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Press Conference to Highlight How Cutting Federal Anti-Poverty Funds Threatens MA Communities

U.S. Rep. Trahan joins Merrimack Valley Community Action Agencies to detail the importance of saving Community Service Block Grants.

WHO: **Congresswoman Lori Trahan**, U.S. Representative, 3rd District, MA
Betsey Andrews Parker, Chief Executive Officer, Community Action Partnership of Strafford County
Joe Diamond, Executive Director, MASSCAP
Carl Howell, Chief Executive Officer, Community Teamwork (CTI)
Vilma Martinez-Dominguez, CEO/Executive Director, Greater Lawrence Community Action Council (GLCAC)
Kerri Perry, Chief Executive Officer, Community Action, Inc. (CAI)
Joe Diamond, Executive Director, MASSCAP

WHEN: Thursday, August 14, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: Greater Lawrence Community Action Council
305 Essex Street, Lawrence, MA

WHAT: Hundreds of thousands of people are facing hardship if the President's FY26 budget is passed. Community Action Agencies are rallying to their core funding, the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), which mandates Community Action's mission of fighting poverty and enables them to administer key community programs including Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), food security programs, homelessness prevention and housing assistance programs, early education and care programs including Head Start, and so many more.

In the Merrimack Valley, the three Community Action Agencies serve more than 100,000 people. These agencies are a part of the network of 23 Community Action Agencies serving +600,000 in Massachusetts. Community Action Agencies and the people they assist are reaching out to their members of Congress and Senators to support Community Action and to urge that they protect the programs that protect their communities – the Community Services Block Grant at the center of them all. Its elimination would have a devastating impact on our communities.

Note that this is part of a series of press conferences happening around the state over the next couple of months. For more information on Community Action and our programs and services, please visit www.masscap.org.

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