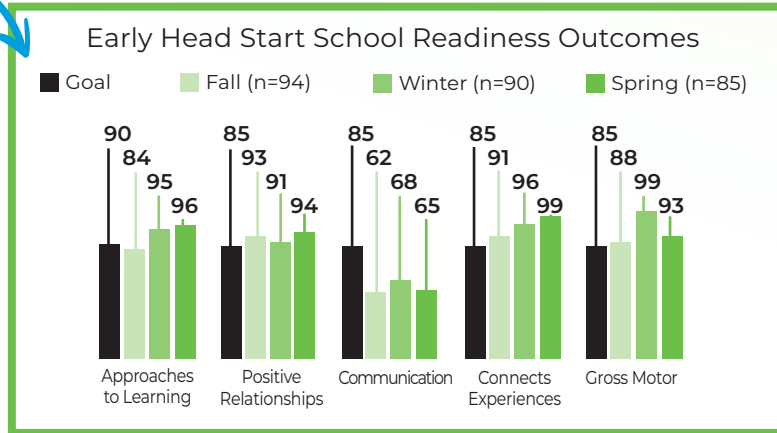
## School Readiness Goals

HS & ELP has School Readiness Goals about children's learning and development in these areas:

- Approaches to Learning
- Social and Emotional Development
- Language/Communication
- Cognition (separated into Math and Science for preschoolers)
- Perceptual, Motor, and Physical Development
- Attendance

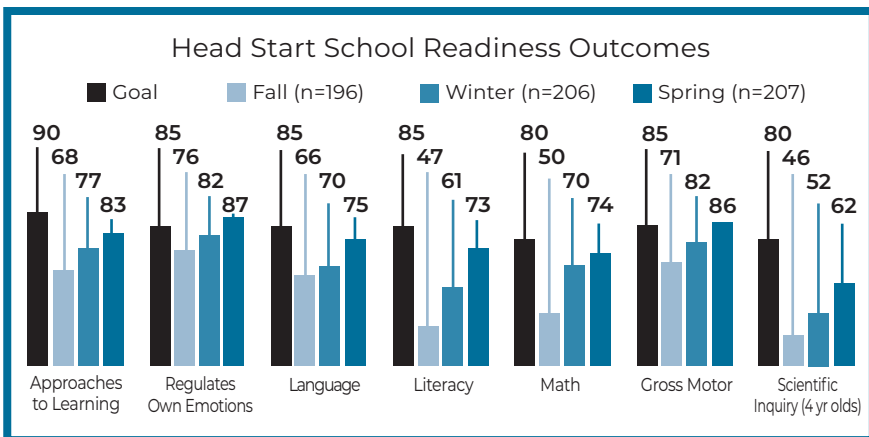
## Early Head Start Outcomes

Infants and toddlers develop and change rapidly, so each child is measured against different expectations at different times through the year. The chart below compares the proportion of children who were meeting or exceeding their age-appropriate expectations at each point in time in each domain of our School Readiness Goals. Children met or exceeded four of our five goals by the end of the year!



## Head Start Outcomes

In Head Start, each child is held to the same expectations throughout the year. While some children may leave during the year or new children enroll, numbers are more easily compared over time. Again, the graph shows our School Readiness Goals in comparison to children's progress at meeting and exceeding age-level expectations. Children made noteworthy progress in the areas of Literacy, Math, and Scientific Inquiry. By the end of the year, they met our goals in Gross Motor and Emotional Regulation.



## OUR SERVICES

At Head Start & Early Learning Programs, our staff partner with each family to learn about their resources, needs, and goals. Specialists in family services, health, nutrition, mental health, and disabilities provide direct support and connections to community resources to help each family with what they want to achieve.

### MENTAL HEALTH

Our team of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants (IECMHCs) partners with families, educators, home visitors, and other program staff to reflect on children's behavior or needs and respond effectively. They supported 159 children during the 2024-25 school year and were also involved in enhancing and implementing our system for addressing the needs of children, families, and classrooms. This year we spent time during our Self-Assessment process and our Health and Mental Health Advisory Committee meetings reflecting on our IECMHC practices and the well-being of children, families, and staff in our program. We are proud of the system we've built over time and also work toward continuous improvement.

### DISABILITY SERVICES

Our Disabilities Team, along with IECMHCs, works closely with staff to increase the meaningful inclusion of children with diagnosed or suspected disabilities and developmental delays across all settings. During the 2024-25 school year, 86 infants and toddlers (53%) and 73 preschoolers (27%) received support for a disability or developmental delay through an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individualized Education Program (IEP). Over the past several years, we've experienced a higher rate of children in need of these supports.

## FAMILY SERVICES

Each family's experience at HS & ELP is built on a foundation of relationships, and one essential relationship is with their Home Visitor or Family Advocate! Through a dialogue about strengths, needs, and resources, the family gets support to set personal goals and access community resources. In 2024-2025, some of the most common goals families set included finding employment or affordable housing, supporting a child's transition to preschool or kindergarten, and better understanding their child's development. This year, 98% of Head Start and 99% of Early Head Start families received family services customized to their circumstances.

