

**Massachusetts Emergency  
Food Assistance Program (MEFAP)**

**Fiscal Year 2022  
Core Food & MassGrown  
Summary Report**

July 1, 2021 – December 31, 2022



**PREPARED BY**



Kate Adams, Catherine Lynn, Dan O'Neill, Lauren Parr

**ON BEHALF OF**





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# Highlights of Fiscal Year 2022

## FOOD INSECURITY RATES REMAIN HIGH



The long-term impact of the pandemic has caused food insecurity in Massachusetts to increase by nearly **70%** since before the pandemic.



The number of SNAP benefits applicants has increased since the start of the pandemic. As of January 2023, **more than 1 million MA residents** receive SNAP benefits each month.



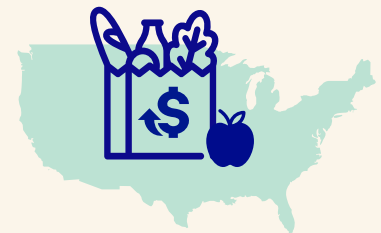
As many as **1 in 3 adults in MA** faced food insecurity in 2021.



Nearly **1 in 2 households** with children in the Commonwealth were food insecure in 2021, compared with 1 in 4 pre-pandemic.<sup>1</sup>



**More than 850 emergency food programs** across the state were supported with products purchased with MEFAP funds. Collectively, the MA food bank partners served more than 800,000 people every month in 2022.



Nationally, food-at-home prices increased **9.9%** in 2022, with no food categories decreasing in price in 2022 compared with 2021.

(Source: USDA)

Avian influenza and new cage-free egg legislation negatively impacted the cost of both eggs and poultry in Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22). The cost of eggs increased from an average of \$0.50/lb. in FY21 to an average of **\$1.05/lb.** in FY22.



Total MEFAP funding for FY22 was **\$30M**, which was unchanged from FY21.



- ✓ **12 vendors** were awarded contracts to supply Core Food products.
- ✓ An **additional 18 vendors** supplied Core Food produce through the program, and **3 new vendors** were added to supply frozen seafood products.
- ✓ Of the **33 Core Food vendors**, 19 were MA-based companies, comprising 37.5% of the Core Food spend.
- ✓ **142 different items** were purchased with Core Food funds.
- ✓ **21 MA farms** were supported by MassGrown purchases. One of those 21 farms is Pioneer Valley Growers Association, which is a cooperative that has an **additional 20 member farms** under contract that supported MEFAP with fresh produce.
- ✓ A total of **29,353,645 meals** were provided through MEFAP, an increase of 7 million meals over FY20.
- ✓ Between July 2021 and December 2022, the amount of food purchased with MEFAP funds for the four MA food banks increased by 270,664 pounds, or about 1%, from the prior year's total of 35,495,038 pounds (same funding level).
- ➔ Of this total, **31,963,790 pounds** were distributed through the Core Food program between July 2021 and June 2022.
- ➔ **3,531,248 pounds** were distributed through the MassGrown program between January and December 2022.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.gbfb.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/GBFB\\_Food-Access\\_Report22\\_FINAL\\_6.6.22-1.pdf](https://www.gbfb.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/GBFB_Food-Access_Report22_FINAL_6.6.22-1.pdf)

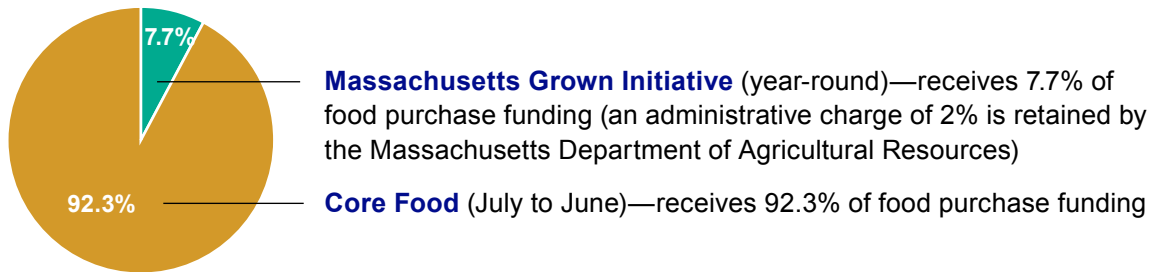
# Fiscal Year 2022 Summary Report

Core Food: July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

MassGrown: January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022

## About MEFAP

MEFAP is administered by The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) on behalf of the Food Bank Coalition of Massachusetts (FBCMA). MEFAP works with approximately 850 emergency food programs served by FBCMA to purchase and distribute nutritious foods and locally grown produce, and recently expanded to include locally sourced seafood to those in need across the Commonwealth. MEFAP consists of two food purchasing programs:



