FY 2023 Massachusetts Community Action Plan

Instructions



Department of Housing and Community Development Division of Community Services

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Notes for FY23

Massachusetts Community Action Agencies (CAAs) are due to submit FY 2023 Community Action Plan (CAP) *Period 1 Reports* by <u>September 14, 2022</u>. As you develop your FY23 CAP, please note the following:

- Budget Tab & Manage Allocated Funds <u>Effective for the FY23 CAP, agencies are not required to enter information on planned expenditures of CSBG and CAA State Line item funding in the Period 1 CAP.</u> The change in requirement was made based on feedback from the network about ongoing challenges to providing this information in time for the CAP Period 1 due date. Please note, per CSBG IM-2020-03 issued December 31, 2019, agencies will still be required to report on actual expenditures at the end of the year (in the Period 3 CAP).
- Need, Goal/Strategy Statements Agencies should continue to utilize the CAP/AR Workgroup recommended common Need, Goal/Strategy Statement for COVID Response Activities in the FY23 CAP.
- **Deleting Programs, Initiatives, Other** While you can add Programs, Initiatives, Other activities to any CAP Period report, *the only time you can delete an entire Program/Initiative/Other is in the Initial CAP (Period 1 Report)*.
- Instruction Manuals CAAs should continue to refer to the <u>CSBG Annual Report Instruction</u>
 <u>Manuals</u> developed with input from the CSBG national partners and DATA Taskforce for general instructions on Services, Strategies, and National Performance Indicators utilized in the CAP.
- "Software Help" Short instructional videos providing step-by-step demonstrations of how to use the system are available by clicking "Software Help" on the blue task bar in the CAP.
- "Guidance" Folder Additional resources are available in the "Guidance" folder on the blue task bar in the CAP including:
 - Massachusetts Common/"Other" Indicator Task Group
 recommendations for reporting
 key programs provided by our network. Please review and update Services/Family
 National Performance Indicator (FNPI) selections to ensure they align with the group's
 most recent recommendations.
 - OCS Module 3 Review Checklist which provides questions to consider when completing fields of the Community Initiative Status form mirrored in our CAP Initiatives function.
 - <u>CAP-AR Workgroup: Need, Goal/Strategy Statement for COVID Response Activities in the FY20 CAP</u> which includes recommended language to use in order to satisfy the CSBG CARES contract requirement for using "information from a coronavirus (COVID-19) community assessment" to complete the Community Action Plan.

Organization Information Page

The Organization Information page can be accessed by logging into the CSG Dashboard via https://agency.octopi.org/CsgIdentity and selecting the: CSBG -> Organization Information tiles. This page is a living document containing important information about your agency. When your agency submits the CAP and subsequent progress reports to DHCD, you will generate a static copy (PDF) of this page to submit along with your reports. Please review each tab and update as needed:

General Info tab – Review and update as needed

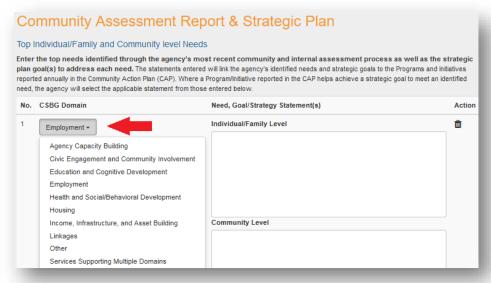
Contacts tab – Specify the appropriate contact for each role. In some cases, one or two people may be the contact for multiple roles (Ex. – the Executive Director is also the CSBG contact, the Planner is the Reporting and Org. Standards Contact).



