



2023–2024 Public Policy & Advocacy Priorities

Together, we can
end hunger in
Massachusetts by
2030.

Access to healthy food is a human right

GBFB has a vision to pursue a bold, yet thoughtful policy agenda, supporting sustainable, root-cause actions at the intersection of hunger relief. We aim to advance equity through public policy by addressing **food access and affordability, economic opportunities, and food systems infrastructure**, utilizing **equitable and transparent data** to inform public policy in coordination with food access efforts around the state.

Working in partnership with our government officials at the federal, state, and local level, network partners, statewide coalitions, and the general public is key to achieving our mission.

**For more information,
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- GBFB is feeding Eastern Massachusetts through 600 food distribution partners in 190 communities
- Our statewide [Food Equity and Access](#) report found that as many as 1 in 3 people in MA faced food insecurity at some point in 2021, with disproportionate impacts on Latinx (61%), Black (53%), and LGBTQ+ (51%) populations, and households with children (40%).
- Nearly 1 in 2 food insecure adults reported having used a food pantry at some point in 2021; this number is twice as much in Eastern MA as it was pre-pandemic.
- Last year, GBFB distributed the equivalent of nearly 90 million healthy meals, a 70% increase from before COVID-19.
- GBFB's SNAP Outreach and Enrollment team submitted almost 800 SNAP applications last year and connected over 1,000 referrals to our partners.

State Policy Priorities

POLICY	DESCRIPTION	ASK
Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP)	The Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP) helps provide healthy food in every community in the Commonwealth through funding the Food Bank Coalition of Massachusetts (four state food banks). GBFB manages the MDAR state contract food purchasing for the state.	\$38.5 million in FY24 budget (Budget line item 2511-0105).
Hunger Free Campus Initiative	GBFB co-leads the MA Hunger Free Campus Coalition , an effort to promote food access among college students at two- and four-year public higher education institutions in Massachusetts through legislation.	Support SD691 / HD3873 in FY23–FY24 legislative session and FY24 budget request.
Universal School Meals	GBFB supports the Feed Kids Coalition that aims to provide access to free school meals for all K-12 students in Massachusetts.	Support HD766 / SD1013 in FY23–FY24 legislative session and extension in FY24 budget.
Healthy Incentives Program (HIP)	GBFB supports the MA Food System Collaborative campaign to expand SNAP recipients' ability to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables directly from farmers through full and permanent funding of the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP).	Support full and permanent funding in FY24 budget (Budget line item 4400-1004).
Cash Assistance for Families in Deep Poverty	GBFB supports the Lift Our Kids coalition that aims to raise cash assistance grants by 20% a year until the maximum grant reaches half the federal poverty level.	Support HD 507 / SD 501 in FY23–24 legislative session.
Tax Relief	GBFB supports the Healthy Families Tax Credits Coalition which aims to pass robust and inclusive tax relief for families with low incomes.	Expand the state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and pass the Child and Family Tax Credit (CFTC).
Nutrition and Cash Benefits for Immigrants	GBFB supports the Feeding Our Neighbors Coalition that aims to restore state-funded food and cash benefits for legally-residing immigrants denied federal SNAP and cash assistance.	Support HD2684 / SD507 in FY23–FY24 legislative session.

Federal Policy Priority: 2023 Farm Bill

POLICY	DESCRIPTION	ASK
Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)	The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) supports food access for low-income seniors. GBFB oversees this program for 2,700 MA seniors and is the sole administrator for the state.	Ensure adequate funding, expand eligibility, and maintain MA's current caseload
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	As our nation's first line of defense against hunger, SNAP helps more than 40 million low-income Americans afford food. In Massachusetts, for every 1 meal distributed by a food bank, SNAP provides 5 meals.	Protect and strengthen SNAP, extend increased benefit limits.
The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)	This USDA program supplements the diets of low-income Americans, particularly senior citizens, by providing emergency food and nutrition assistance at no cost.	Invest and streamline USDA food assistance programs, increase TEFAP funding