



The Honorable Maura Healey  
Governor of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts State House, 24 Beacon St.  
Office of the Governor, Room 280  
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Kim Driscoll  
Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts State House, 24 Beacon St.  
Office of the Lt. Governor, Room 280  
Boston, MA 02133

August 2, 2023

Dear Governor Healey and Lieutenant Governor Driscoll:

On behalf of the 600 emergency food distribution partners served by The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB), we write to respectfully urge your support of the Legislature's proposal to fund the **Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP) at \$35.5 million in the FY24 State Budget**. We are delighted that the Legislature put forth a strong investment in MEFAP, along with various other hunger-relief proposals, that reflects the real-time challenges of equity and affordability in the Commonwealth.

Recently, The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) released a [third annual statewide report](#) on food insecurity, finding **1 in 3 households in MA are food insecure** – and signaling a [persisting hunger crisis](#). Based on the data, validating the heightened demand in our charitable food system, GBFB respectfully requests your support to fund MEFAP at \$35.5 million.

Not only is MEFAP a critical lifeline for food pantries feeding people in every city and town in Massachusetts by ensuring a consistent local supply of quality, nutrient-dense foods and fresh produce at no cost, but it benefits local farms, fisheries, and food manufacturing companies – with 42% of funding reinvested into our statewide economy just last year.

GBFB's third annual statewide study on food insecurity, [Opportunities to Improve Food Equity & Access in Massachusetts: Ending Hunger – Together](#),” paints a stark picture of the current hunger crisis. As pandemic aid is pulled back and the cost of living is at an all-time high, [food insecurity is on the rise again](#). The number one reason survey respondents reported going to a pantry was due to the high cost of food in the grocery stores, highlighting the affordability issues people in

our state are facing and the tradeoffs households make to keep food on the table. As a result, our partner community food providers are ordering food from us faster than we can replenish our warehouse. Our recent [MEFAP Roadshow in Chicopee, Chatham and Everett](#) demonstrated this need as well as the benefits of this hunger-relief program.

With cuts to SNAP and federal cash assistance programs further threatening the state of hunger across the country, we seek your support of these budget requests in our pursuit of ending hunger in Massachusetts.

With deep gratitude for your consideration,

*Catherine D'Amato*

Catherine D'Amato  
President and CEO

*Catherine Drennan Lynn*

Catherine Drennan Lynn  
VP, Communications and Public Affairs

*Kate Adams*

Kate Adams  
Public Policy Manager