### HEALTH

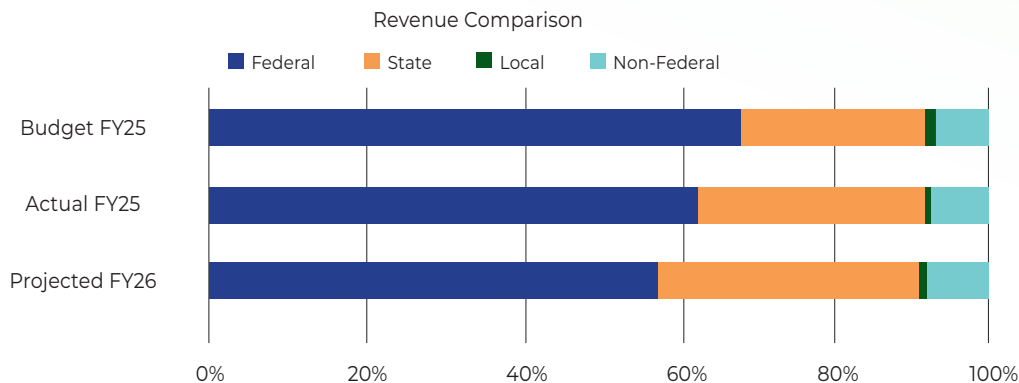
Our health team works to support children's holistic health and well-being. In 2024-25, 100% of children had medical homes and 99% of Head Start children and 82% of Early Head Start children had dental homes by the end of the year. Yet since the COVID-19 pandemic, families have faced barriers to staying fully up to date on the state's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) schedule. EPSDT requires a lengthy series of physicals, dental exams, vaccines, and screenings, with new events constantly coming due. This year we dedicated part of our Self-Assessment process to understanding the barriers family face and intervening to address those we could. By the end of the year, 42% of Early Head Start children and 47% of Head Start children were fully up to date, a substantial improvement from where we started. We continue to work as a program to understand barriers that families face and support collaborative relationships with medical and dental providers in our area. In addition, nutrition and sourcing local fresh foods remain a priority for our program.



# HEAD START AND EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS, COMMUNITY ACTION PIONEER VALLEY, INC.

## STATEMENT OF REVENUE WITH BUDGET COMPARISON FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025

Revenue and support	Total HS & ELP Actual	Other HS&ELP Actual	Head Start & Early Head Start Actual	Total HS & ELP Budget
Head Start	\$6,607,230	\$-	\$6,607,230	\$6,607,230
Early Head Start	\$2,457,321	\$-	\$2,457,321	\$2,457,321
USDA Food and Nutrition Service thru DESE	\$320,620	\$320,620	\$-	\$217,350
Early Education and Care (EEC) Subsidies	\$2,351,330	\$2,351,330	\$-	\$2,295,057
EEC Head Start State Supplemental	\$787,345	\$787,345	\$-	\$714,540
CPPI, Northampton Public Schools	\$61,532	\$61,532	\$-	\$61,218
Town of West Springfield Office of Community Development	\$30,748	\$30,748	\$-	\$15,000
Parent fees	\$65,989	\$65,989	\$-	\$67,000
Shurtleff Children's Services	\$3,520	\$3,520	\$-	\$3,520
In-kind rents, goods and services	\$848,007	\$-	\$848,007	\$873,567
Other Revenue	\$5,171	\$5,171	\$-	\$-
C3 Funding/ARPA	\$887,380	\$887,380	\$-	\$279,659
<b>Total revenue and support</b>	<b>\$14,426,194</b>	<b>\$4,513,635</b>	<b>\$9,912,558</b>	<b>\$13,591,462</b>



### Volunteers by the Numbers

Volunteers are hugely important to our program and bring skills, talents, and care! Plus, their donated time counts toward the "in kind" match for our federal Head Start grant. This year Head Start parents, family members, and community members spent time in classrooms; joined our Policy Council, Education Advisory Committee, and Health and Mental Health Advisory Committee; attended family meetings and extended their children's learning at home; interned in our program; and donated goods and time to help our community. About 289 volunteers, 250 of them parents, contributed over 1,973 hours of their time!



