

CAPIC 2024-2026 COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Approved by CAPIC's Board of Directors on 7/26/23

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Community Action Programs Inter-City, Inc.

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SECTION 2: Agency Description

Community Action Programs Inter-City Inc., (CAPIC) is a private, non-profit corporation that was chartered in 1967 to identify and eradicate the root causes of poverty in Chelsea and Revere. In 1978, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts expanded CAPIC's designated area to include Winthrop. *The mission of CAPIC is to identify and address the needs, problems, and concerns of those in poverty and to enable the individually poor to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency.*

CAPIC is governed by a twenty-one-member, community-based Board of Directors, comprised of representatives from public, private, and low-income sectors of Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop. CAPIC is administered by an Executive Director, who reports to the Board of Directors. A full-time Fiscal Director, Director of Planning, Development, & Operations, Human Resource Director, and IT Director work with the Executive Director to manage operational functions and coordinate executive decision-making functions. Major programs are supervised by on-site Program Directors, who are responsible for day-to-day operations and report to the Executive Director. CAPIC employs 120 persons (many of whom are local area residents) in a variety of capacities and programs, all of which strive to assist low-income residents attain self-sufficiency.

For fifty-six years, CAPIC has delivered anti-poverty services to local low-income residents. Since its inception, the agency has initiated numerous anti-poverty strategies that have resulted in restoring self-sufficiency for thousands of area residents. CAPIC serves a diverse and multi-cultural population. During 2022, CAPIC provided over 9,000 units of service throughout its CSBG designated service area. CAPIC has vast expertise in delivering critical services to homeless, at-risk families and individuals.

AGENCY SERVICES & PROGRAMS: CAPIC administers comprehensive Head Start services for local area low-income children and families, as well as After-School services for area youth; a City-Wide Summer Camp Program; a Child Development Center serving infants, toddlers, and preschoolers; a Fuel Assistance Program providing households with energy assistance from April-November; a Weatherization Program that installs energy conservation measures in households, throughout an eighteen community area, annually; a heating system maintenance and repair service program; an Appliance Management Program; and a Responsible Payee Program that assists individuals manage Social Security Disability benefits. In addition, CAPIC operates an Emergency Assistance Program, a Domestic Violence/Crisis Intervention Program, a free IRS Tax Preparation Program, the Chelsea/Revere Family Network, the City of Chelsea Inspectional Services Department Referral Program, the Chelsea Substance Use Disorder Program, as well as the Chelsea Mobile Outreach Program.

Since 1995 CAPIC has worked directly with the City of Revere, in particular the Revere Police Department to expand community-wide opportunities to increase public safety and provide services to at-risk youth. CAPIC has a solid working relationship with the Revere Police Department and Police Activities League (PAL). This unique partnership has resulted in numerous initiatives with the Department to provide free alternative activities to at-risk youth.

SECTION 3: Community Profile

CAPIC CSBG-Designated Service Area: Chelsea, Revere, & Winthrop

CAPIC delivers anti-poverty services and resources to low-income residents of Chelsea, Revere & Winthrop. The vast majority of CAPIC clients are low-income and in need of numerous financial and comprehensive support services. The City of Chelsea accounts for the largest percentage (48.6% during FY'22) of CAPIC's service population and contains the highest number of individuals living at or below the poverty level as depicted below.

Poverty-Related Data for the Agency's CSBG-Designated Communities of Chelsea, Revere, & Winthrop *United States Census QuickFacts population estimates July 1, 2022.

	Chelsea	Revere	Winthrop
Population Total	38,637	58,528	18,510
18 and over	74.7% of population	80.3% of population	82.5% of population
Male	51.3% of population	50.3% of population	48.3% of population
Female	48.7% of population	49.7% of population	51.7% of population
Median Income	\$64,782.00	\$73,041.00	\$86,780.00
Percent in Poverty	22.5%	13%	8.3%
White	14,836 -38.4%	39,155 – 66.9%	15,548 – 84.1%
Black/African American	3,090– 8%	2,341 – 4%	740 – 4.1%
Hispanic or Latino	25,500 – 66.1%	21,479 – 36.7%	4,461 – 13.3%

CHELSEA

The City of Chelsea is located in Suffolk County directly across the Mystic River from the City of Boston. The city occupies a land area of 1.8 square miles. It is the smallest city in Massachusetts in land area, and is the second most densely populated city in Massachusetts (behind the City of Somerville). Chelsea is a highly diverse community with many cultures; more than 60 percent of the population identifies as Hispanic or Latino. Chelsea is a Gateway City; supporting newly arrived immigrants. As a Gateway City, Chelsea faces unique challenges: a high percentage of essential workers who are unable to work from home, overcrowded housing, and language barriers. There are over 30 languages spoken by residents of Chelsea.

- The Massachusetts Department of Economic Research reports that the unemployment rate in May 2023 for the City of Chelsea was 2.4%; slightly higher than the state rate of 2.3%.
- The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education reports that during the 2022-2023 school year, English was not the first language for 84.8% of children enrolled; far exceeding the state average of 25%; with 88% of children enrolled being Hispanic (state average is 24.2%). **These numbers have all increased since CAPIC's last Community Assessment Report.*

- Chelsea has the highest share of adults with Limited English Proficiency in the state at 33%. Additionally, approximately 1,700 children aged 5 to 17 in Chelsea live in Limited English Proficient households. (*GreenRoots COVID-19 in Chelsea Report – Neighborhood Scout*)
- 47% of Chelsea residents were foreign-born; among those, 68% were not US citizens. 86% of foreign-born residents in Chelsea were born in Latin America. In comparison, the City of Boston reported 28% of foreign-born residents. *Source: BIDMC 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment US Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2016-2020*
- Chelsea has a higher under 18 population (24.6%) than the state overall average of 19.8% (*MGH Community Health Needs Assessment Report 2022*)

REVERE

Revere is situated on the Massachusetts Bay, five miles northeast of Boston. The City occupies a land area of 10 square miles. 4.1 square miles are open water and protected wetlands not suitable for development. Of the 5.9 square miles of developed land, 70% is occupied by residential dwellings. The City of Revere is in a unique location, serving as a gateway between the North Shore and Greater Boston. The city is home to a multi-cultural and diverse socio-economic population that has older residential neighborhoods and housing stock and numerous specialized regionalized facilities.

Revere’s geographic characteristics and local businesses cemented its crucial role as a recreational and entertainment destination within the Boston Metro area. Today, Revere’s amenities such as Revere Beach, proximity to Logan Airport and transit access, have attracted new residents as well as businesses in the leisure and entertainment industries. New tech and e-commerce firms have located in Revere, such as the Amazon distribution center. Revere’s location and unique assets also necessitate continued coordination with a range of stakeholders at the state level. Several state agencies have jurisdiction over roadways, public transportation resources, open space and other assets utilized by Revere residents and visitors. As a result, coordination with these agencies, such as DCR, Massport (due to the proximity of Logan Airport), MassDOT, the MBTA and other agencies, is crucial to ensure Revere’s continued development.

- The Massachusetts Department of Economic Research reports that the unemployment rate in May 2023 for the City of Revere was 2.4%; slightly higher than the state rate of 2.3%.
- The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education reports that during the 2022-2023 school year, English was not the first language for 70.8% of children enrolled; far exceeding the state average of 25%; with 62.4% of children enrolled being Hispanic (state average is 24.2%). **These numbers have all increased since CAPIC’s last Community Assessment Report.*
- Revere has a higher under 18 population (20.6%) than the state overall average of 19.8%. (*MGH Community Health Needs Assessment Report 2022*)

WINTHROP

Winthrop is an ocean-side suburban community in Greater Boston situated at the north entrance to Boston Harbor, close to Logan International Airport. It is located on a peninsula, 1.6 square miles in area, connected to Revere by a narrow isthmus and to East Boston by a bridge over the harbor inlet to the Belle Isle Marsh Reservation. Winthrop is one of the oldest communities in the United States. It is also one of the smallest and most densely populated municipalities in Massachusetts. It is one of the four cities in Suffolk County (the others are Boston, Revere, and Chelsea), and is the southernmost part of the North Shore, with a 7-mile (11 km) shoreline that provides views of the Atlantic Ocean to the east and of the Boston skyline to the west.

