# Civic Action Project (CAP) CAP 3C: Research and Investigate Govt Agencies

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| Date | Step | Goal | **Focus and Effort** |
| 4/5 | 3C | Today’s Questions: What local, state, and national govt agencies impact the root cause of the issue? What have they done? Which methods/laws have been effective to make change? | Focus: /5  Effort /5 |

**Background to Build Meaning:** Today’s goal is for you to research the ways in which our government has worked to reduce the effects of your issue. Some government agencies (those that receive funding from govt) work to make effective change will be local, some will be statewide, and some will be national. Finding out more about these government agencies will require you to research. Finally, please reflect for 3 minutes before the bell rings.

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| **Example: Food Insecurity** | | |
| **Govt Agencies** | **Name, Location ,and url/link** | 1. Identify and describe laws and programs the government provides for your issue. 2. Include resource link |
| **Local** | [www.amherstma.gov](http://www.amherstma.gov/) | 1. Monthly box of food from the Amherst Survival Center 2. Food Services [LINK](https://www.amherstma.gov/542/Food-Services) |
| **State** | [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov/) | A.Bill H.1233 By Ms. Meschino of Hull, a petition of Joan Meschino and others relative to establishing a community college campus hunger pilot program to address food insecurity on community college campuses . B.Link https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H1233 |
| **National (Federal Govt)** | **3 Possibilities (Choose One)**  [www.usa.gov](http://www.usa.gov/) (Executive Branch) | 1. **H. R. 1470 T**o amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to provide greater access to the supplemental nutrition assistance program by reducing duplicative and burdensome administrative requirements, authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to award grants to certain community-based nonprofit feeding and anti-hunger groups for the purpose of establishing and implementing a Beyond the Soup Kitchen Pilot Program for certain socially and economically disadvantaged populations, and for other purposes. 2. [Link](https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1470/text?r=6&s=1) |
|  | [www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov/) (Legislative Branch) |  |

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|  | [www.oyez.org/issues](http://www.oyez.org/issues) (Judicial Branch) |  |

# Back to Researching Your Issue

Now it is your turn to research local, state, and national government agencies working to make change.

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| **Your Issue: Issue:** Homelessness | | **Root Cause:** Lack of Affordable Housing |
| **Govt Agencies** | Name, Location ,and url/link | 1. Identify and describe laws and programs the government provides for your issue. 2. Include Resource Link |
| **Local** | [www.amherstma.gov](http://www.amherstma.gov/) | 1. Amherst Housing Studio Apartments on 132 Northampton road was a housing plan enacted to help support homeless and low income people living in Amherst, MA. Of the 1,211 units listed on the SHI (subsidized housing inventory) Amherst, approximately 356 are market rate units. For example, only 26 of the 130 units at North Square are affordable, yet all 130 are counted on the SHI. Of the 204 units at Rolling Green, only 41 are affordable, yet all 204 are counted on the SHI. The ratio of preserved affordable units to total units in Amherst is 8.3%. The MA Department of Housing & Community Development currently has a funding priority for communities with fewer than 12% of housing stock listed on the SHI. 2. [https://www.amherstma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/51967/Amherst-studio-apartments---ZBA-Presentation-June-25?bidId=](https://www.amherstma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/51967/Amherst-studio-apartments---ZBA-Presentation-June-25?bidId) |
| **State** | [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov/) | 1. When the Covid-19 pandemic struck, Baker-Polito’s Administration initiated a plan in response to the pandemic which was specifically designed to help homeless people living in MA. They created decongreation sites to improve social distancing within homelessness, quarantine sites for those who have been exposed to Covid but are asymptomatic, and isolation sites to keep individuals with Covid out the community to reduce spread. 2. Link for more info:   <https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-and-homelessness-the-massachusetts-response/download>  This is the Massachusetts State Plan to End Youth Homelessness. <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massachusetts-state-plan-to-end-youth-homelessness/download> |
| **National (Federal Government)** | [www.usa.gov](http://www.usa.gov/) (Executive Branch)  [www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov/) (Legislative Branch) | A.HHS is the United States government's principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and supporting the delivery of essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves. The [U. S. Interagency Council](http://www.usich.gov/) [on Homelessness](http://www.usich.gov/) (USICH) coordinates the Federal response to homelessness by partnering with 19 Federal agencies, state and local governments, advocates, service providers, and people experiencing homelessness to achieve the goals outlined in the first |

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|  | [www.oyez.org/issues](http://www.oyez.org/issues) (Judicial Branch) | Federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness, [*Home, Together*](https://www.usich.gov/home-together/).  B. See links above |

**After today’s research, let’s think about action steps (Stage 4):**

I might take the following action to help reduce the effects of my issue:

* Increase affordable housing for individuals in Amherst
* Increase funding for Craig’s Doors, a homeless shelter
* Will there be more housing like 132 Northampton built in the future
* Attend a town council or affording housing council meeting
* Contact Craig’s Doors to determine next steps. Set up interview with director

**Reflection: Complete 3 minutes prior to the “end of class” bell.**

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| **Date** | **Identify what you feel is the most effective local or state program or law that is effectively reducing the effects of your CAP issue.** | **Focus and Effort in Reaching Goal** |
| 4/5 | We think the Amherst Housing Studio Apartments are something that are making a helpful impact in our community. Sometimes with country wide programs, especially the ones trying to help with money, the money gets lost in trying to help everyone, and not everyone ends up getting help from it. With something like the Amherst Housing Studio Apartments, it is more community focused and they are really trying to help every person. You can also see the immediate impact of what you do. | **Focus:**  **5** **/5**  **Effort:** **5** **/5** |
| **Help from teacher?**  Can you help us set up a google meet with Kevin Noonan at Craig's Doors? We need a teacher’s account since we cannot invite people. | | |