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## **FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET PRIORITIES**

### **A. Strengthening Critical Human Services Infrastructure**

- Address inequality, promote opportunity and end poverty by supporting Community Action Agencies **(7002-0025) - \$5m**
- Commission to Address Inequality, Create Opportunity and End Poverty **(SDI 032)**

### **B. Strengthening Families through Affordable and Accessible Early Education and Care**

#### **Rate Reserve for Center-Based Quality and Workforce (Line Item 3000-4042 \$20m)**

- Provide an annualized salary increase that will assist our early educator workforce, moving the average Early Educator Salary closer to \$15/hour
- Stem a 30% Early Educator turnover rate by paying a livable wage - 37% of Massachusetts Early Educators currently receive public assistance to survive
- Build a sustainable Early Educator workforce in coordination with recommendations from Legislative Early Educator Workforce Council

#### **Support Head Start Line Item (3000-5000) - \$15m**

**Common Start Campaign Legislation** -- This systemic change legislation is a big picture attempt to dramatically change the Massachusetts early education and OST landscape. The bill provides tremendous quality funding to programs, universal care as an entitlement for children and a cap on payments to ensure parent affordability. We have supported this campaign from the onset and acknowledge it is a long-term effort with a huge (\$45.6 billion) price tag. Please sign on to the Common Start legislation: HD.1960 (Madaro, Gordon) & SD.1307 (Lewis, Moran)

### **C. Bridging the Wage Gap**

- Increase Resources for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) - **1201-0100 - \$1m**
- Expand and Increase State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) from 30 to 50% of Federal

### **D. Creating a Foundation for Economic Opportunity**

- Contingency Fuel Assistance Fund for FY '21 Supplemental -- **\$20m**
- Add State Fuel Assistance Line Item for FY '22 - **\$10m**

### **E. Strengthening Individuals and Families through Sustainable and Affordable Housing**

- Rental Assistance for Families in Transition - **7004-9316 - \$54.7m (level funding)**
- Housing Consumer Education Centers (HCECs) - **7004-3036 - \$6.5m (level funding)**
- Mass. Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) - **7004-9024 - \$160m**