

FISCAL YEAR 2023 QUARTER 3 IMPACT REPORT

APRIL–JUNE 2023

Record Need Persists in MA

While the public health emergency of the pandemic is behind us, the hunger crisis in Massachusetts persists today. GBFB collaborated with Mass General Brigham's Center for Healthy Weight and Nutrition Equity and MA's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to release its third annual statewide [food equity and access report](#) with an [exclusive story in the Boston Globe](#).



Among other key findings, it estimates that **1 in 3, or 1.8 million adults**, reported household food insecurity in 2022. New this year, the report also points to child hunger rates of more than 50% among Hispanic and LGBTQ+ households amidst the historic cost of food and conclusion of pandemic benefits. There is record hunger in our community, with our neighbors struggling to put food on the table. They often have to choose between food and rent, utilities, or other bills, as noted in Catherine D'Amato and GBFB's Health and Research Advisor, Dr. Lauren Fiechtner's [op-ed](#).

"In this food equity report, The Greater Boston Food Bank and its partners are shining a light on the large number of Massachusetts residents who continue to suffer from inconsistent and inequitable access to food. Food insecurity disproportionately harms our most vulnerable neighbors—children, seniors, communities of color, and low-income families. Our administration is committed to being strong partners in the work to end hunger and its root causes."

—Maura Healey, Governor of Massachusetts

GBFB Invests in Hunger Relief Partners

"If we hadn't had this support, there is absolutely no way we could have kept up with the demand."

—Rick Doane,
Executive Director,
Interfaith Social
Services in Quincy

GBFB recently awarded nearly **\$1 million to 38 hunger relief organizations** across Eastern Massachusetts. With the demand for emergency food reaching an all-time high across the region—fueled by the prohibitively high cost of living and the ending of COVID-era SNAP benefits—this annual grantmaking initiative helps our partners expand services, increase capacity, and deliver even more healthy food to our neighbors in need.

With the help of its donors, GBFB's grant program, originally begun in 2013, has provided nearly \$6 million of financial assistance over the past 10 years to strengthen its network of partners—nonprofits serving 190 cities and towns in our region.

GBFB received 113 grant applications this year, the most in the program's 10-year history, underscoring that the need for food assistance is on the rise.

This investment by GBFB is only possible because of your continued generous support. Now more than ever, we need your help to meet the historic need in our community.



Stories of Hope



"When you leave a situation, sometimes very quickly, you need resources fast," explains Christine D'Angelo, 30, mother of two—and the survivor of domestic violence. Having fled home with her children for a shelter, she reflects on what was her new reality—a version defined in part by no job, no car, and no permanent home. "It was difficult for a long time," she says.

"This place has honestly saved my life...and it's given me the resources and nutritious foods needed to survive."

And then she brightens. "But this place has given those to me," she says, describing the assistance she has received from the Needham Community Council. "Leaving the shelter, I've been able to survive with my children, thanks to the food pantry. Full bellies are happy bellies."

It's not just the fresh produce, milk, eggs, and bread that drew her to the pantry once a month for the last two years. Read her full story [here](#).

FreshFest Came Back Fresher Than Ever!

Our signature event, FreshFest, was back in person this spring in Boston. It was an incredible night thanks to the ambiance at High Street Place and the energy of our guests. A special thank you to all our generous sponsors, especially lead sponsors: Ted and Kathy Truscott in support of Columbia Threadneedle Investments, MFS Investment Management, Nigel and Joanna Travis, WCVB-TV 5, and High Street Place for sharing our commitment to feeding our neighbors. Because of your support, this year's event provided **1.3 million healthy meals** to neighbors in need.



GBFB Promotes Hunger Relief Priorities in D.C.

In May, several GBFB and Hunger to Health Collaboratory team members attended the [FRAC and Feeding America National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference](#) in Washington, D.C., and met with Congress to advance hunger relief priorities. Hundreds of food bankers and hunger-relief advocates from across the country participated in the conference, which featured nearly 50 panel presentations on topics ranging from coordinating data to improve access to SNAP benefits to advancing child nutrition to engaging pantry client voices to drive policy change. Read more [here](#).



GBFB Celebrates its Partners!



GBFB honored 12 individuals and organizations for going above and beyond to support GBFB's hunger-relief efforts. For the last 20 years, GBFB's Partner Appreciation Awards program has sought to celebrate and show appreciation for valued partner agencies, public officials, volunteers, donors, and other organizations that have made considerable contributions to GBFB's mission over the past year. Learn who GBFB honored GBFB [here](#).

"The problem of hunger is everywhere, and now more than ever requires the entire community to come together to help people in need."

—Catherine D'Amato,
GBFB President and CEO

GBFB Hits the Road to Promote MEFAP



What do fresh asparagus from Chicopee, Haddock chowder from the Cape, and jars of everyone's favorite super chunky Teddie peanut butter have in common? They are all nutritious, locally sourced products purchased through the **Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP)** and distributed at no cost, by GBFB and other food banks, to nearly 1,000 emergency food providers across the Commonwealth. In partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture (MDAR) and the Massachusetts State Food System Legislative caucus, the Food Bank Coalition of Massachusetts hosted its first annual MEFAP Roadshow. The goal? To educate legislators and the community about the importance of MEFAP to the local farm and fishing industry, food production and manufacturing companies, and the food bank's partners statewide. This program enables GBFB to source and distribute healthy food to nourish our neighbors. Read [more](#).

Cutler Lecture Highlights Food Insecurity

Thanks to ongoing support from the Cutler family, GBFB held its Annual Ted Cutler Lecture to highlight results from its third Annual Statewide Food Equity and Access Report. GBFB president and CEO Catherine D'Amato was joined by an esteemed panel for this virtual event. Special guests included Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey, former USDA Director of Nutrition Dr. Sara Bleich, Dr. Angela Odoms-Young and Dr. Norbert Wilson from GBFB's Health and Research Council, and GBFB Sr. Research Advisor Dr. Lauren Feichtner, who led this research. They discussed the critical importance of the data and how to best leverage it to guide and inform our work and the root causes of food insecurity. Watch it [here](#).



WORKING ACROSS EASTERN MASS TO REDUCE FOOD INSECURITY



600,000
People served monthly¹



600
Network partners



96%
of food meets nutrition standards²



80%
of FY23 goal of submitting 1100 SNAP applications³



190
Towns & cities



33
Mobile Markets

¹ Average based on partner agency reporting | ² Based on GBFB inventory that can be ranked | ³ Our annual SNAP application goal is assigned by the state based on our SNAP outreach budget for the year