



South Middlesex Opportunity Council Inc. Community Investment Plan (CIP) 2021 – 2023 Executive Summary

Founded in 1965 in Framingham, SMOC is a nonprofit corporation with a 501(C)(3) federal tax designation; a federally designated Community Action Agency (CAA) for the MetroWest and Blackstone Valley regions; and a Community Development Corporation (CDC). SMOC administers over 60 programs through a diverse and dedicated staff of 807 human service workers. SMOC's FY21 budget is \$116,917,000.

SMOC's mission is to improve the quality of life of low-income and disadvantaged individuals and families by advocating for their needs and rights; providing services; educating the community; building a community of support; participating in coalitions with other advocates; and searching for new resources and community development partnerships. Central to our mission is working with individuals and families to maximize self-sufficiency and economic independence, especially for the most vulnerable in our society.

SMOC's 2019 DHCD Annual Report reports SMOC served 46,102 low-income individuals including 41,276 families. Program demographics: 30% Male, 67% Female, 3% Other/not reported. Race: 53% White, 10.5% Black/African American, 1% Asian, 20% Multi-Race, 3% Other; 36% Hispanic/Latino; 27% Disabled.

Goal 1: Sustain and create more opportunities for low-income people to become self-sufficient and economically independent. *SMOC accomplishes this goal through the following programs:* HiSET, ESL, Green Jobs Academy, Mobile Resource Team, Summer Jobs for Youth, MetroWest Career Center, Women's Transition Program, Individual Placement and Support (IPS), and SMOC Financial Services.

Goal 2: Sustain and create more opportunities in which low-income, disadvantaged and disabled populations' living conditions are improved. *SMOC accomplishes this goal through the following programs:* Family Shelter, Recovery Housing, Housing for People With AIDS, First Step Supportive Housing, Family Self-Sufficiency Program, Home Modification Loan Program, Housing and Consumer Education Center, Common Ground Resource Center, Emergency Single Adult Shelter, Weatherization & Heating System Assistance, South Middlesex Non-Profit Housing Corporation, Lowell Transitional Living Center, Greater Worcester Housing Connection.

Goal 3: Sustain and create more opportunities for low-income people to own a stake in their communities. *SMOC accomplishes this goal through these programs:* Positions on SMOC Board of Directors, Head Start Advisory Board, Peer Support Housing Model, Lowell Transitional Living Center Advisory Board and Springfield Open Pantry Community Service Center Advisory Board.

Goal 4: Sustain and increase partnerships among community providers & supporters of low-income people.

Goal 5: Sustain and increase SMOC's capacity to achieve results. *SMOC accomplishes this goal through these efforts:* Sound Fiscal Practices; Staff Continuing Education: Tuition Reimbursement and an internal Continuing Education web platform, Relias Learning; Data and Outcome Collection; and Resource Development.

Goal 6: Sustain and create opportunities for low-income people to achieve their potential. *SMOC accomplishes this goal through the following programs:* Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, First Time Homebuyer Classes; Voices Against Violence, Foreclosure Prevention, Fuel Assistance (LIHEAP), Marlboro Resource Center, Open Pantry Community Services, Head Start and Child Care, Framingham Recovery Support Center, Recovery Housing, New Beginnings, Community Support Program, Family & Child Counseling Services, Behavioral Health Outpatient Services, Framingham Community Center, Community Kiln.

Goal 7: Sustain and create food security opportunities for low-income people. *SMOC accomplishes this goal through the following programs:* Women Infants and Children (WIC), Loaves and Fishes and Emergency Food Pantry, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Head Start, Greater Framingham Hunger Network, Food Security & Nutrition Education Program.