

Wareham Impact Report



South Shore Community Action Council (SSCAC) works to eliminate poverty on the South Shore by coordinating, strengthening, and supplementing community efforts to empower individuals and families so they can live in decency and with dignity, realize their full potential, and participate to the extent of their capabilities in all that our communities have to offer. Through our 2023 Community Needs Assessment Survey, low-income Wareham residents identified the ability to pay heat and utility bills, affordable housing, and access to affordable food as their three most critical needs. In addition to providing services to residents of Wareham to address those needs and more, SSCAC operated as an economic conduit, bringing private, local, state, and federal funding to Wareham and the South Shore.



PHOTO COURTESY: WIKIPEDIA

2024 PROGRAM & SERVICE DOLLARS

SERVICE DOLLARS EXPENDED ON BEHALF OF LOW-INCOME WAREHAM RESIDENTS OF ALL AGES IN 2024



2,068 Residents
Served



1,171 Households
Served



1,785 Residents
Kept Warm

SSCAC'S PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AVAILABLE TO WAREHAM RESIDENTS

Appliance Management Program, Bagged Food for Seniors, Consumer Aid, Emergency Assistance, Food Resources, Fuel Assistance, Heating System Repair and Replacement (HEARTWAP), South Shore Early Education, Transportation for the Elderly and Disabled, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), and Weatherization



Making a Difference for Wareham Residents



SSCAC SERVED 2,068 WAREHAM RESIDENTS IN 2024

Struggling to make ends meet with the high cost of household basics, low- and moderate-income individuals and families are cutting back on prescriptions and food to pay for less “discretionary” expenses such as rent, mortgage, utilities, and transportation. SSCAC and our community partners are rising to the challenge and made a powerful difference in the lives of thousands of South Shore residents in the past year. We hosted a month-long March Mania food drive tournament that collected over 16,000 pounds of food. Our Transportation program secured additional funding to expand its service reach so greater numbers of older adults and individuals with disabilities accessed the healthcare and services they need. We prevented homelessness for 29 people and utility shut-off for 1,659 people. And we fostered a love of learning through early education for 1,278 children. On behalf of the thousands of children, seniors, and families whose lives we touch each year, we remain ever-grateful to our dedicated community partners who support our mission to ensure everyone in our communities is safe, warm, and healthy.

1,785
Residents

HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE (FUEL ASSISTANCE)
Wareham residents stayed safe and warm through **\$1,246,815** in direct payments made by SSCAC on their behalf to local home heating companies.

62
Residents

ENERGY CONSERVATION
Lowered utility bills for Wareham residents through Weatherization, Appliance Management and Heating System Repair and Replacement totaling **\$279,899**.

55
Children

SOUTH SHORE EARLY EDUCATION
Head Start, Early Head Start, and state funded preschool provided for free or low-cost for Wareham’s children, including daily nutritious meals, health screening, bus transportation, and family supports.

15
Residents

TRANSPORTATION
Elderly and disabled Wareham residents with no means of transportation accessed medical, adult day health, and social service appointments in handicap accessible vehicles with specially trained drivers.

6,532
Pounds

FOOD RESOURCES
Fresh and non-perishable food supplied to a low-income 55+ community in Wareham and distributed directly by SSCAC to **124** Wareham children and families to fight hunger and promote food security.

41
Residents

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE
Wareham taxpayers saved **\$12,920** in tax preparation fees and received **\$70,818** in state and federal refunds through free, electronic preparation and filing of tax returns.

26
Residents

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND FINANCIAL STABILITY
Helping households in crisis with information, referrals, case management, and financial assistance totaling **\$6,942** to avoid eviction or utility shut-off.

WAREHAM CLIENT CHARACTERISTICS

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Female | 61% |
| 0-17 Years Old | 23% |
| 65 Years or Older | 34% |
| At or Below 100% Poverty Level | 29% |
| Single Person Household | 56% |
| High School Graduate or Greater | 74% |
| Active Military or Veteran | 5% |
| Disabled | 26% |
| Retired | 40% |
| Homeowners | 58% |

SSCAC SERVED 28,970 PEOPLE IN 2024



“ Community Speaks ”

My family has been through a lot. There have been so many challenges and obstacles. But knowing that hard work is acknowledged and having your support and understanding has been substantial. It's because of people like you that I don't give up!

28,970
Individuals
Served

239
Locally
Employed

95%
Average Revenue
Spent on Direct
Services

\$33.1M
FY24 Direct
Expenditures

11,165
Hours of
Volunteer
Service

696
Community
Volunteers

South Shore Community Action Council

For more information visit sscac.org, follow us on social media or call 508-747-7575