**Massachusetts Grown Initiative** (year-round)—receives 7.7% of food purchase funding (an administrative charge of 2% is retained by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources)

**Core Food** (July to June)—receives 92.3% of food purchase funding

## About The Food Bank Coalition of Massachusetts

FBCMA includes The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts (FBWM) in Hatfield, GBFB in Boston, Merrimack Valley Food Bank (MVFB) in Lowell, and Worcester County Food Bank (WCFB) in Shrewsbury. Each is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation that distributes surplus, reclaimed, and other donated foods; purchased foods; and foods provided by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). U.S. Census Bureau service area population and poverty statistics, as well as clients served, are used to determine the allocation of MEFAP funds to the four food banks. Three of the food banks, FBWM, GBFB, and WCFB, are Feeding America–affiliated food banks. The distribution formula for FY22 MEFAP funds, along with changes from FY21 percentages, is detailed in Table 1 below.

**TABLE 1**

**Allocation of FY22 MEFAP Funds within FBCMA**

FOOD BANK	LOCATION	PERCENTAGE*	% CHANGE
GBFB	Boston	69.65%	↑ 1.01%
WCFB	Shrewsbury	11.88%	→ -0.20%
FBWM	Hatfield	14.08%	↑ 0.66%
MVFB	Lowell	4.39%	↓ -1.47%

\*Percentages based on U.S. Census and Feeding America statistics

“As a local wholesale meat distributor, we’re proud to provide the Massachusetts food banks with the resources to supply their array of programs, along with their overall mission to end hunger across the state. Partnering with these four Massachusetts food banks has not only been rewarding for an organization like ours, it has also opened doors with various suppliers that can handle the volume needed to fulfill their needs.”

– B&B Trading Corporation

The statewide emergency food bank distribution network serves every community in the Commonwealth. By reducing food costs for food bank partners and providing high-quality nutritious food, MEFAP plays a vital role in reducing hunger and supporting nutrition in Massachusetts. During the MEFAP 2022 fiscal year, more than 850 emergency providers received MEFAP products. These programs include:

- Pantries
- Soup kitchens
- Transitional houses
- Shelters
- Health and senior centers



MEFAP-distributed food represented **26.4% of the overall total pounds** distributed by the four Massachusetts food banks, a slight increase from FY21, when MEFAP accounted for 24.6% of total distribution.

MEFAP remains an important buffer against the volatility of other unstable product sources. While other food sources for food banks—donations from food retailers, manufacturers, and processors as well as federal commodities received through USDA—are susceptible to change from year to year, FBCMA food banks and the partners and clients they serve can depend on MEFAP as a stable source of healthy food products.

**TABLE 2**

**FY22 Massachusetts Regional Food Banks Total Distribution\***

FOOD BANK	TOTAL POUNDS FROM ALL SOURCES	% CHANGE	MEFAP % OF TOTAL POUNDS	% CHANGE
GBFB	111,302,108	↓ -3.8%	23.3%	↑ 10.9%
WCFB	7,246,601	↓ -1.7%	50.4%	↓ -14.2%
FBWM	12,301,812	↓ -19.2%	36.3%	↑ 22.6%
MVFB	3,387,864	↓ -28.9%	43.0%	↓ -2.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>134,238,385</b>	↓ -6.2%	<b>26.4%</b>	↑ 7.4%

\*Table includes overall pounds distributed from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022.

**TABLE 3**

**FY22 MEFAP Distribution\***

FOOD BANK	MEFAP CORE FOOD	% CHANGE	MEFAP MASSGROWN	% CHANGE	MEFAP TOTAL POUNDS	MEFAP TOTAL MEALS	% CHANGE
GBFB	23,307,289	↑ 8.0%	2,611,347	↓ -3.6%	25,918,636	21,598,863	↑ 6.7%
WCFB	3,372,191	↓ -15.9%	277,456	↓ -12.6%	3,649,647	3,041,373	↓ -15.7%
FBWM	3,945,789	↓ -0.9%	523,334	↓ -0.3%	4,469,123	3,724,269	↓ -0.8%
MVFB	1,338,521	↓ -30.6%	119,111	↓ -27.2%	1,457,632	1,214,693	↓ -30.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31,963,790</b>	↑ 1.4%	<b>3,531,248</b>	↓ -4.9%	<b>35,495,038</b>	<b>29,579,198</b>	→ 0.8%

\*Table includes Core Food pounds distributed from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, and MassGrown pounds distributed between January 1, 2022, and December 31, 2022.