Sub-Grantees tab – If the agency subgrants any CSBG funds, enter information on the sub-grantees

Community Assessment Report & Strategic Plan tab - Information from your agency's last CARSP, along with the CSBG Reporting Workgroup's common statement for COVID Response Activities should already be included. You will need to delete the statements from your last CARSP (but leave the Workgroup's common statement in place). Next, you will need to add the top needs and strategic plan goals identified in your agency's **FY 2021-2023 CARSP** following the steps below:

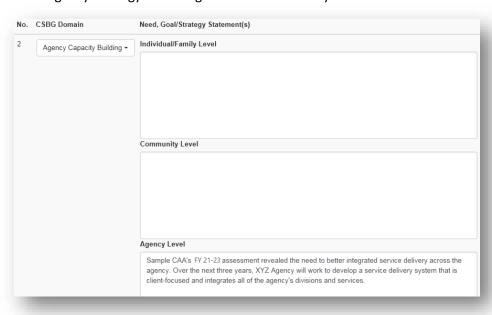
1. **Select the CSBG Domain.** Select the Domain that best reflects the area of need from the drop-down. *Note:* Since agencies describe needs in a variety of ways, the CSBG Domain selection allows for common language when discussing needs across the entire Massachusetts's Community Action network.



- 2. **Enter a Need, Goal/Strategy Statement for top identified** <u>community needs</u>. Agencies can enter a statement at more than one "Level" for each need, meaning you can describe how the need presents and the agency's response at the individual/family level, community level, and/or agency level. Agencies are not required to have a statement for all three levels but should have a statement for at least one. *Note:* When you complete your CAP, you will link these statements, where applicable, to various programs/initiatives/other activities you plan to report on.
 - The following is an example of an agency's statement for all three levels to describe the community need and agency strategy for "Housing":



- internal needs, Goal/Strategy Statement for identified internal needs. If your agency included internal needs/goals in the CARSP, you can include Need, Goal/Strategy statements for them. To enter an internal need, select either the *Agency Capacity Building* or *Linkages* domain from the drop-down. *Note:* While agencies are encouraged to report progress on meeting internal agency goals in their CAP, they are only required to do so when CSBG funds are allocated to support the goal.
 - The following is an example of an agency's statement to describe the internal need and agency strategy for "Integrated service delivery":



Community Action Plan

Once you have updated your Organizational Information page, including reviewing your Need, Goal/Strategy Statements under the CARSP tab, open the Community Action Plan by selecting CSBG > Community Action Plan > Report Selection: 2023 > Period 1 > Version 1. Information from your last CAP should have carried over. Review and update as needed.

To the left of the CAP screen, you will see three options: "Add a new program", "Add a new initiative", and "Add Other". Note: A "Delete" option will also be available within each Program, Initiative, Other. The only time you can delete an entire Program/Initiative/Other is in the Initial CAP (Period 1 Report).

- 1. Adding a "**program**" triggers the reporting mechanism that aligns with the <u>CSBG Annual Report</u> Module 4: Individual and Family Level (pages 47-64).
- 2. Adding an "initiative" triggers the reporting mechanism that aligns with the <u>CSBG Annual Report</u> Module 3: Community Level (pages 30-46).
- 3. Adding an "other" allows agencies to report on activities under the three domains (Linkages, Agency Capacity Building, and Other-e.g. emergency management/disaster relief) that <u>do not</u> tie to any Services, Strategies, or NPIs in Modules 3 and 4 of the <u>CSBG Annual Report</u>.

The following describes how to enter information using each of the three reporting mechanisms:

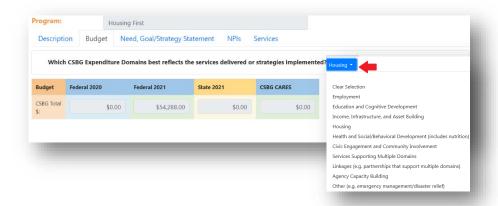
Steps for "Add a new program"

Description tab

For any Program added, enter the name of the program manager/point of contact along with a brief description of the program (i.e. – target population, core services provided, method for measuring results, etc.)

