

## The Midas Collaborative

### Post-Election: Collaborating for Economic Security - Notes

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Boston Private

Thank you to those who attended our meeting on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> – your insight was valuable as we determine next steps to address economic injustice in this new political climate. This is just the first step in hopefully many to ensure Massachusetts is a leader in economic justice. We want to keep the dialogue going, we will be following up in early 2017 with those who committed to certain actions/events at the meeting. If you were unable to attend and have interest in any of the next steps below, please feel free to reach out.

Below is quick recap of the day.

- **Midas Updates**
  - Expanding Our Membership
    - Please give a big welcome to Just-a-Start and Positive Change, Inc. who were voted in as new members to the collaborative.
  - Strengthening Our Board
    - The Midas board is made up of member representatives and at-large members who serve for three year terms. Thank you for re-electing Katherine Adams and electing Suzanne Chersonson as at-Large members. Learn more about our board [here](#).
- **Post-Election: Collaborating for Economic Justice ([Presentation](#))**
  - Following the election, there's been a lot of discussion about the economy and the direction of the new administration. There are many uncertainties but as a collaborative, we have a pathway forward in continuing to advance the financial security of Massachusetts residents.
    - What's at Risk?
      - A few items that may be threatened, include:
        - Funding for Vital Programs
        - The Consumer Protection Financial Bureau
        - College Affordability
      - Additional Items from Members and Partners:
        - The Affordable Care Act (ACA)
        - Affordable Housing
        - Reproductive Rights
        - Addressing Climate Change
    - What Can We Collaborate On?
      - Federal and State Budget Actions on Earned Income Tax Credit, Assets for Independence
      - Working with Attorney General Maura Healey's
        - Limiting Predatory Practices and Lenders operating within the state
        - Oversight of For-Profit Colleges
      - Joining and Supporting [Raise Up Massachusetts](#)

- Advocating for Legislation, including:
  - The Debt Collections Fairness Act (formerly the Family Financial Protection Act)
  - Children’s Savings Accounts
- Expanding MassSaves.org to include information on avoiding financial exploitations, predatory lenders
- Additional Items from Members and Partners:
  - Expanding our network and reach
    - Stay connected and support one another
    - Support organizations such as Health Care for All, City Life/Vida Urbana, CDCs, on health care, housing, etc.
  - Having a compelling message that addresses the concerns of the electorate
  - Creating a referral network
    - Info on basic needs, job options

○ **Next Steps:**

- Policy Roundtable Discussion – February 2017
- MassSaves Summit at Worcester State University – Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>
- “Call-in Day” to Safeguard Budget Priorities – April 2017
- Advocacy Action on Debt Collections Fairness Act
- Town Hall Meeting – June 2017