In 2005, the Town of Winthrop voted to change its governance from a representative town meeting adopted in 1920 to a council-manager form of government. Under Massachusetts law, as of 2006 when the new Town Charter took effect, Winthrop became a city. However, it is one of 14 cities in Massachusetts that choose to remain known as a 'town.'

- The Massachusetts Department of Economic Research reports that the unemployment rate in May 2023 for the Town of Winthrop was 2.1%; slightly lower than the state rate of 2.3%.
- The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education reports that during the 2022-2023 school year, English was not the first language for 21.8% of children enrolled; again, lower than the state average of 25%; with 20.2% of children enrolled being Hispanic (state average is 24.2%). **These numbers have all increased since CAPIC's last Community Assessment Report.*
- Winthrop has a higher older population rate (19.9%) than the state overall average of 16.5%. *(MGH Community Health Needs Assessment Report 2022)*

Percentage Economically Disadvantaged Students During the 2022-2023 School Year (& comparison to 2019-2020) **Data from MA Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education*

CHELSEA	REVERE	WINTHROP	STATE
80.5%	67.7%	38.2%	42.3%
*70.6% (2019-2020)	*56.1% (2019-2020)	*31.9% (2019-2020)	*36.6% (2019-2020)

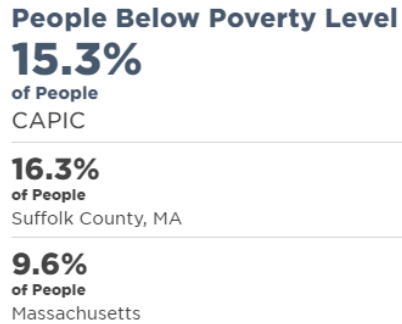
COVID-19 IMPACT

The COVID-19 pandemic had a severe impact on CAPIC's service area; Chelsea and Revere were two of the hardest hit cities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This had devastating effects in both communities. CAPIC experienced an alarming increase in calls for rent/mortgage assistance as well as food and basic necessities. CAPIC's request for rental assistance quadrupled during the pandemic; with a waiting list of households in need of help to avoid displacement.

Chelsea is in the throes of the most serious housing crisis the city has seen in decades. Revere is close behind. This housing crisis had been building as Boston-area rents skyrocketed in the past few years; however, the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the crisis and brought a sense of despair to communities

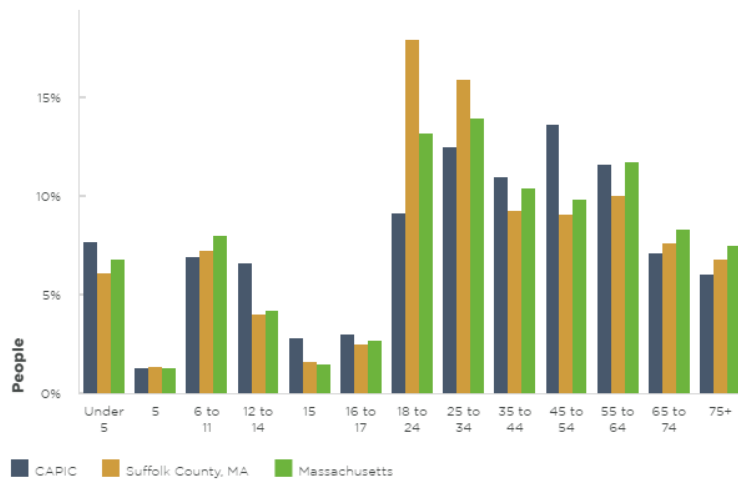
already struggling and burdened by a myriad of issues. CAPIC’s service area continues to struggle with the impact of the pandemic.

The graphs below depict poverty-related and demographic (age) data for the Agency’s combined CSBG-Designated Communities/service area as gathered and prepared by MySidewalk (common poverty-related indicators).



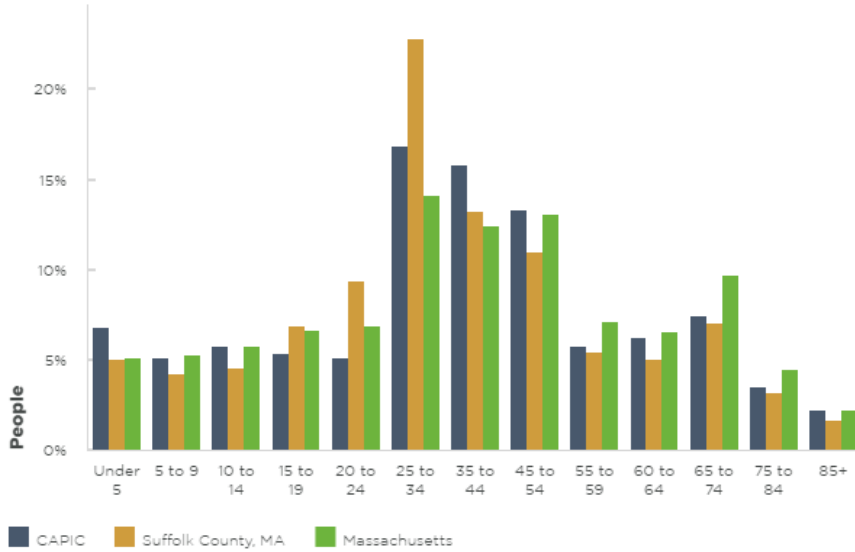
Sources: US Census Bureau ACS 5-year 2017-2021

People Below Poverty Level by Age



Sources: US Census Bureau ACS 5-year 2017-2021

Population Distribution by Age



Sources: US Census Bureau ACS 5-year 2017-2021

CAPIC CSBG Un-Designated Service Areas

CAPIC delivers energy/energy-efficiency-related services to various cities and towns through sub-contractual agreements. CAPIC’s Responsible Payee Program also serves these additional communities through contracts with the Social Security Administration.

- **Weatherization Program** serves the communities of Chelsea, Revere, Winthrop, Melrose, Arlington, Belmont, Lexington, Waltham, Watertown, Wakefield, Cambridge, Somerville, Malden, Medford, Everett, Winchester, Woburn, and Stoneham.
- **HEARTWAP Program** serves the communities of Chelsea, Revere, Winthrop, Everett, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Stoneham, Winchester, Woburn, while National Grid electric assessments are performed in Revere, Winthrop, Everett, Malden, and Medford; and Ever Source electric assessments in Chelsea, Cambridge, and Somerville.
- **Appliance Management Programs (AMP)** serves the communities of Chelsea, Revere, Winthrop, Melrose, Arlington, Belmont, Lexington, Waltham, Watertown, Wakefield, Cambridge, Somerville, Malden, Medford, Everett, Winchester, Woburn, and Stoneham.