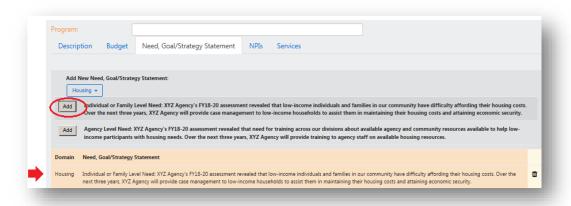
Budget tab

Use the drop-down to select the CSBG Expenditure Domain that *best reflects* the services delivered for the Program reported. Select an Expenditure Domain even if no funds are reported. *Note:* While it is not required to enter planned expenditures in the Period 1 CAP, actual expenditures must be reported in the Period 3 CAP. Amounts entered will automatically total up, by Expenditure Domain, in the Manage Allocated Funds screen.



Need, Goal/Strategy Statement tab

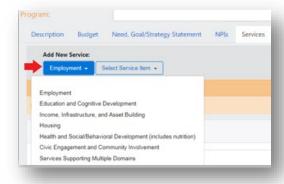
In order to show how each Program helps the agency achieve its strategic goals and address identified community needs, you will need to provide a Need, Goal/Strategy Statement. You can do so by selecting the applicable need domain from the drop-down and clicking "Add" to attach a statement from your Organization Information page. If the Program reported does not tie top identified need, enter a brief statement in the open text box to explain how it fits in the agency's overall strategy. Note: Only Individual/Family and Agency level Need, Goal/Strategy Statements will be available to attach to Programs.

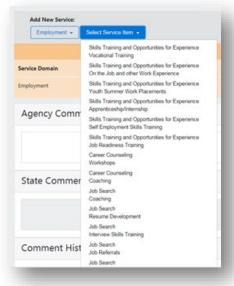


NPIs and Services tabs

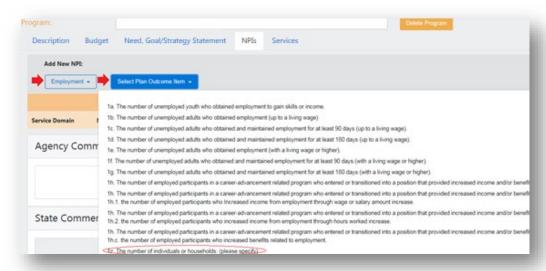
The NPIs and Services tabs include options to select from that align with the <u>CSBG Annual</u> <u>Report Module 4: Individual and Family Level (pages 47-64)</u>. For further guidance on the NPIs and Services contained in Module 4, please refer to the <u>CSBG Annual Report Instruction Manual</u>.

1. Adding Program <u>Services</u> - Select the Services to be counted by clicking the Domain under "Add New Service" and "Select Service Item" drop-downs. Since the Services are a fixed list of options, there may be rare situations where no Services apply and therefore none are reported for a Program. If this is the case, the Program should report at least one NPI.





2. Adding Program NPIs - Select the NPIs you will report on by clicking the domain under "Add New NPI" and "Select Plan Outcome Item" drop-downs. For each Program NPI selected, set a target for the outcome to be achieved <u>during the program year</u>. Wherever possible, utilize the pre-defined NPI options however, if none reflects the outcome to be measured, you can specify your own by selecting the last option on the list ("z. The number of individuals: please specify"). There may also be situations where no NPIs are reported for a Program. If this is the case, the Program should report at least one Service. Note: To ensure consistency in reporting across the network, DHCD will review any "z. The number of individuals" NPIs created and may request revisions.



Steps for "Add a new initiative"

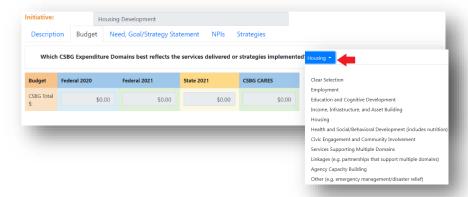
Description tab

For any Initiative added, complete all applicable fields related to the initiative. *Note:* the initiatives Description tab mirrors the Community Initiatives Status Form found in the <u>CSBG Annual Report</u> Module 3: Community Level (page 33).

