



**FY26 Housing Assistance RFP Presentation
RFP #1 PASS Program
March 12, 2026**



Community Action Agency of Somerville:

Let's end poverty in our
community.



Our Mission:

CAAS helps local families and individuals achieve financial security while working to eliminate the root causes of economic injustice



Anti-Poverty Programs @ CAAS

Since 1981, CAAS has been a federally designated anti-poverty organization in Somerville to:

Expand and promote opportunities for all Somerville residents in the fields of education, employment, housing, health, and improved neighborhood life

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Serve as a structure for empowering both low-income constituencies and those whose full involvement in the community has been obstructed or discouraged by oppression and discrimination

1. Head Start

free all-day pre-k program that helps kids prepare for school... and life

2. VITA

free federal & state tax return preparation for low-income households

3. Community Organizing & Advocacy

engaging low-income residents in collectively pushing for social change



Housing Advocacy Program

1. Eviction Prevention:

Advocates provide information on Tenants' Rights & the eviction process and help clients in preparing for court to complete A&D. Advocates also pursue rental assistance as well as help to seal the current or previous eviction. *includes refer to legal services*

2. Housing Search:

Advocates assist with applying for affordable housing as well as help find market rate apartments/rooms to rent. Advocates are able to coordinate the lease-up process which may include securing start-up cost assistance and help with recertifications.

3. Benefits Advocacy:

Advocates help with applications for public benefits (SNAP, TANF, IU) which includes exploring all possible deductions to maximize household income. Advocates are also available to assist with appeals and recertifications.

4. Case Management:

Upon intake, Advocates identify barriers to housing stability to provide wrap around services to prevent that future evictions which may include referrals to community-based resources. *includes PASS + MVP case management*



PASS: Prevention & Stabilization Services Program



\$400,000.00

We are requesting a grant award of \$400,000 that will provide \$320,000 of direct client assistance (program budget will include \$80,000 as the maximum amount allowed for staffing/administrative costs). We intend to serve approximately eight (8) households.



Provides aid to Somerville residents at risk of homelessness or those who are already homeless to secure long-term housing.

Funds are used to pay the security deposit + a portion of the rent for up to twelve months.

Intensive case management increases self-sufficiency to become financially secure enough to remain housed at the end of the subsidy.



Eligibility

- Somerville Resident
- Income at or below 100% AMI
- Homeless or at-risk of homelessness
- Able to achieve self-sufficiency within one (1) year



Program Details

Housing Search

Once approved for the voucher, participants work with their case manager to secure an apartment within 90-days that meets rent standards and passes city inspection. The case manager provides support to both the landlord and participant throughout the lease process. They also submit a referral to a furniture bank and assist with setting up utilities.

Financial Assistance

PASS will provide the landlord with a security deposit (if applicable) and will pay a portion of the rent for up to 12 months. The Housing Division certifies all household income to determine the tenant's income-based rent share, as well as the applicable utility allowance. The minimum tenant rent share is \$5.

Case Management

Participants will meet with their case manager monthly to work on the goals outlined in their Housing Stability Plan, which addresses barriers to long-term stability. Goals may include applying for affordable housing, securing public benefits, pursuing employment, continuing education, and other steps toward self-sufficiency. Participants will also establish a savings goal. If they make meaningful progress toward these goals and remain income-eligible, they may qualify for an additional 12 months of subsidy support.



PASS Success

PD immigrated from India to Massachusetts to study at MIT. While pursuing her degree, her income was extremely limited due to the restrictions of her student visa. As a result, she rented a basement apartment with little heat, no kitchen, and persistent plumbing issues.

After completing her degree and securing employment in her field, PD was able to petition for her young son to join her in the United States. However, she knew the conditions she had tolerated for so long were not suitable for raising her child.

With the support of the PASS program, PD secured a two-bedroom apartment. Through ongoing case management, she was able to obtain an inclusionary unit at the conclusion of her first year in the program, allowing her to transition into permanent affordable housing.

By the time she completed the program, PD had met her savings goal, her son was on the honor roll at school, and she had been accepted into an advanced master's program at MIT.

DF had been living on the street, and maintaining his sobriety—three years strong—was the most important thing to him. He knew that having a stable place to live would help him protect his sobriety and allow him to secure employment.

Although he had completed job training programs, living on the street made it extremely difficult to maintain a job. With the help of the PASS program, DF was able to move into a stable environment where he could regularly attend AA meetings, stay connected with his sponsor, and focus on rebuilding his life.

With this stability, he was able to gain employment. Within the first year of the program, he was approved for a Section 8 voucher. While he could have leased in place, DF chose to move and start fresh in a new home.



By the Numbers

**Average Cost for 1-year of
Subsidy**

\$20,580

*based on average
1-bedroom rent +
includes utility allowance

Number of Households to Serve

Taking into
consideration variety of
bedroom sizes, our will
target is eight (8)
households

Number of Applicants

There are six (6) eligible
households on the
waitlist, awaiting funding



Budget

****see packet insert****



Conclusion

Housing stability is the foundation upon which individuals build healthy families, strong careers, and connected communities.

The PASS program provides Somerville residents facing housing instability with the critical support they need at pivotal moments in their lives. Through a combination of rental assistance and intensive case management, participants are able to stabilize their housing, pursue employment and education opportunities, and transition into permanent affordable homes.

Stories like PD's and DF's demonstrate that when housing stability is paired with thoughtful support, individuals are able to thrive. A stable home allowed a mother to bring her child to the United States and pursue advanced education, and it allowed a man committed to his sobriety to maintain employment and secure permanent housing. These are not isolated outcomes—they are the direct result of a program designed to help people succeed.

Continued investment in PASS ensures that Somerville residents experiencing housing instability have the opportunity not just to remain housed, but to build stable, productive futures within the community.





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Thank you!