POVERTY-RELATED DATA for NON-CSBG DESIGNATED COMMUNITIES

	Arlington	Belmont	Cambridge	Everett	Lexington	Malden	Medford	Melrose	Somerville	Stonham	Waltham	Watertown	Winchester	Woburn
Population	45,522	26,710	118,488	49,350	34,454	64,712	65,399	29,155	79,762	22,705	64,065	35,022	22,970	41,248
18 and over	78.6%	75.3%	87.6%	77.2%	73.2%	81.2%	85.8%	80.1%	89.4%	80.5%	86.1%	85.6%	72.3%	81.1%
Male	46.6%	47.2%	50%	51.6%	48.7%	50%	48%	48.3%	50.1%	48.4%	49.2%	46.4%	46.4%	49.6%
Female	53.4%	52.8%	50%	48.4%	51.3%	50%	52%	51.7%	49.9%	51.6%	50.8%	53.6%	53.6%	50.4%
Percent in Poverty	4.6%	4.9%	12.3%	12.8%	3.2%	14.7%	7.6%	3.4%	10.4%	5.5%	8.8%	7.2%	2.9%	6.4%
White	75.6%	75%	61%	48.2%	60.8%	47.9%	70.9%	82.3%	74.3%	86.6%	68.6%	76.5%	76.6%	78.3%
Black/African American	3.3%	1.2%	10.6%	13.4%	1.2%	15.7%	8.4%	3.4%	5%	2.3%	6.8%	3.7%	1.8%	4.8%
Asian	13.3%	18.2%	18.3%	8.2%	31.8%	27%	10.6%	8.3%	9.4%	5.8%	12.2%	11.9%	15.8%	9.6%
Hispanic or Latino	5%	4.2%	8.8%	30.6%	2.2%	8.5%	8.4%	3.5%	12.3%	4.4%	14.5%	7.4%	2.1%	6.2%

**US Census Quick Facts*

SECTION 4: Community Assessment Process

CAPIC conducted an extensive Community Needs Assessment in preparation for the FY’24-’26 three-year Community Assessment Report & Strategic Plan (CARSP). The Community Assessment process started back in the fall of 2022 with CAPIC’s Executive Director and Director of Planning, Development, & Operations, participating in the MASSCAP Training Center/DHCD sponsored “CARSP Kick-Off” virtual trainings on October 13th and 20th.

The Community Needs Assessment survey provides a process to identify the needs, challenges, strengths, weaknesses, and assets of the communities we serve. The survey tool lends a voice to local residents to share their insight and thoughts on what is impacting their lives as well as their community. It also provides the Agency with the means to determine the underlying causes of poverty in our service area and work to identify available resources to address the unmet needs of the most vulnerable individuals and families we serve. The process also relies on both primary and secondary data to determine need as well as community priority areas. CAPIC utilized the network-wide survey questions for the community needs assessment tool. These surveys captured individual, family, and community needs.

CAPIC’s Director of Planning, Development, & Operations oversaw the collection, analysis, organization, and reporting of all data. CAPIC gathered information from other key sectors of the community, such as the private sector and public sector. The analysis and inclusion of this

data enhanced the Agency’s ability to make sound decisions about what we as an Agency need to do to provide services/resources that meet the emerging needs of local residents and the communities that we serve, while at the same time align with our mission statement.

The surveys completed in person were registered into a computer program by the Director of Planning, Development, & Operations. Once tallied and reviewed, they were shared with the Executive Director and the Board of Directors in a concise format.

Board members were engaged in the entire Community Assessment process, including the planning, and preparation phases. CAPIC’s Board of Directors were presented with monthly updates at Board meetings; both written and verbal by the Dir. Planning, Development, & Operations. Reports included: survey tools, plans for the collection of data, survey results and analysis, and community data. The process and survey results were on-going discussions at monthly CAPIC Board of Directors’ monthly meetings.

As a team, the MASSCAP Planners' COP determined an efficient methodology for capturing both statewide and regional information about needs, existing services, and gaps would be to conduct a Focus Groups with COP Planners. Thus, in early March 2023, MASSCAP facilitated a series of Focus Groups with Planners who attended the regularly scheduled COP meeting. The Focus Groups were broken out by top need area identified through the common Community Needs Survey process. At that time, top needs were: DEI/Immigrant Services, Mental Health & Health Care, Inflation/Cost of Living & Basic Needs, and Housing. Findings from this series of Focus Groups was shared with all CAAs for incorporation into the Community Needs Assessment Report as deemed relevant by individual agencies.

CAPIC’s data gathering efforts included:



Secondary Data Review

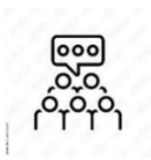
- Sources included: the US Census, MA Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education, Massachusetts General Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment Report 2022, Massachusetts Department of Economic Research, Harvard Kennedy’s Rappaport Institute for Greater Boston, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) Chelsea Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative Access to Care & Other Social Determinants of Health Survey, 2022 North Suffolk’s Community Health Needs Assessment Report, City of Chelsea ARPA Community Advisory Committee Report 2022, REDFIN Housing Market Trend Reports, COVID-19- related data sources and reports, Mass Budget and Policy Center report, GreenRoots COVID-19 in Chelsea Report, BIDMC 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment. Secondary data was collected, reviewed, analyzed, and used to compliment the MySidewalk common data that was prepared and provided to each agency.



Key Stakeholder Surveys

- 11 local community leaders (includes law enforcement), partner organizations, leaders from community-based organizations, elected officials, faith-based organizations, public

school administrators, & local municipal leaders completed the survey. (*See detailed listing of survey participants below.). Survey results: biggest issue impacting the community: housing, followed by food, employment/job training, and childcare.



Focus Groups – 5 total

- CAPIC Management Team – comprised of staff from each program to ensure that we had a cross section of representatives from across the agency. This took place during one of the monthly Management Team meetings and was coordinated by the Dir. of Planning, Development, & Operations. Housing, food, heat, etc. were all priority areas discussed.
- CAPIC’s Dir. Planning, Development, & Operations participated in the MASSCAP Planners’ CoP Community Needs Focus Group on 3/9/23. *Details on Page 10 and in Appendix.
- CAPIC’s Chelsea/Revere Family Network held focus group during Story Time activity. Parents participated; including Arabic families in Revere. Low-Income individuals participated.
- Mi Amore (subcontractor with CAPIC via CDBG-Food Stabilization Grant) held focus groups with the families they deliver food to each week. Low-income individuals participated; 42% Hispanic.
- BIDMC Chelsea Healthy Neighborhood Initiative Women’s Heart Health Workshop hosted a focus group on 2/9/23. Low-income individuals participated.



Community Needs Survey

- **A total of 488 surveys were completed and returned. – more than double the previous community needs assessment conducted in 2018-2019.**
- The brief 12 question anonymous survey was distributed to residents of Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop and available in 3 languages: English, Spanish and Portuguese (via Mi Amore in Winthrop).
- Survey was distributed by CAPIC staff to clients.
- The survey was also available via a web-based version created through SurveyMonkey.com. The online version was shared via CAPIC’s web-site, social media, Constant Contact, and email. The survey tool was also distributed by CAPIC partners: Chelsea Community Connections, Mi Amore, and the Revere PAL Program. CAPIC’s SUDS Mobile Outreach Team also assisted in administering the survey to at-risk, street-involved individuals in Chelsea; giving a voice to a population that rarely has its needs documented.
- CAPIC’s Executive Director distributed surveys at the Chelsea Black Community “BE Heard World event in Chelsea in February 2023.



Customer Satisfaction Survey

CAPIC values our customers and their feedback. CAPIC utilizes a Client Satisfaction Survey to evaluate satisfaction with the services and resources that the Agency is providing. Surveys are completed by individuals who receive a service or resource from CAPIC. The survey is available in English and Spanish, and is distributed to customers by caseworkers/staff at the time of intake. The Director of Planning, Development, & Operations reviews and tallies all responses and shares customer feedback with the Executive Director, Program Directors, and prepares and presents reports to Board members. The survey also provides information that is used to measure organizational improvement with an aim to enhance customer experience.

- Surveys were not conducted during the pandemic while CAPIC offices were closed to the general public. CAPIC commenced the use of the surveys when the main office re-opened to the general public on 8/8/22.
- Responses are overwhelmingly positive with 100% of respondents saying that staff were courteous; 99.9% responding that they were satisfied with services they received and their problem was resolved during their visit.

*CAPIC is in the process of conducting an internal needs assessment and board assessment, which will conclude in the fall of 2023.

***Stakeholder Survey Participants by Sector:** *Public:* Dir. Dept. of Public Health, Revere; Chief of Police, Chelsea, Chief of Police, Revere; *Private:* Clinician; *Community:* Dir. Chelsea Community Connections, Executive Director, The Neighborhood Developers, Mi Amore-Winthrop, Dir. Permanent Housing Services, Bay Cove Human Services; *Education:* Chelsea School Committee Member, Family Liaison, Chelsea High School; *Faith-Based:* Pastor, New Life Christian Center.