Budget tab

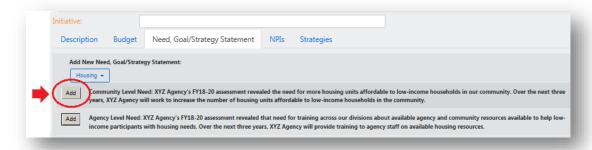
Use the drop-down to select the CSBG Expenditure Domain that *best reflects* the strategies implemented for the Initiative reported. Select an Expenditure Domain even if no funds are

reported. Note: While it is not required to enter planned expenditures in the Period 1 CAP, actual expenditures must be reported in the Period 3 CAP. Amounts entered will automatically total up, by Expenditure Domain, in the Manage Allocated Funds screen.



Need, Goal/Strategy Statement tab

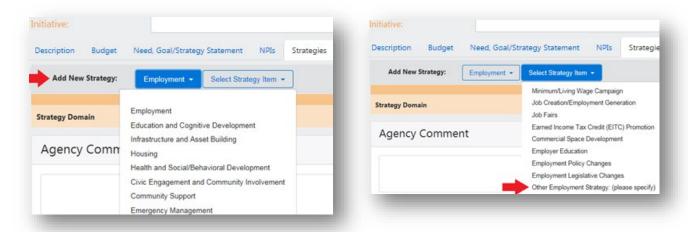
In order to show how each Initiative helps the agency achieve its strategic goals and address identified community needs, you will need to provide a Need, Goal/Strategy Statement. You can do so by selecting the applicable need domain from the drop-down and clicking "Add" to attach a statement from your Organization Information page. If the Initiative reported does not tie to a top identified need, enter a brief statement in the open text box to explain how it fits in the agency's overall strategy. Note: Only Community and Agency level Need, Goal/Strategy Statements will be available to attach to Initiatives.



NPIs and Strategies tabs

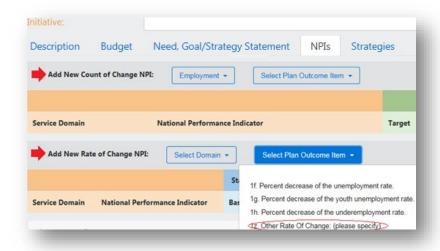
The NPIs and Strategies tabs include options to select from that align with the <u>CSBG Annual Report</u> Module 3: Community Level (pages 30-46). For further guidance on the NPIs and Strategies contained in Module 3, please refer to the <u>CSBG Annual Report Instruction Manual</u>.

1. Adding Initiative <u>Strategies</u> - Select the Strategies utilized by clicking the Domain under "Add New Strategy" and "Select Strategy Item" drop-downs. If no Strategy listed under the Domain applies to your initiative, you can select "Other" and specify your own.



2. Adding Initiative NPIs – Two types of NPIs are available for reporting outcomes on Initiatives, "Counts of Change" and "Rates of Change". Select those you will report on by clicking the applicable domain drop-down and "Select Plan Outcome Item". Wherever possible, utilize the pre-defined NPI options. However, if no NPI reflects the outcome to be measured, you can specify your own by selecting the last option on the list ("z. Other Count/Rate of Change: please specify"). Note: To ensure consistency in reporting across the network, DHCD will review any "z. Other Count/Rate of Change" NPIs created and may request revisions.

For each Initiative NPI selected, set a target for the outcome to be achieved over the expected duration of the initiative. The "Expected Duration" should be noted in the "Description" tab for the initiative. Note: Since initiatives are typically long-term in duration, it is not expected agencies will have actual NPIs achieved to report each year. Agencies will, however, be able to provide a narrative describing progress towards achieving actual NPIs under the Initiative Description tab of the CAP. DHCD will only require such updates on progress annually as part of the Period 3 (final progress) report, as this information is similarly required by the Annual Report.



