

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

Citizens Commission  
February 11, 2019 11:02 am

**Name** Cassandra Bensahih

**Address**

**Phone**

**Email**

**Citizenship Affirmation**

I am a U.S. Citizen

**Residency Affirmation**

I am a resident of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**Statement of Intent**

I intend to comply with and advance the policy established by this Act.

**Statement of Interest**

I believe it is our duty to shape, and change the world together for fairness and justice for all. I have worked in the field of organizing for almost 11 years. In my journey, I have built relationships with the legislatures in our state and the people in my communities, I have always wanted our work together to make Massachusetts better. Through sharing our stories and victories of reforms I feel we have done some great work. I have also come to believe that people from all walks of life, with a different lens, should help shape policy and represent the people. One of my mentors said "nothing about us without us". I would be honored to work together with you on this commission.

**Résumé or Summary of Qualifications Upload**

[https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3282862/71887710/477054066/71887710\\_cassandra\\_resume\\_new\\_updated\\_4.docx](https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3282862/71887710/477054066/71887710_cassandra_resume_new_updated_4.docx)

**Political Party Affiliation, if any, over the previous five years**

Democratic

**City or Town where you reside**

WORCESTER

**Employment Status**

Employed

**Occupation**

coordinator, organizer, public speaker

**Employer**

MASC Coalition (Prisoner's Legal Services)

# CASSANDRA BENSAHIH

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**Committed social justice activist with 10+ years of community development experience; Proven organizer, team builder and leadership developer with fundraising and grant writing background; Superior interpersonal skills, self-directed, and able to master new concepts quickly.**

## **EMPLOYMENT**

### **MASC (Massachusetts against Solitary Confinement)**

**Coordinator**

**2017 – Present**

- **Duties include support for the coalition thru maintaining the website, facilitate meetings. Public speaking**
- **Building the coalition thru the statewide relationships I have built in the ten years of community organizing.**
- **Knowledge of legislative campaigns and advocate with legislatures in the State House to help move our agenda forward.**
- **Able to work with community and a diverse group of organizations from faith -based to ACLU, Prison Legal Services, and many others.**

### **EPOCA (Ex-Prisoners Organizing for Community Advancement)**

**2009 – 2017**

***Executive Director***

- **Recognized as one of the preeminent spokespersons for criminal justice reform through multiple presentations to legislators, faith-based organizations, community activists and progressive groups throughout the Commonwealth.**
- **Contributed to design of omnibus criminal justice reform bill currently under consideration by the Massachusetts legislature**
- **Met with all state legislatures in Worcester county to urge them to co-sponsor the criminal justice reform bill**
- **Stabilized and helped refocus EPOCA during an unpredictable time in its history**
- **During tenure at EPOCA the critically significant RMV bill was passed by the legislature; pivotal role played by EPOCA is illustrated by my personal inclusion in signing ceremony**
- **worked to establish Mayor's 'reintegration-to-community' council**
- **Managed creation and distribution of 'Coming Home Directory' for Worcester County**
- **Oversee individual donor program comprised of five mailings/year, calls and high-donor meetings**
- **Facilitate board and general membership meetings**
- **Build and maintain relationships with allies and other community leaders**
- **Update community members on status of campaigns**

- Schedule and conduct one-to-one leadership development meetings to build membership base
- Assist and coordinate the activities of local and community volunteers
- Travel in and out of state for professional development trainings on topics such as Undoing Racism, Democracy and How to be a Community Organizer
- Function as organization's media spokesperson; Update community on status of campaigns

**Mass Alliance of HUD Tenants-**

**2014-Present**

**Tenant Organizer**

**Henry Heywood Hospital, Gardner, MA**

**2000-2006**

***Medical Office Assistant***

Answered phones, greeted public at front desk, used Medi-Tech software to coordinate diagnostic tests and procedures for patients.

**Lynn Community Development Corporation, Lynn, MA**

**1997 – 1998**

***Office Manager***

Maintained filing and record system, planned and publicized community events, recruited students and taught basic computer course, and organized logistics for first time homebuyers course.

## **EDUCATION**

**Mount Wachusett Community College, Gardner, MA**

**2004-2006**

Pursuing Associates Degree in Medical Office Procedures/EKG

**Quinsigamond Community College**

**2013-2018**

Pursuing a Degree in Communications

Graduate with honors earned Associate Degree