***Qualitative Data:** CAPIC also collected qualitative data from community members through focus groups and the online availability of the Community Needs Assessment survey. The survey was also distributed via Constant Contact which included clients from CAPIC's energy-related programs, living in non-CSBG designated areas served by CAPIC. These two methods allowed residents from all of CAPIC's service areas (non-CSBG towns and cities) to provide input on the needs impacting their community; allowing for the collection and use of qualitative data for all communities served by CAPIC. Data was reviewed, analyzed, and incorporated into this report to complement the quantitative data gathered.

MASSCAP Planner's CoP Focus Group- CAPIC's Dir. Planning, Development, & Operations and other Planner's, representing agencies that provide primary services to CAPIC's non-CSBG designated area was another means to gather data on critical needs impacting these cities/towns (see addendum of group discussions and breakout groups from 3-9-23). Discussion provided insight into the needs of the communities (mirrored needs of CAPIC's designated service area), and vulnerable populations in each community, such as elderly and immigrant families.

SECTION 5: Key Findings

Top Needs Identified in CAPIC's 2022-2023 Community Needs Assessment

GREATEST NEED	RESPONDENTS
1. Affordable Housing*	61.7% (2020 needs assessment 70.1%)
2. Ability to Pay Heating/Utility Bills*	59.2% (2020 needs assessment 49.1%)
3. Jobs*	51.1% 48.5% (2020 needs assessment)
4. Child Care/After School/Summer Programs for Children & Youth	47.4% (not a top need in 2020)
5. *Access to Food	43.8% (2020 needs assessment - 48.5%)

*Denotes the same barrier (not necessarily the same order) as indicated by respondents three years ago

SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS DEMOGRAPHICS

488 Community Needs Surveys were completed and returned.

- 49.06% Chelsea residents; 27.14% Revere Residents; 3.13% Winthrop residents
- 65% were Hispanic. This is an increase from 53% in the last survey.
- The majority of respondents were between the ages of 25-44 (42.6%), with 35.3% between the ages of 45-65. Consistent with the prior survey. Also, 12% were 65 and older and 9% were 18-24 years old.
- 76.6% were female (increase from with 66.8% in last survey) and 21.2% of respondents were male (decrease from 33.13% in last survey)
- The race breakdown of respondents is as follows: 42.16 (prior survey was 71.5%) white; 6.7% Black; 3.18% Multi-Race; 1.27% Asian, 1.27% American Indian or Alaskan Native.

The survey also captured income-related data

- 51% (decrease from 69% last survey) of respondents' monthly income before taxes was under \$2,000 a month (under \$24,000 annually);
- 41% (increase from 19.72% in last survey) was \$2,000 - \$4,000 a month (\$24,000 - \$48,000 annually);
- 6.09% (consistent with 7.04% from last survey) was \$4,001 - \$6,000 a month (\$48,012-\$72,000 annually).
- 2.31% over \$6,000 a month (over \$72,001 annually)
- 62% (consistent with 69% from last survey) do not have \$500 set aside for an emergency; and 16.04% are unsure if they do.

*All data dashboards in this section are from MySidewalk, unless otherwise noted.

1. HOUSING

Individual or Family Level & Community Level (due to COVID) Need Statement: Affordable housing opportunities throughout the local area; the absence of safe, affordable housing stock, resulting in homeless crisis, overcrowding, and increase in hotel/motel population as well as an emotional crisis for low-income at-risk individuals and families.

Affordable housing (*individual, family, & community need*) was the top need identified in CAPIC’s 2022-2023 Community Needs Assessment; 61.7% of respondents indicated that this was the top need impacting people in their community. This was also the top need identified in the previous Community Needs Assessment conducted in 2020.

CAPIC’s service area, in particular, the City of Chelsea; the epicenter of the pandemic in the state, continues to experience acute housing instability, exacerbated by the lack of affordable rental housing due to proximity to Boston and Logan Airport, overcrowded living situations, severe increases in the cost of living expenses, and lack of homeownership opportunities. Both renters and homeowners are cost burdened by their housing and basic living expenses, made even more difficult to pay each month as the cost of living has increased significantly over the past year. 52.8% of needs assessment respondents indicated that their living expenses (rent/mortgage, heat, food) are too high with 43.8% indicating that they work full-time but their pay doesn’t cover their expenses, and 26.1% respondents are on a fixed income (Social Security, pension, etc.). Significant housing cost burdens can force families into harmful housing situations. Choosing between housing payments and other expenses forces individuals/families to reduce spending on basic essentials such as food, medical care, and utilities.

The Superintendent of the Winthrop Public Schools reported that this past school year, there were 42 students designated as homeless as of January 1, 2023. In comparison, there were a total of 9 during the 2021-2022 school year. CAPIC’s Head Start Program reported that in FY22 program year, 9% of the children enrolled were homeless. The 2022 North Suffolk’s Community (Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop) Health Needs Assessment Report highlighted housing as the largest issue: results by proportion of respondents that selected “more affordable housing” as the most important thing you would like to improve about your community by racial identity- 75% of Latinx – 58% of Black respondents. 60% of Latinx respondents indicated that “*housing in my community is not affordable for people like me.*”

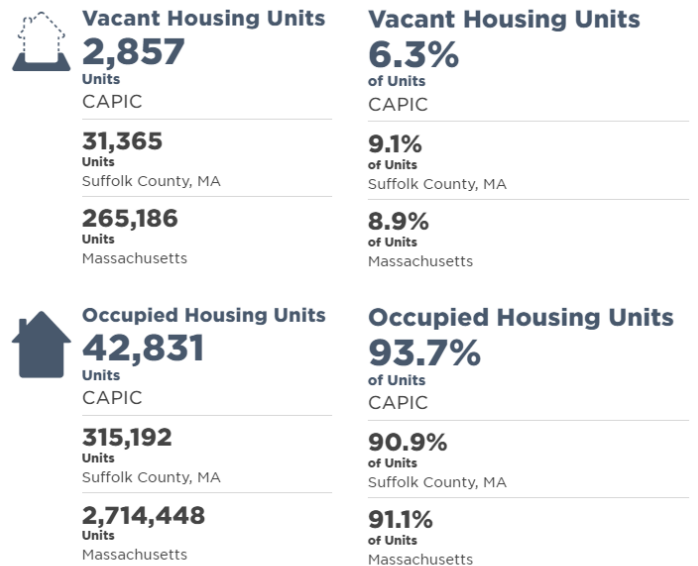
The chart below depicts the 2023 fair market rents for Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop as reported by HUD. All rents reflect an increase since the previous Community Needs Assessment was conducted. The vast majority of CAPIC clients are not able to afford these rents.

2023 Fair Market Rents

Unit Size	Monthly Rent 2023	Monthly Rent 2020
Efficiency	\$2,025	\$1,715
One -Bedroom	\$2,198	\$1,900
Two-Bedroom	\$2,635	\$2,311
Three-Bedroom	\$3,207	\$2,880

REDFIN Housing Market Trends Report states that in June 2023, Revere home prices were up 9.3% compared to last year, selling for a median price of \$585K, in Winthrop homes were selling for a median price of \$552K, and in Chelsea the median home selling price was \$440K.

Per the US Census, there is a shortage of available housing units in CAPIC’s service area 95.8% are occupied in Chelsea; 94.3% in Revere, and 93.6% in Winthrop. The “Chelsea Eats Survey Project conducted by the Harvard Kennedy School/Rappaport Institute reported that 68.2% of respondents were concerned that they did not have enough income to pay rent or mortgage; 37% were not confident that they could pay their next month’s rent or mortgage.