# Fiscal Year 2022 in Review

## Background

Inflationary pressures have led to greater demand at food pantries, while also raising the price of food to some of the highest levels our team has ever seen.

In response to these challenges, FBCMA increased purchasing to distribute more food, and MEFAP continues to play a vital role by providing a consistent and reliable source of staple items to food pantries and other feeding programs. Current MEFAP funding, combined with our other food supply channels (USDA, donation, and privately fundraised purchases), enables FBCMA to meet about 80% of the current meal gap (151.2 million meals) in Massachusetts.

Between July 2020 and June 2021, FBCMA collectively distributed 134.2 million pounds of food (total across all food sources). While this was a decrease of 6.2% from the prior year, mainly due to the rising cost of food, it was 20% greater than 2020 distribution. A key driver of this increase was the significant rise in MEFAP funding for FY21 and FY22. This additional MEFAP funding, alongside sustained elevated purchasing levels through private funding, has allowed food banks to continue to increase and sustain food distribution to meet the historic levels of need.

In FY21 MEFAP-distributed pounds were up by 25%, compared with a 50% increase in funding.

This imbalance in increased distributed pounds relative to funding increase was driven by two key factors:

- 1 Significant cost inflation across many food categories
- 2 Increased prioritization of local seafood purchases, leading to a higher average cost per pound
  - Core Food purchases saw an increase of 9.6%, from \$0.79/lb. in FY21 to \$0.87/lb. in FY22.
  - MassGrown purchases saw an increase of 12.2%, from \$0.57/lb. to \$0.64/lb.




**FY22 saw a 20% increase in average food prices from FY21.**

In FY22, MEFAP accounted for **26.4% of statewide food bank distribution**, compared with 24.6% in FY21.

And, MEFAP **distribution increased by 270,664 pounds**, an increase of about 1% over the prior year, with no change in funding.

**1 in 3 people in Massachusetts were food insecure in 2021.**



“We, as a company, are totally aligned with the mission of fighting hunger in Eastern Massachusetts. Participation in the MEFAP program is integral to our core mission as a company in giving back to the community to those in need. As a major employer in Eastern Massachusetts, Teddie peanut butter has an intense obligation to our employees in support of their livelihoods and their ability to support and provide for their families. The MEFAP program allows Teddie peanut butter, as a local supplier, to keep our production lines running during down periods. The MEFAP orders keep our production lines running and our employees working during those periods.”

– Mark J. Hintlian,  
The Leavitt Corporation

Due to supply chain disruptions including port congestion, packaging shortages, labor disruptions, and transportation/driver shortages, supply volatility and pricing increases (particularly for items like eggs, poultry, and produce) have persisted.

Supply challenges brought on by COVID-19 persisted during FY22, and the stability of MEFAP contracts and supplier relationships highlights the unique and critical role MEFAP plays in the state's hunger relief and food systems. Core Food vendors provided a steady supply of items such as eggs, peanut butter, pasta, 100% juice, and poultry to agencies during periods of limited availability in the supply chain. Core Food funds set aside for produce also offer flexibility—not only to increase the variety of produce supplied to agencies, but also to act as a secondary support stream for Massachusetts farms when needed.

## Prioritizing Nutrition

MEFAP continues to ensure that clients receive quality, nutrient-dense products, including produce, proteins, and dairy products.



In FY22, **99.1% of MEFAP distributed pounds** met the coalition's standards for nutrition, based on saturated fat, sodium, and sugar content.

## Prioritizing Local

While the main objective of MEFAP is to provide food products while balancing cost, variety, and nutrition, care is taken to prioritize local purchasing and supporting Massachusetts industry where economically and logistically feasible.



In FY22, **42.4%, or \$12.04M, of all MEFAP dollars** were spent with Massachusetts-based suppliers, supporting the local industry and economy. Of Core Food purchases, **37.5% of funding** was spent with Massachusetts-based vendors.



