

Help Our Most Vulnerable Kids

Please ask the Chairs of House and Senate Ways and Means and the Speaker and Senate President to –

- Protect children with a severely disabled parent
- Lift the Cap on Kids

Stop the Governor from cutting benefits for children with a severely disabled parent.

- The Governor plans to cut off TAFDC (4403-2000) for children in 4,400 families because their parents are so disabled they get SSI. TAFDC for children in another 1,400 families would be drastically cut.
- Many of the families will lose 40% of their income, will not be able to pay rent and will become homeless. If 500 of the families access shelter, the shelter cost would be more than \$20 million.
- The Legislature will have to provide more money for state public housing, which will collect less rent when the families' incomes go down.
- In FY 17, the Legislature **overrode the Governor's veto** of budget language barring the Governor from counting SSI. **Please stop the Governor again!**

Lift the Cap on Kids

- The Cap on Kids – also called the Family Cap – denies TAFDC (4403-2000) to children conceived while – or soon after – the family received benefits.
- **Massachusetts denies benefits to 9,400 children because of the Cap on Kids.**
- The Cap on Kids causes everyone in the family to suffer – including the excluded child's older siblings.

The House is committed to fiscal responsibility while making sure "that we care for the most vulnerable of our residents."

- Speaker DeLeo, Boston Globe, April 13, 2016, unveiling budget rejecting Governor's proposal to count SSI

We believe that "direct assistance is most important."

- Chairman Dempsey, Boston Globe, April 13, 2016, commenting on House rejection of Governor's proposal

"The family cap doesn't prevent children, it prevents their chances of growing up healthy."

- Deborah A. Frank, MD, Director, Grow Clinic for Children, Boston Medical Center

As the Governor said in his State of the Commonwealth speech, the TAFDC caseload has dropped dramatically. We don't need to save money by taking benefits away from children.

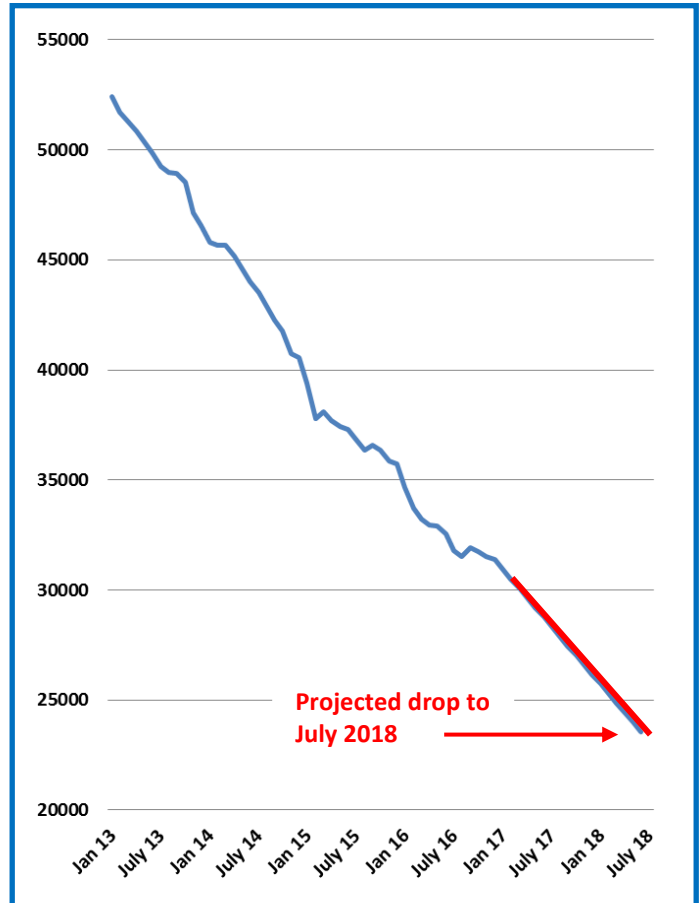
Supporting Organizations

Action for Boston Community Development, Inc.
 AIDS Action Committee
 American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts
 ARISE for Social Justice
 Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence (ATASK)
 Association of Haitian Women (AFAB)
 Boston Area Rape Crisis Center
 Brazilian Women's Group
 Brookview House, Inc.
 Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee
 Casa Myrna
 Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Boston
 Catholic Social Services of Fall River, Inc.
 Center for Violence Prevention & Recovery, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
 Central West Justice Center
 Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice
 Chelsea Collaborative
 Children's Health Watch
 Children's Law Center of Massachusetts
 Chinese Progressive Association
 City Life/Vida Urbana
 Coalition for Social Justice
 Community Action Agency of Somerville, Inc.
 Community Legal Services and Counseling Center
 DOVE
 Economic Mobility Pathways (EMPath)
 Elizabeth Freeman Center, Inc.
 Greater Boston Legal Services
 HarborCOV
 Health Care for All
 The Home for Little Wanderers
 Homes for Families
 HomeStart, Inc.
 Horizons for Homeless Children
 Jane Doe Inc.
 Jewish Community Relations Council
 Jewish Family and Children's Service
 Justice Center of Southeast MA
 Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Economic Justice
 Lynn Economic Opportunity, Inc.
 Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers
 Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy
 Massachusetts Advocates for Children
 Massachusetts Association for Community Action (MASSCAP)
 Massachusetts Association of Early Education and Care (MADCA)
 MassCAP: Massachusetts Association for Community Action
 Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless
 Massachusetts Family Planning Association
 Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
 Massachusetts Jobs With Justice
 Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
 Massachusetts Public Health Association
 Medical-Legal Partnership | Boston
 Metrowest Legal Services
 NARAL Pro Choice Massachusetts
 National Association of Social Workers, Mass. Chapter
 Neighbor to Neighbor
 Northeast Justice Center
 Northeastern University School of Law Clinics
 Nurtury
 Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund
 Poor People's United Fund
 Project Bread
 Project Hope
 REACH Beyond Domestic Violence, Inc.
 Rosie's Place
 Safe Passage
 Somerville Homeless Coalition
 Stavros
 Transition House
 UAW Region 9A CAP Council
 Union of Minority Neighborhoods
 United Way Mass. Bay and Merrimack Valley

UTEC

Vietnamese American Civic Association
 Vietnamese American Community of Massachusetts
 Women's Bar Association of Massachusetts
 Witnesses to Hunger, Boston
 Worcester County Food Bank

The TAFDC Caseload is Plummeting



TAFDC (4403-2000) is projected to need \$27 million less in FY 18 than the FY 17 appropriation because of the expected drop in cases.

- We don't need to save money by taking benefits away from kids with a disabled parent.
- The caseload "savings" of \$27 million are more than double the amount needed to lift the cap on kids.

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