

November 2021

abcd INSIGHT

News & Updates

Hello ABCD family!

In case you missed it, here's our November newsletter which features EVP/COO Sharon Scott-Chandler's [testimony](#) before Congress about the impact of the CSBG, and we are thrilled to report that, thanks to hundreds of generous donors, and help from our friends in the media, we have REACHED our Toy Drive goal! Check out the stories in the [News section](#) of the ABCD website, and remember to follow us on social media to stay up to date!



ABCD urges residents to apply for heating assistance

Thanks Biden-Harris administration for landmark funding to combat rising costs

As temperatures plummet and home heating costs skyrocket, ABCD President/CEO John J. Drew thanked the Biden-Harris administration for deploying an unprecedented \$4.5 billion in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding to keep lower-income families healthy and safe.

“This is a watershed moment,” Drew said. “We know that LIHEAP keeps households running — and saves lives. The ARP funding is a major commitment at the highest levels to the well-being of at-risk seniors and people living with disabilities, to hard-working families struggling to make ends meet.”

Learn more and apply for fuel assistance at bostonabcd.org/heat. If you live in Boston, Brookline or Newton, you can also call 617.357.6012, and if you live in Everett, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Stoneham, Winchester or Woburn, call 781.322.6284.

[Read more about the landmark Biden-Harris funding package here.](#)

We need toys! WE REACHED OUR GOAL!

ABCD Holiday Toy Drive seeking new unwrapped toys for children in need



The pandemic has hit low-income communities especially hard, and requests for toys from struggling families in Boston, Everett, Malden and Medford served are pouring in at an unprecedented rate to the ABCD Holiday Toy Drive. We need your help! Please donate new unwrapped toys for children ages 0 to 12 by December 15th. When you do, you'll wrap up a difficult year with kindness and connection.

Each holiday season, ABCD staff, board members, and corporate and community partners join together to collect donated toys. ABCD generally distributes more than 6,000 toys to children in need but we are running behind. Please visit bostonabcd.org/toy-drive to learn more and give today – and you can help in other ways by supporting the **ABCD Winter Fund**: food, warm clothing, support to help households enjoy the holidays and make it through the harsh winter months. Give now at bostonabcd.org/donate.

10th ABCD Hoop Dreams raises funds for youth programs

Brad Stevens, Bob Ryan, Michael Holley welcome teams to TD Garden

Generous businesses, groups of super fans, friends from the media, and two youth teams got their game on for ABCD Hoop Dreams, the iconic charity basketball tournament that benefits under-resourced young people in Greater Boston.

[Read More](#)



City of Boston and ABCD help homeowners avoid pandemic-related foreclosure

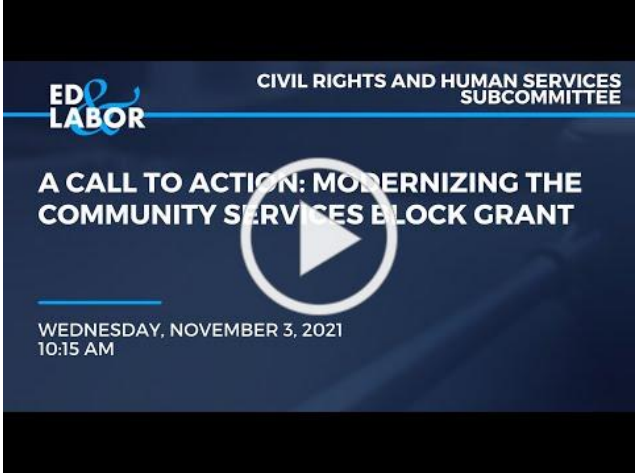
Since 2007, ABCD has partnered with the City of Boston to provide foreclosure prevention services to more than one thousand families at risk of losing their homes. Throughout the pandemic the ABCD Foreclosure Prevention program has become all the more important, helping households negotiate with lenders and avoid not only the loss of their dwelling but also the loss of the household's equity and generational wealth.

[Read More](#)

Sharon Scott-Chandler testifies before Congress on the critical impact of the Community Services Block Grant; offers insights into early childhood education at state legislator's invitation

ABCD Executive Vice President/COO **Sharon Scott-Chandler** shared her expertise at the state and federal levels recently. The National

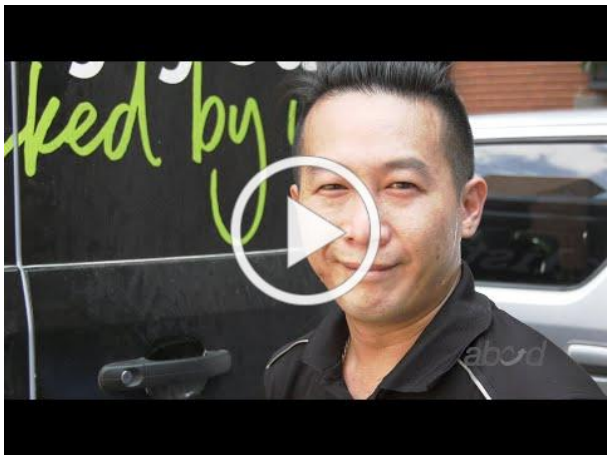
Community Action Foundation selected her to testify before the U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor in favor of the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) reauthorization. At the November 3rd hearing, Scott-Chandler highlighted some of ABCD’s major successes that are enabled by the flexible, needs-based programming as defined by the communities we serve. [Watch here.](#)