Sources: US Census Bureau ACS 5-year 2017-2021



Excessive Homeowner Housing Costs

6,722
Homeowners
CAPIC

32,698
Homeowners
Suffolk County, MA

442,032
Homeowners
Massachusetts

Excessive Homeowner Housing Costs

35%
of Homeowners
CAPIC

28.7%
of Homeowners
Suffolk County, MA

26.1%
of Homeowners
Massachusetts



Excessive Renter Housing Costs

12,555
Renters
CAPIC

95,461
Renters
Suffolk County, MA

475,471
Renters
Massachusetts

Excessive Renter Housing Costs

53.2%
of Renters
CAPIC

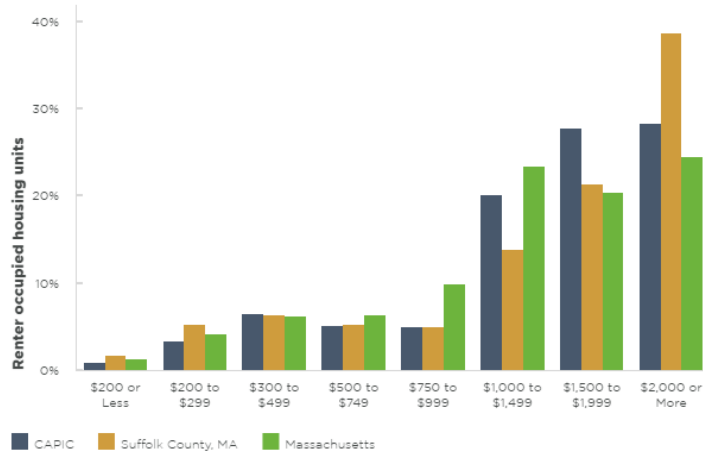
47.5%
of Renters
Suffolk County, MA

46.6%
of Renters
Massachusetts

Sources: US Census Bureau ACS 5-year 2017-2021

*Excessive housing costs refers to renters or homeowners spending 30% or more of their income on rent or housing expenses.

Monthly Home Rent



Sources: US Census Bureau ACS 5-year 2017-2021



HUD Subsidized Housing Units

3,888
Housing Units
CAPIC

53,664
Housing Units
Suffolk County, MA

196,482
Housing Units
Massachusetts

Sources: HUD Picture Subsidized HH 2021

Chelsea has one of the highest rates of apartment renters in the state, at just over 70% of the city's housing stock. The latest annual report on the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) program, highlights the need for housing assistance for renters and homeowners in Greater Boston area, specifically, Chelsea. The number of Chelsea residents receiving assistance from the program doubled from FY21 to FY22 – in FY22, 1,472 households received \$15.2 million in emergency housing assistance, compared to 833 households in FY21 that received \$5.9 million in emergency rental assistance from the RAFT program.

Per the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index report for the past year, the cost for shelter increased 7.5%, with increases for the owner's equivalent rent increasing by 6.8% and residential rent up 8.2%, with all other goods and services increasing by 10.7%. This has made it even more difficult for low-income individuals and families make ends meet, and find and maintain permanent and safe housing. In the 2021 North Suffolk iCHNA community survey, more than half of Chelsea and Revere respondents stated housing in their community is not affordable. 54% of Chelsea residents who responded to the North Suffolk Public Health Collaborative Community Survey indicated that "more affordable housing" was one of the top five things they'd like to see improve in their community.

“Housing cost is so high, this is why families are forced to double and triple up to just make the rent. Apartments that claim to be affordable or low income only have a few units the rest are market rate catered to another population.”
Community Needs Assessment respondent

Community Strengths:

- Housing was one of the chosen priority areas for the City of Chelsea's ARPA funding. Strategies include: increasing new construction of affordable and mixed income housing, support for rent increase mitigation, housing vouchers, homeownership programs, and more.
- City of Revere established the Affordable Housing Trust Fund in July 2021 to provide support for low-income, elderly, and disabled renters in Revere to prevent the displacement of residents. CAPIC works closely with the City to provide support to such individuals.
- CAPIC is working with Housing Families, a non-profit organization located in Malden, whose focus is to achieve housing equity and well-being for all and work to ensure housing stability for individuals and families.
- To prevent evictions, foreclosures, and displacement, the City of Chelsea, through its Department of Housing and Community Development, has allocated over \$1.5 million of ARPA funds to continue critical homelessness prevention, rapid rehousing, legal assistance, and supplemental utility assistance programs for Chelsea residents.
- Since 2019 – CAPIC has had a formal partnership with the City of Chelsea Inspectional Services Department through a referral process to provide multi-lingual capacity and deliver direct assistance to solve problems related to homelessness, substance use disorders, employment, emergency needs, hunger, hoarding, relocation assistance, emergency heating system repair, heating assistance, energy conservation, childcare, substance use disorders, preservation of tenancies and other needs that households experience; providing City inspectors with the ability to refer an at-risk resident to social services.

- CAPIC's Executive Director remains an active member of the Chelsea Eviction Task Force that meets weekly. The goal of the task force is to coordinate communications and direct services related to emergency housing, legal services, and eviction prevention as a result of COVID-19. This group has identified emergency rental assistance and emergency shelter availability as two critical gaps in Chelsea (and Revere) and is working on drafting a housing resource guide.
- CAPIC is an active member of the new City of Revere Emergency Response Team.
- CAPIC's role on The Chelsea Anti-Displacement Round Table (ADR) led to a new funding partnership opportunity (Funders for Housing and Opportunity) with The Neighborhood Developers, La Colaborativa, GreenRoots, Greater Boston Legal Services, and the City of Chelsea's Legal Clinic. The ADR is a collaborative response to housing stabilization challenges facing Chelsea; This collaboration has provided CAPIC/community with additional rent/eviction prevention related funding to distribute rental assistance to at-risk individuals and families to maintain tenancies and or prevent displacement.
- CAPIC will work to increase access for homeless individuals through the Coordinated Entry (CE) process; created by the Massachusetts Balance of State Continuum of Care (BoS CoC) to facilitate the process of assessing the housing needs of individuals experiencing homelessness, and meeting those housing needs. The goal of the CE process is to provide each consumer with adequate services and supports to meet their housing needs, with a focus on returning them to housing as quickly as possible. This process standardizes the assessment of housing needs and prioritize the referrals of those most vulnerable to the most appropriate housing interventions. CAPIC's Substance Use Disorder (SUDS) Program Director oversees this process and works with individuals to complete the online "survey"; over 75 homeless individuals have gained housing through the CE process.
- CAPIC's SUDS Program/Mobile Outreach Program will continue management of the Chelsea Selah Resource Center to provide valuable resources to persons experiencing substance use disorders, homelessness, hunger and poverty, and ensure the consistency of services to this vulnerable population while in a safe and clean environment. The primary goal is for CAPIC to enhance the services being offered to individuals who suffer from addiction, mental health and homelessness and provide direct services and support in a more effective manner. Comprehensive wraparound services will be provided to those in need in a more direct and effective way; access to detox beds will happen in a timely manner (during breakfast) as to better assure the availability of beds for those in need, the Selah Day Resource Center staff will refer persons to CAPIC who are in need of treatment for alcohol and substance use disorders, temporary housing/shelter and partners will work together to serve the community in a more effective and positive way.

COVID SUMMARY

As previously mentioned in this report, the pandemic had a severe and lasting impact on CAPIC's service area. In the Needs Assessment survey, 48.9% of respondents stated that they/their family are worse off now as compared to before the pandemic and 41.08% responded that they are the same.

Chelsea and Revere were two of the hardest hit communities affected by the ongoing pandemic. The majority residents are employed in industries that were significantly affected by COVID-19. Since the outset of the pandemic, residents have continuously experienced a loss of income, unemployment and underemployment, and housing security, exacerbated by racial, health, and economic inequities. In unison with community-based organizations, such as La Colaborativa, CAPIC, and the Neighborhood Developers, the City of Chelsea decisively responded to these challenges, rapidly deploying new housing stability programs and organizing the Eviction Task Force, weekly roundtable meetings where multiple partners collectively manage cases of homelessness and housing insecurity, which Housing Families and other local organizations joined. CAPIC's Executive Director participates in these weekly meetings.

