PROBLEM STATEMENT: The combination of low wages and high housing costs has been devastating for thousands of Massachusetts families. The lack of supports and affordable housing, along with a disconnected and fragmented system, has contributed to housing instability and a lack of economic mobility.

STRENGTHS:
- Support Services with System Coordination: Advance system coordination and efficiency to improve access to support services for families.
- Cliff Effects: Combat cliff effects by changing policies that cause families to lose benefits due to higher earnings.
- Affordable Housing: Support efforts for increasing resources and opportunities for affordable housing.
- Data informed policy: Establish data collection and sharing system to enable evidence-driven policy design.
- Research based: Use of mixed methods research to understand policy impacts.
- Advocacy focused: Advocacy with Administration and Legislature.
- Family engagement: Meaningful involvement of families who have experienced housing instability to drive policy.
- Cross-sector: Representation from diverse sectors.

ACTION STEPS:

Research
- Gain deeper understanding of policy impacts and explore innovative solutions for improving economic mobility.

Advocacy
- Build Annual policy agenda.
- Use input from state agencies and advocate with state Legislature.

Family Engagement
- Develop Equity framework – for gender & racial equity.
- Identify, recruit, train parents who have experienced housing instability, involve them in change.

Coalition Building
- Outreach to gain new members; assistance to Coalition members.
- Strong relationship between advocates and research.

Education
- Cross-sector training and education.

Legislative Priorities
- MOU (H.2245/ S.725): Creates a Memorandum of Understanding among different MA state agencies.
- Economic Mobility bill (H.3020/ S.724): Creates a Commission to study the many self-sufficiency programs in MA.
- SNAP + Mass Health (H.101/ S.612).
- Housing Bond Bill (H.4134).
- MRVP (S.719).
- Childcare Assistance (H.2796/ S.257).

Increased Funding in State Budget
- $120 million for MRVP.
- $1 million for Learn to Earn.
- $15 million for Childcare Rate Reserve Fund.
- $91 million for Head Start.

Change in Program Language
- HomeBASE.
- Emergency Assistance.
- TAFDC Assistance (lift cap).

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IMPACT/ SYSTEMS CHANGE:
- System Coordination using better technology for improved service delivery; increased enrollment in support programs; aligned eligibility and reporting requirements (No wrong door).
- Optimum use of cliff effects tool so that families are able to advance in jobs, save and build assets.
- Policies are adjusted so that increases in income do not cause cliff effects and a clear pathway is created for economic mobility through workforce development and jobs.
- Increased availability of affordable homes, reduced shelter numbers & decreased evictions.
- Updated data published by relevant state agencies on current program beneficiaries; usage of data to inform program & policy design.