[Read More](#)

ABCD in Action

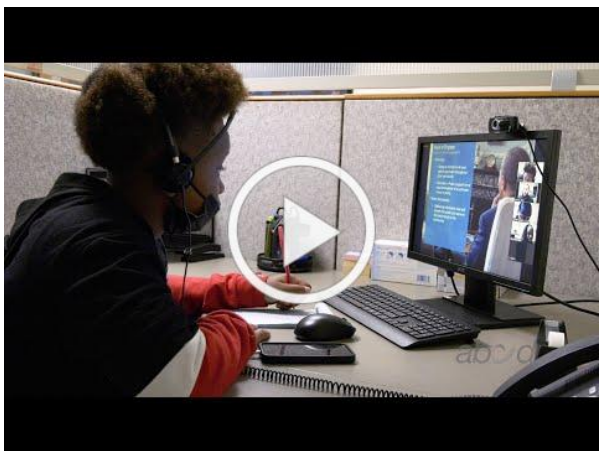
In this issue, ABCD’s video team features an ABCD partnership that delivered nutritious food to homebound residents who were hard hit by the pandemic, two impactful ABCD youth programs, and a block party in Allston/Brighton.



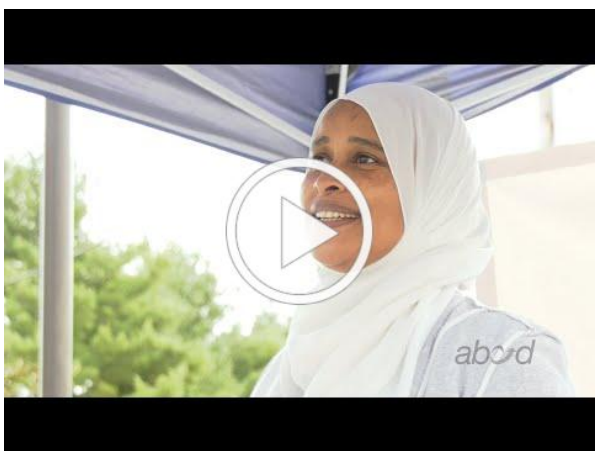
Stop & Shop PeaPod partnership drives food security



SummerWorks during the pandemic: Leury’s Story



ABCD'S Youth Engaged in Action (YEA!) goes virtual



ABCD Allston/Brighton & Partners Hold Block Party for the Community

ABCD in the News

> Get Ready to Pay More to Heat Your Home This Winter. Here's Why
NBC 10 Boston

> ABCD Hoop Dreams returns to the Garden
WBZ AM News/iHeart Media

> Collaborating to Build a Culturally Inclusive Early Childhood Education Approach
Tufts Now

A decade-long research-practice partnership between the Eliot-Pearson Department at Tufts University and ABCD Head Start has improved science education for children and professional development for teachers. [Read the Tufts Now feature.](#)

> With a mission to end young adult homelessness, ABCD partner Breaktime breaks new ground
intheknow.com

Founders Connor Schoen and Tony Shu discuss the importance of a good job in the

quest to overcome housing instability. Breaktime associate Vickie shares her experience working at an ABCD food pantry as part of her path to stability. [Watch now.](#)

Recommended Reading: ABCD's Work in Context

Rising cost of diapers hits families hard
The Boston Globe

Treasury to Begin Redistributing Rental-Assistance Money to High-Need Communities
The Wall Street Journal

Eviction Ban Lifted, a Crisis Unfolds Step by Unsettling Step
The New York Times

Everything you need to know about adding heat pumps to your home
The Boston Globe

In Brief

Need help paying rent?

To date, the Commonwealth’s Eviction Diversion Initiative – which consists of state and federal rental assistance funds – has assisted over 44,000 households since the start of the COVID-19 State of Emergency.

While this milestone is significant, thousands more tenants and landlords experienced a serious financial backslide due to the pandemic and need assistance. The Central Application for Massachusetts Emergency Housing Payment assistance is an easy-to-use resource where Massachusetts residents (landlords, tenants, homeowners, and advocates) can apply for rental or mortgage assistance benefits.

Part of the application is a universal Landlord Application with no restrictions on the number of units the owner has; this means that landlords of ANY size can apply on behalf of their tenants. Learn more and file an application [here](#).



[Sign up for Fuel Assistance!](#)



[Give to the ABCD Winter Fund](#)



[Ready for a career-changing the lives of children and families?](#)



[Head Start is enrolling!](#)



abcd

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Prepare taxes for
income-eligible residents

Free training to become an
IRS-certified tax preparer

This is ***not*** a remote opportunity.
Volunteers are required to be on-site.

Contact volunteer@bostonabcd.org
to be put on the VITA Volunteer
Application list

Seeking volunteer tax preparers

Questions about programs and services?

Contact your nearest **ABCD neighborhood center**.

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Join us on social media and get to know the people who keep ABCD in motion every day.