The pandemic also brought on an economic crisis in Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop. Many residents work service jobs in the food and hospitality industries; during the pandemic many of these jobs disappeared, leaving people unemployed without a social safety net. The economic, social, and health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic were immediate and dire for the many individuals and families who live one paycheck away from serious financial hardship. COVID-19 has magnified the challenges within these communities that have long struggled with unstable and unaffordable housing, food insecurity, low wages, lack of English proficiency, and high rates of uninsured.

"It has been an incredibly hard year for our residents," said former Mayor Brian Arrigo. "Our rental and mortgage assistance programs were some of our most utilized programs during COVID, and as the pandemic continues we understand the importance of prioritizing housing assistance."

Chelsea Record article: Alex Train, Chelsea's Dir. of Housing & Community Development, "rental and housing assistance is something that is desperately needed, giving that over half of tenants in Chelsea are housing cost burdened."

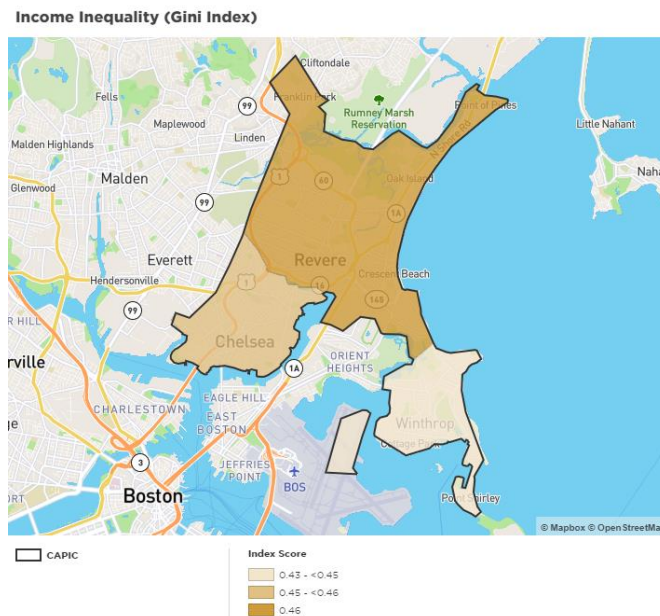
"The community is doing a lot of construction of houses and buildings and condos which the low-income community is not benefiting from." Community Needs Survey respondent

2. ABILITY TO PAY HEATING/UTILITY BILLS

Individual or Family Level Need Statement: The escalating cost of heat and utilities coupled with the absence of energy conservation measures in low-income homes place many low-income households in financial crisis and possible ill-health.

The second top need identified in the Community Needs Assessment survey was the inability to pay heating and utility bills –59.2% of respondents indicated that this is the greatest need impacting their community (*individual & family need*); a significant increase from 49.1% in FY20. 52.8% of needs assessment respondents indicated that their living expenses (rent/mortgage, heat, food) are too high; 26.1% responded that they are on a fixed income (Social Security, pension, etc.). In addition, 43.8% (increase from FY20) of needs assessment respondents indicated that they are not able to pay their bills on time each month. Many vulnerable households facing high energy costs are forced to make household budget trade-offs that jeopardizes health, including choosing heat over food or health care.

According to the MA COVID Community Impact Survey, 45.8% of Chelsea residents reported being worried about paying for housing or utility expenses, compared to 34% state-wide. Many local (especially in Chelsea) residents are ineligible for government assistance like unemployment, furthermore, undocumented individuals are not eligible for fuel assistance benefits due to federal regulations. CAPIC’s service areas is comprised of a high number of undocumented individuals who are greatly impacted by these regulations. In addition, the U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index Summary, reported that the energy index increased by 5.2% of the past year.



Sources: US Census Bureau ACS 5-year 2017-2021

*The values range from 0 to 1, with values near 1 being high inequality and values near 0 being low inequality.

In FY'22 & FY'23, CAPIC's Emergency Assistance Program provided energy-related assistance to individuals and families; 246 households received utility assistance to prevent termination. This was accomplished through leveraging other emergency support funds that CAPIC had received. CAPIC maintained partnerships with the City of Chelsea, MassSave and All in Energy to provide residents of Chelsea access to low cost, energy efficient programs. This partnership has allowed the Agency to address some of the inequities that exist for our clients who live in Chelsea.

“I need help to pay my gas & electricity. I don't work. I am retired.”

“More financial help with heat/utilities because the cost of these has gone up but the benefits given has gone down.”

Community Needs Assessment respondents

Community Strengths:

- CAPIC's Fuel Assistance Program offered in person satellite sites at the Winthrop, Revere, and Chelsea Senior Centers for residents to have the opportunity to apply in person. CAPIC will continue to offer these satellite sites over the next three years. This took place from December 2022 - April 2023. CAPIC also partnered with National Grid for Energy Savings Events in the local communities served by CAPIC. CAPIC will continue these partnerships over the next three years to make resources more accessible to those in need.
- CAPIC will administer its Fuel Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to approximately local households annually, paying heating expenses for low-income families and individuals. CAPIC will directly link these low-income households to Weatherization and energy services to increase effectiveness of future LIHEAP dollars as well as client income spent on heating and cooling expenses.
- CAPIC will maintain sub-contract with ACTION, Inc.; CAPIC receives National Grid funding through ACTION for Weatherization, Heating System and Appliance Management Program services for National Grid clients within CAPIC's service territory.
- CAPIC will maintain sub-contract with ABCD; CAPIC receives Eversource funding through ABCD to support Weatherization, Heating System and Appliance Management Programming for Eversource clients within CAPIC's service territory. CAPIC will also provide HEARTWAP services for the ABCD Malden Fuel Assistance territories (Everett, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Wakefield, Stoneham, Woburn, Winchester).
- Global Oil donations to CAPIC for residents of Chelsea and Revere. Additional donation secured through MASSCAP as well. Funds available to assist over-income clients that fall in the 60-80% of AMI.
- Residential Energy Assistance Grant (REAG) -CAPIC is a recipient of these funds. The goal of the REAG program is to provide additional funding to programs that aid Massachusetts families currently receiving heat assistance and to expand assistance to more eligible households.

- In December 2022, the Energy Department partnered with the Chelsea Public Schools and presented informational workshops to middle school families. CAPIC will continue these workshops for local families.

3.JOBS

Individual or Family Level Need Statement: To advance economic opportunities for low-income residents who lack sufficient income and the education/job skills to increase their income and quality of life

In the 22-23 Community Needs Assessment, 51.1% of respondents indicated that “jobs” was the top need impacting their local community. This is an increase from 45.6% in the last needs assessment that was conducted. 11.6% of Needs Assessment survey respondents indicated that they can’t find a job; 12% can only find part-time work (both consistent with FY’20 responses). Many low-income individuals are unemployed and in need of employment skills, training, career counseling, and career awareness; 21.5% of respondents reported that they need job training/education or training to get work or better work, with 38.4% stating that job training/job education is what keeps them/their family from feeling more financially stable. The MGH Community Health Needs Assessment Report 2022 reported that less than half of Chelsea and Revere survey respondents stated they have access to good local jobs with living wages and benefits. Only 18% of Latinx respondents believe they have access to good local jobs with living wages and benefits.

Also, 28.6% of needs assessment survey respondents indicated that transportation was the top need impacting their community, with 11.4% responding that they don’t have reliable transportation and this is keeping them from feeling more financially stable. It can be interpreted that lack of transportation/and or reliable transportation is a barrier for individuals to maintain employment. The CHA Well-Being Assessment Community Survey reported that 30.7% of Chelsea residents want better access to jobs with 23.4% of Revere residents and 13.6% of Winthrop residents.

