



November 9, 2022

Dear Governor-elect Healey and Lieutenant Governor-elect Driscoll,

On behalf of The Greater Boston Food Bank, The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, Worcester County Food Bank, Merrimack Valley Food Bank, Project Bread, Massachusetts Law Reform Institute and Massachusetts Food System Collaborative congratulations on your historic victory on Tuesday evening. Throughout your careers, you have been fierce advocates for equity and justice, and we know that you will continue that work as a historic woman-led Office of the Governor of Massachusetts.

Massachusetts has been a national trailblazer in hunger-relief efforts, and we look forward to working with your administration to remove barriers to access and drive forward policies to end hunger in our communities, many of which were presented at the [White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health](#) in September and are being spearheaded and piloted here in the Commonwealth. Critical to our shared missions are strategies that enable us to utilize equitable and transparent data to inform public policy, and collaboration and coordination of food access efforts around the state.

Our organizations are working toward the collective goal of ending hunger through a variety of public policy avenues listed below, among many others:

- ensuring that children are fed and ready to learn without worrying about cost or stigma through School Meals for All
- streamlining and maximizing enrollment in critical federal and state nutrition benefits by permanently implementing a common application
- continued increases to SNAP food benefits and DTA cash benefits and expansion of access
- maximizing procurement of locally grown staple foods through the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP)

- addressing income inequality and root causes of poverty through Cliff Effect legislation
- increasing access to locally grown produce with the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP)
- bringing targeted hunger relief resources to public and state colleges and universities with Hunger Free Campus legislation
- supporting local food production by preventing farmland loss, supporting food system infrastructure needs, and mitigating climate change impacts on agriculture

As your team implements a transition plan, makes hiring decisions and begins to set priorities in your first months in office, we encourage you to work closely with those with lived experience of poverty, inequity, and hunger. These individuals are experts in how current and future policies translate to reality. Our organizations can help connect your team with some of the Massachusetts families and advocates currently or recently facing food insecurity.

The pandemic exposed an array of systemic barriers that left as many as **one in three adults**¹ in Massachusetts facing food insecurity last year. With your leadership, we can build on the progress we've made and harness the opportunity before us to ensure that every Massachusetts resident has equitable and consistent access to healthy food. In the coming weeks, as the state's leading anti-hunger groups, we invite you or members of your transition team to meet with us to discuss how we can work closely with your administration. We will follow-up with your scheduler.

Congratulations again on your victory, and we look forward to working together to end hunger in our community.

Sincerely,

Catherine D'Amato, President and CEO, The Greater Boston Food Bank

Debbie Callery, Executive Director, Merrimack Valley Food Bank

Andrew Morehouse, Executive Director, The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts

Jean McMurray, CEO, Worcester County Food Bank

Erin McAleer, President and CEO, Project Bread

Georgia Katsoulomitis, Executive Director, Massachusetts Law Reform Institute

Winton Pitcoff, Director, Massachusetts Food System Collaborative

¹ [GBFB_Food-Access_Report22_FINAL_6.6.22-1.pdf](#)