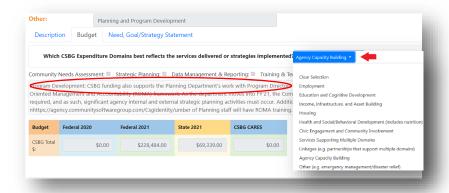
Steps for "Add Other": Add new Linkages, Agency Capacity Building, or Other (e.g. emergency management/disaster relief)

Description tab

For any "Other" added, enter a name and point of contact along with a brief description of the activities being reported.

Budget tab

Use the drop-down to select the CSBG Expenditure Domain that *best reflects* the activities reported. Select an Expenditure Domain even if no funds are reported. If the "Agency Capacity Building" domain is selected, check all applicable boxes and/or provide a description *Note:* While it is not required to enter planned expenditures in the Period 1 CAP, actual expenditures must be reported in the Period 3 CAP. Amounts entered will automatically total up, by Expenditure Domain, in the Manage Allocated Funds screen.



Need, Goal/Strategy Statement tab

In order to show how each "Other" helps the agency achieve its strategic goals and address identified needs, you will need to provide a Need, Goal/Strategy Statement. You can do so by selecting the applicable need domain from the drop-down and clicking "Add" to attach a statement from your Organization Information page. If the efforts reported do not tie to a top identified need, enter a brief statement in the open text box to explain how it fits in the agency's overall strategy.

Note: Only Agency level Need, Goal/Strategy Statements will be available to attach to Programs.



Manage Allocated Funds screen

Effective for FY23, agencies are only required to provide information on actual expenditures of CSBG and CAA State Line Item funds in the Period 3 CAP, information on planned expenditures are no longer required in Period 1. DHCD uses information on actual expenditures in the CAP to help determine whether CAAs comply with certain state monitoring testing criteria outlined in the Scope of Services and State Regulation 760 CMR 29.00. The information is also used to complete the CSBG Annual Report which requires funds expended during the program year (including carryover) broken down by "Expenditure Domain" as well as use for Administration.

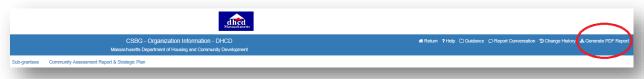
In order to capture this information, each Program, Initiative and Other activity reported in the CAP includes a "Budget" tab where agencies can enter current and prior year (carry-over) funds and select the CSBG Expenditure Domain that best reflects the activities reported. Amounts entered automatically total up by Domain in the Manage Allocated Funds screen which is accessed by a link on the blue task bar of the CAP. Agencies must also specify in the Manage Allocated Funds screen, of the CSBG funds reported (current year and carryover), how much was used for Administration. Note: Information on the CSBG Expenditure Domains can be found in the CSBG Annual Report Module 2: CSBG Eligible Entity Expenditures, Capacity and Resources (pages 25-26).

Manage Allocated Funds 021 Federal Budget: \$491,639.002021 Allocated: \$491,639.00 021 Need to Allocate: \$0.00	For CAP Period 1 and 2, report budgeted amounts for the program year. For CAP Period 3, report actual expenditures for the program year. Note: Period 3 amounts should match what is reported in Module 2, Section A.2 of the CSBG Annual Report for the same reporting period.					
	Budgeted to specific Pr Other	ograms, Initiatives, and	CARES	State		
Expenditure Domain	CSBG 2020	CSBG 2021	CSBG CARES	State 2020	State 2021	Tota
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.0
Employment	\$0.0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.0
Education and Cognitive Development	\$0.0	\$75,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75,000.0
Income, Infrastructure, and Asset Building	\$0.0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.0
Housing	\$0.0	\$100,000.00	\$63,208.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100,000.0
Health and Social/Behavioral Development (includes nutrition)	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.0
Civic Engagement and Community Involvement	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.0
Services Supporting Multiple Domains	\$0.00	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.0
Linkages (e.g. partnerships that support multiple domains)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.0
Agency Capacity Building	\$0.00	\$291,639.00	\$54,192.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$291,639.0
Other (e.g. emergency management/disaster relief)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.0
Totals	\$0.00	\$491,639.00	\$117,400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$491,639.0
Of the CSBG funds reported above, report the total amount	used for \$0.00	\$243,277.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$243,277.0
Addition		Admin %:	49%			