The vast majority of CAPIC clients are earning minimum wage, resulting in an extremely vulnerable population in need of numerous financial support services and resources. CAPIC fully understands the increasing challenges for working families to meet their most basic needs and the importance of helping individuals gain the right education and skills that will allow them to earn income sufficient to make ends meet.

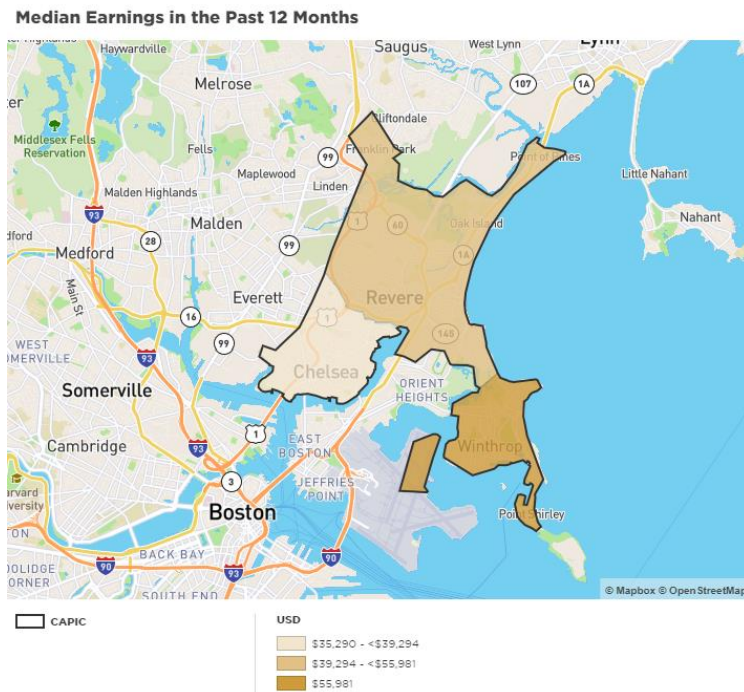
- 51% (decrease from 69% last survey) of respondents’ monthly income before taxes was under \$2,000 a month (under \$24,000 annually);
- 41% (increase from 19.72% in last survey) was \$2,000 - \$4,000 a month (\$24,000 - \$48,000 annually);
- 6.09% (consistent with 7.04% from last survey) was \$4,001 - \$6,000 a month (\$48,012-\$72,000 annually).
- 2.31% over \$6,000 a month (over \$72,001 annually)
- 62% (consistent with 69% from last survey) do not have \$500 set aside for an emergency; and 16.04% are unsure if they do.

A family's basic needs include: housing and utilities, food, transportation, health care, personal and household items such as clothing, and for families with young children, child care. Education and employment skills will allow them to earn income sufficient to make ends meet.

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Sources: LODES Version 8.0 2019



Sources: US Census Bureau ACS 5-year 2017-2021

**MySidewalk*

Community Strengths:

- CAPIC became a participant in the Tufts COHERE Program to assist in recruiting, training, and supporting diverse community members to become new community health workers. CAPIC referred 3 individuals to the program who graduated in May 2023.

- Workforce Development was one of the chosen priority areas for the City of Chelsea’s ARPA funding. Strategies include: funding to support career preparation, job search, training for underserved residents in fields that are in demand and lead to living wage jobs, as well as access and ability to use high-speed, quality broadband internet at prices people can afford.
- The Chelsea/Revere Family & Community Network Program will provide adult education activities, literacy activities, and leadership and advocacy activities and training. These activities/trainings are designed to help parents achieve academic goals and develop specific job skills. These activities will be provided in both English and Spanish.
- CAPIC’s IRS VITA Program will provide basic financial literacy knowledge, money management skills, and extensive budgetary and financial training for clients will be offered to clients who participate in these programs. The delivery of financial literacy education through this program will remove a major barrier to financial stability and daily fiscal struggles for clients.
- CAPIC will continue to provide quality child care for employed parents or parents who are enrolled in training through the following programs: After School Program, Child Development, Center, Summer Camp, and Head Start. These programs allow parents/guardians to maintain full year employment, and or seek employment and training to gain employment, confident that their child is receiving structured care and direction from a team of dedicated staff.

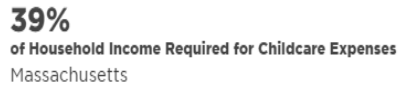
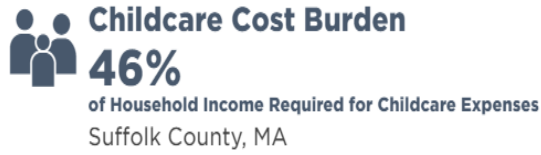
4. CHILDCARE

Individual or Family Need Statement: The absence of formal education, affordable child care and basic skills among area residents results in lack of quality care for children. Therefore, parents lack job opportunity resulting in increased poverty.

The availability and affordability of childcare can impact a family in many ways, and can determine the type of jobs people are able to secure. Childcare (includes After School/Summer Programs for Children & Youth) was the fourth highest issue (47.4%) impacting survey respondents. It should be noted that this wasn’t a top need identified by respondents in the previous needs assessment. In response to the question, “What keeps you or your family from feeling more financially stable?”, 18% of respondents stated that childcare is too expensive and/or interferes with my ability to work.

In the iCHNA community survey, perceptions of childcare affordability varied across North Suffolk in which only 42% of Chelsea, 20% of Revere, and 55% of Winthrop survey respondents stated people have access to affordable childcare services. When examined by race/ethnicity, only 20% of Latinx and 36% of Black survey respondents stated having access to affordable childcare services.

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Sources: *The Living Wage Calculator, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates 2020-2021*
**Child care costs for a household with two children as a percent of median household income.*

CAPIC sees that many families’ complete childcare needs are not being met because they do not qualify for state subsidized childcare vouchers. For example, Head Start for families without a state voucher is only 4 or 6 hours of education and care per day. For working families, this is often not enough. Many two-parent families take jobs on differing shifts to be able to make ends meet financially while also meeting their childcare needs. Others rely on informal childcare arrangements to fill the gaps in care. The fortunate ones have a family support system that can help with care. The others rely on unregulated, unlicensed home daycare settings. Over income is anything over 100% of the Federal Poverty Guideline which means that anyone who works 40hrs at minimum wage would be over income in MA. There is also a lack of regulated, licensed childcare provider in CAPIC’s core service area, where there is a higher percentage of children under the age of five and eighteen.

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Sources: *CBP 2020*
**Child care centers are establishments primarily engaged in providing day care of infants or children.*

In turn, families face another challenge in enrolling their child in childcare as there are waiting lists for the available providers in Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop; the need far outweighs the capacity to serve families. CAPIC’s After School program, which provides safe, structured activities for children 5-12 years, during the hours of 3pm to 6pm has a waiting list of 25 families in need of programming for their child/children. CAPIC’s Head Start Program had an extensive waiting list at the end of this May:

CAPIC Head Start End of Month Wait List – May 2023	TOTAL = 135
Chelsea <i>(Eligible/Over Income)</i>	72 (54/18)
Revere <i>(Eligible/Over Income)</i>	79 (58/2)
Winthrop <i>(Eligible/Over Income)</i>	17 (10/7)

“Child care offered so parents (mother) can help with the financial expenses, living or food is very expensive.”

“More access to childcare, affordable!”