# HEAD START AND EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS, COMMUNITY ACTION PIONEER VALLEY, INC.

## STATEMENT OF EXPENSE WITH BUDGET COMPARISON FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025

Expense	Total HS & ELP Actual	Other HS&ELP Actual	Head Start & Early Head Start Actual	Total HS & ELP Budget
Salaries & wages	\$6,983,208	\$2,561,373	\$4,421,835	\$6,928,036
Payroll taxes	\$760,870	\$281,873	\$478,997	\$784,949
Fringe benefits	\$1,295,271	\$403,718	\$891,552	\$1,104,100
Facility rent & mortgage interest	\$37,113	\$9,576	\$27,537	\$37,050
Facility operations/maintenance/furnishings	\$718,735	\$164,739	\$553,997	\$549,089
Property & general liability insurance	\$42,024	\$9,290	\$32,734	\$24,500
Direct care consultants	\$49,532	\$16,219	\$33,312	\$31,000
Subcontracted direct care	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Staff training, conferences & meetings	\$80,931	\$16,485	\$64,447	\$60,701
Staff mileage/travel	\$69,185	\$19,646	\$49,539	\$46,250
Meals and food preparation supplies	\$345,366	\$281,103	\$64,263	\$240,429
Client transportation	\$39,389	\$-	\$39,389	\$89,205
Vehicle expenses	\$55,981	\$3,371	\$52,610	\$25,500
Program supplies/materials and equipment	\$80,799	\$20,652	\$60,146	\$72,290
Office, telephone, advertising and other misc expenses	\$137,607	\$23,179	\$114,428	\$83,430
Depreciation of property & equipment	\$10,412	\$894	\$9,519	\$1,900
Capital expenditures	\$1,421,839	\$113,381	\$1,308,458	\$1,300,457
In-kind expenses	\$848,007	\$-	\$848,007	\$873,567
Allocation of indirect costs	\$1,396,010	\$534,222	\$861,788	\$1,339,008
<b>Reimbursable expense</b>	<b>\$14,372,281</b>	<b>\$4,459,723</b>	<b>\$9,912,558</b>	<b>\$13,591,462</b>
Accrued vacation expense	\$41,595	\$41,595	\$-	\$-
Non-reimbursable depreciation expense	\$36,780	\$36,780	\$-	\$-
Non-reimbursable indirect costs	\$49,414	\$49,414	\$-	\$-
Prior year costs	\$571	\$571	\$-	\$-
Uncollected parent fees	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
<b>Non-reimbursable expense</b>	<b>\$128,360</b>	<b>\$128,360</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$-</b>
<b>Total expense</b>	<b>\$14,500,641</b>	<b>\$4,588,083</b>	<b>\$9,912,558</b>	<b>\$13,591,462</b>
<b>Net Revenue Over Expenditures</b>	<b>\$74,448</b>	<b>\$74,448</b>	<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$-</b>

### Head Start Funding Notes

Massachusetts Department of Early Education & Care Head Start Supplemental grant and Commonwealth Cares for Children (C3) grant revenue is used to meet a portion of the 20% non-federal match requirement.

Community Action Pioneer Valley Head Start was awarded by the Office of Head Start \$7,764,094 in one-time construction funds to build a new Head Start Facility in Westfield, Ma. In addition to this, the program was also awarded \$539,000 in state funds through Community Economic Development Assistance Program (CEDAC)/Children's Investment Funds (CIF) to build 2 playgrounds at the new Westfield site. \$1,300,458 of those funds is included in FY25 Revenues and Expenses, with the remainder to be spent during the following years of the project.

### Administration for Children and Families Reviews

HS & ELP's most recent monitoring event was a Focus Area 2 review conducted in December 2025 by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). HS & ELP was in compliance on all measures and no corrective action was required.

Community Action's most recent independent audit submitted a consolidated financial statement for the period ending September 30, 2025 and had no material findings.



# COMMUNITY ACTION PIONEER VALLEY

Lev BenEzra is the Executive Director of Community Action Pioneer Valley. A volunteer Board of Directors Governs the organization and provides oversight.

Community Action’s Board of Directors is made up of community members with lived experience of poverty or low-incomes, people who are appointed by local elected officials, and private business and community members.

## FISCAL YEAR 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Charity Day, *President*
- Lizbeth Del Toro-Mejias, *Vice President*
- Chelsea Depault, *Treasurer*
- Ellen Cain, *Clerk*
- Alena Bartoli
- Barbara Black
- Heather Bialecki-Canning
- Deanna Currie
- John Hird
- Anita McConnell
- Lewis Metaxas
- Maria Moreno
- Jennifer Moyston
- Natalie Spatcher
- Aster Sutton
- Nellie Taylor

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Barbara Black
- Ellen Cain
- Charity Day
- Lizbeth Del Toro-Mejias
- Chelsea Depault
- Aster Sutton

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

- Barbara Black
- Charity Day
- Chelsea Depault
- Maria Moreno

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

- Ellen Cain
- John Hird
- Anita McConnell

## GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

- Barbara Black
- Charity Day
- Lizbeth Del Toro-Mejias
- John Hird
- Jennifer Moyston
- Nellie Taylor

## HEAD START POLICY COUNCIL LIAISONS

- Alena Bartoli
- Deana Currie
- Chelsea Depault
- Natalie Spatcher



*Community Action Pioneer Valley champions voices like mine. The Board of Directors lifts up the ideas and priorities of people who have lived in poverty and benefited from anti-poverty programs. As Board President, I have seen firsthand how these perspectives guide the agency’s work. One-third of our Board seats are held by people with lived experience—because at Community Action, lived experience brings leadership.*

— Charity Day,  
CAPV Board President

# lunch is served (thanks to you)



Learn more with  
our monthly  
newsletter!  
SCAN QR CODE



**The best antidote to divisiveness  
is COMMUNITY.**

**The best antidote to fear  
is ACTION.**

**Thank YOU for keeping our neighbors  
fed, warm, supported & connected.**