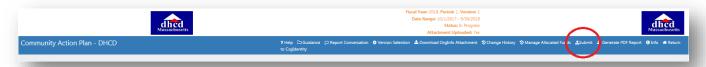
Submitting the CAP

When your CAP is complete, follow the steps below to submit it to DHCD:

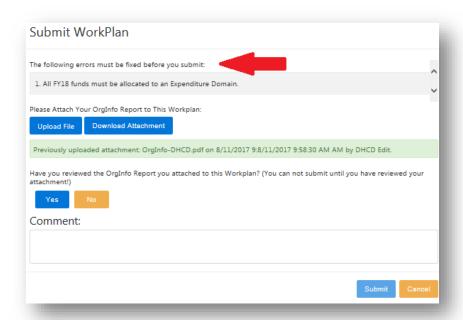
1. Open the agency's Organization Information page. On the toolbar select "Generate PDF Report" and save somewhere you can easily locate it on your computer.



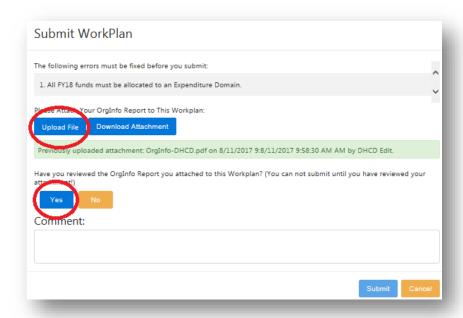
2. Return to the Community Action Plan. Open the correct period and version and click "Submit" on the toolbar.



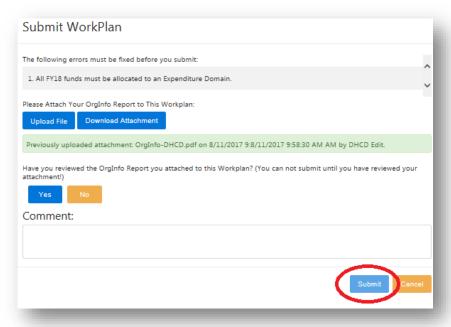
3. The system will run an error check and anything requiring attention before the CAP can be submitted will be listed in the scroll box. Once you resolve any errors, click "Submit" on the toolbar again to return to the submit page.



4. Within the submit screen, under "Please Attach Your Org Info Report", click "Upload" and select the saved PDF file of your Organization Information page. Next, click "Yes" to indicate that you have reviewed your Org Info Report to ensure the information is current.



5. Click "Submit" to submit the report to DHCD. Once submitted, you will receive an autonotification by email to confirm. DHCD will receive a similar notification. *Note:* After the CAP is submitted, your assigned DHCD program representative will review and contact you to request follow-up if any issues are identified.



Guidance and Resources

Questions on completing the Community Action Plan:

For technical questions regarding the CAP, please contact your assigned CSU Program Representative. **Any budget related questions should be forwarded to: Cindy Chan, Fiscal Representative** (Cindy.W.Chan@mass.gov).

State Guidance and Software Help:

As mentioned earlier in these instructions, state specific guidance documents pertaining to the reporting year are available through the "Guidance" folder icon on the blue task bar. In addition, instructional videos demonstrating how to use the CAP system features can be accessed through the "Software Help" option on the blue task bar.

CSBG Annual Report Resources:

Since the CAP is designed to accommodate reporting requirements of the CSBG Annual Report, some resources available on the <u>National Association for State Community Services Programs</u> (NASCSP) Annual Report website are useful for completing the CAP including:

- The link to the full CSBG Annual Report
- The CSBG Annual Report Instruction Manual
- The Annual Report Lexicon
- Various webinar recordings and slides from presentations by Community Action National Partners regarding the Annual Report