Community Needs Assessment respondents

Community Strengths:

- Through a mini grant/partnership with the City of Chelsea, CAPIC provides campership scholarships to families who cannot afford the Summer Camp Program fee. CAPIC has seen an increase in requests for assistance with paying the fee due to the continued impacts of the pandemic on the local community. Many families are still without jobs and have seen a decrease in income. Last summer 15 families received a campership scholarship. **Also, linked to other needs assessment priority areas as the cost of fuel, home heating, food, etc. have all increased over the past year.*
- Since the start of the pandemic, CAPIC has partnered with the Chelsea Public Schools to provide free breakfast, lunch, and a snack for children enrolled in CAPIC’s After School & Summer Camp Programs.
- In late April, the Good Guys program was restarted for the first time since 2020. The program for the men in Head Start children’s lives was a six week program this year. Weekly, the men and children would come together to share a meal and do an activity together. Eleven families started the program with seven completing the full session.
- CAPIC’s early education programs collaborate with the Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop public schools to leverage resources and services for families.
- CAPIC’s Head Start and Chelsea/Revere Family Network programs are active members of the Chelsea Early Childhood Network, which coordinates initiatives between families, community partners and agencies focused on providing equal opportunities for Chelsea children, birth to five, and their families by engaging in proactive efforts which will aid in child growth and development, and serve as a catalyst for family success.
- For the first time CAPIC was able to distribute diapers to families enrolled in our early ed programs. CAPIC utilized the CSBG CARES Special Project Food grant funds to purchase diapers. CAPIC also included funding for diapers in the FY’23 CSBG State Line Item budget and will do so in the pending FY’24 State Line Item budget as well. This is a huge expense for low-income families and the need for assistance in covering basic necessities has increased significantly since the pandemic. The Head Start and Child Development Center programs distributed diapers to families enrolled in their programs. CAPIC works with Chelsea Community Connections to assist those with children under 3 years of age to access diapers

5. ACCESS TO FOOD

Individual or Family Level & Community Level (due to COVID) Need Statement: Increase access to food and basic needs for at-risk individuals and families.

Food insecurity has continued to escalate over recent years and continues to be a critical need in Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop. In the FY22-23 Community Needs Assessment, 43.8% of survey respondents indicated “access to food” as the fifth highest need impacting people in their community. 56% of survey respondents indicated that their living expenses (rent/mortgage, heat, and food) are too high.

Project Bread reports that while the surge in food insecurity caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted residents of all backgrounds, it has disproportionately impacted minority households, representing the continuation of a trend that pre-dates the pandemic. Food insecurity is both a consequence and perpetuating agent of economic inequity and health disparities. It has lasting effects on an individual’s physical and financial wellbeing, even when experienced for short periods of time. Immediate action to counteract these disparities in food access has the potential to lay a path toward a recovery that actively advances equity.

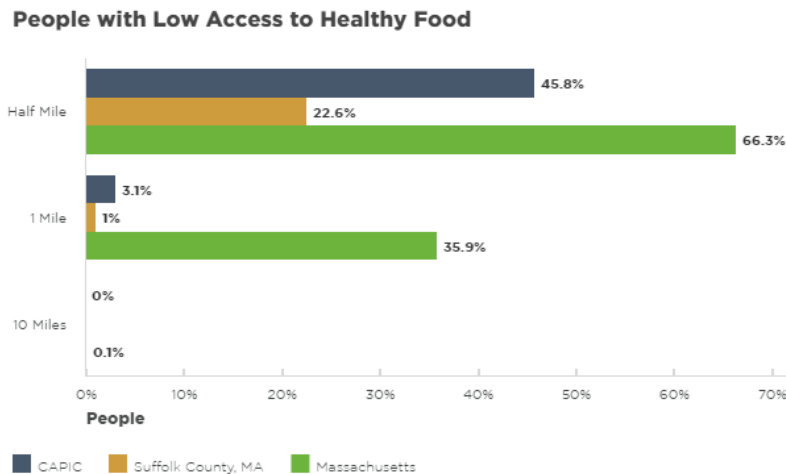
During the height of the pandemic in 2020, United Way partnered with the City of Chelsea and the Shah Family Foundation to launch Chelsea Eats, the largest guaranteed income pilot of its kind in the country. Born out of the City of Chelsea’s response to unprecedented rates of food insecurity (54% of children in the baseline study were sometimes or often not getting enough to eat), the program provided monthly debit cards worth between \$200-\$400 over a period of 9 months for around 2,000 households. In doing so, the program both provided cash assistance to residents and helped to keep funds spent in the local economy, benefiting area businesses.

The evaluation of this program demonstrated the impact of providing unrestricted cash to help people meet essential needs and the value of cash for supporting household financial wellbeing. The results were so promising that City of Chelsea leaders launched a second round of Chelsea Eats in December 2022; utilizing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to help residents manage the increased cost of basic goods and utilities this winter.

Food insecurity has greatly impacted all aspects of CAPIC programming and direct services. All programs have clients in need of assistance with food and basic necessities. The Project Bread US Census Household Pulse Survey reports that BIPOC households are recovering from the pandemic significantly slower than white households. In the last six months (October 2022 - March 2023), 1 in 6 (18.5%) white households with children compared to more than 1 in 3 (30.5%) Black households with children and approximately 1 in 3 (34.4%) Latino/a households with children were food insecure. In addition, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index Summary reported that the food index increased by 9.5 over the past year.

Through the CBDG Food Stabilization Grant CAPIC has partnered with Mi Amore; a local grassroots service provider, to support efforts to secure needed resources for Winthrop residents who battle food insecurity. Mi Amore utilizes funds to purchase and distribute food to families

who battle food insecurity. Through this partnership with CAPIC, Mi Amore purchases food and distributes it, in a point-to-point system, to families struggling with food insecurity in Winthrop. Mi Amore works with local town leaders which includes: school administrators/principals, Winthrop Police Department, and the Winthrop Health Department to identify families who are in need. A total of 76 families (total of 266 individuals) receive food each week. There are volunteers during each quarter (including a CAPIC Board member) who work to help deliver food to families and help families.



Sources: USDA ERS 2019

*This data represents the number of people living a specified distance from a supermarket, wholesale club, supercenter, or grocery store.

Community Strengths:

- Since the start of the pandemic, CAPIC has partnered with the Chelsea Public Schools to provide free breakfast, lunch, and a snack for children enrolled in CAPIC’s After School & Summer Camp Programs.
- CAPIC’s Emergency Services Program will distribute food gift cards (to local supermarkets) to at-risk individuals and families in emergency situations in need of access to food. The current need, exacerbated by the pandemic, far exceeds available resources, in turn, CAPIC will actively work to identify and secure additional funding to support such efforts.
- The CAPIC Head Start Program partnership with the American Red Cross to provide healthy food to all families of children who are enrolled in the program. Each month the Red Cross delivers a healthy variety of fresh foods to Chelsea & Revere Head Start centers at no cost. CAPIC is committed to maintaining this partnership over the next three years and beyond so that low-income at-risk families can have access to free healthy food options.
- CAPIC joined MASSCAP's Food Insecurity Community of Practice.
- Healthy Chelsea Micro Food Pantry at CAPIC’s Head Start Chelsea location that provides easy access to free food in the neighborhood.

- Food security was one of the chosen priority areas for the City of Chelsea’s ARPA funding. Strategies include: increase food pantry support and increase mechanisms, engage local, small business in food assistance and food distribution programs, and provide direct monetary assistance to residents.
- CAPIC will continue active participation in Healthy Chelsea Coalition that explores healthy eating practices, behaviors around food preferences, and purchasing patterns, etc.
- CAPIC will maintain active membership on the Chelsea Hunger Network to address food insecurity and access to healthy food for low-income populations. It should be noted that CAPIC also serves as the fiscal conduit for the Chelsea Hunger Network.
- CAPIC’s SUDS/Mobile Outreach Program assisted in the distribution of food to individuals & families who didn’t have access to food or the means to buy food at Selah Day Resources Center in Chelsea. CAPIC’s SUDS team delivered over 800 boxes of food over the past year to 40 Chelsea residents. The SUD Team also coordinates the distribution of breakfast and lunch: Monday to Friday, each week to street-involved homeless individuals.

Next Steps

CAPIC’s Executive Director, Director Planning, Development, & Operations, Management Team, staff, Board of Directors, local elected officials, and community partners will work together to utilize this data and report findings to identify and/or create services, resources, and effective strategies that address the top needs impacting the local communities that the Agency serves. These efforts will guide the priorities and efforts of CAPIC over the next three years.