## Program Funding

Total funding for MEFAP was unchanged from FY21. Total funding for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, was \$30M. A breakdown of the funding can be found in Table 4, and a summary history of MEFAP funding and meals distributed is contained in Table 9. In FY22, the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) managed both the food purchases funds, including funding for the Massachusetts Grown Initiative (MassGrown), and the operation funds.

**TABLE 4**  
**FY22 MEFAP Funding**

PROGRAM	FY22 FUNDING
Core Food Funding	\$26,218,871
Massachusetts Grown Initiative	\$2,201,129
Operation Funding	\$1,000,000
MDAR Administrative Fee	\$580,000
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>	<b>\$30,000,000</b>

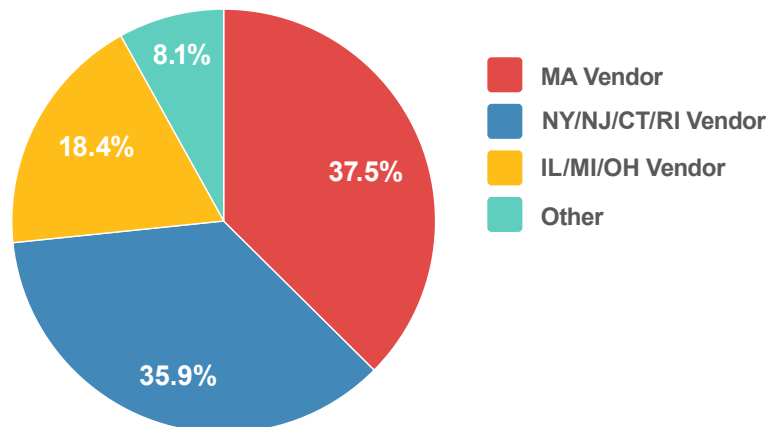
## MEFAP Food Purchases

MEFAP consists of two food purchasing programs: Core Food and MassGrown. Core Food purchases and distribution statistics are for July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022. Due to the seasonality of the Massachusetts growing season, MassGrown purchases and distribution statistics are for the period January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022.

## Core Food

FBCMA purchased and distributed 31.96 million pounds of food through the Core Food program, accounting for 90.05% of total MEFAP distribution in FY22. In FY22, 37.54% of all Core Food funds were spent with Massachusetts-based vendors. See Chart 1 for a breakdown of Core Food spend by vendor location.

**CHART 1**  
**FY22 MEFAP Core Food Spend by Vendor State\***



\*Vendor state indicates location of company headquarters.

## Core Food FY22 Bid and Contracts

The majority of food purchased through the Core Food program is sourced from vendors selected through a competitive bid process. Annual contracts for all items (excluding produce and seafood) were awarded to vendors that offered the best value to the food banks and state, based on a combination of criteria, including the following:

- Product pricing
- Price time frames
- Product quality and nutritional value
- Logistical capabilities
- Local vendor location vs. out of state vendor location
- Company service record and past performance

Food safety documentation continues to be an important requirement of the Core Food bid, both to safeguard the populations served by FBCMA and to remain aligned with the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act. Bidders are required to provide letters of material guarantee from all manufacturers represented, as well as third-party food safety audit certificates for all food processing facilities. All four food banks were very satisfied with the customer service provided by the 13 awarded Core Food vendors. Table 5 summarizes the awards by vendor.

**TABLE 5**  
**FY22 Core Food Bid Vendors**

VENDOR	LOCATION	ITEMS AWARDED	FY21 SPEND	FY22 SPEND	% CHANGE
Port Royal Sales	Woodbury, NY	Tuna, beans, peas, domestic canned fruit and vegetables, pasta, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, quick oats	\$6,067,414.70	<b>\$3,817,937.06</b>	↓ <b>-37.07%</b>
Feeding America	Chicago, IL	Shelf-stable milk, toasted oats, green beans, canned corn, canned mixed vegetables, canned soups	\$4,024,662.35	<b>\$2,580,520.29</b>	↓ <b>-35.88%</b>
Performance Food Group	Springfield, MA	American cheese, yogurt, instant oatmeal	\$2,384,302.30	<b>\$2,600,100.07</b>	↑ <b>9.05%</b>
Broccoli Associates	Utica, NY	Ground turkey, pork loin, macaroni and cheese, whole chickens, frozen vegetables	\$2,236,182.10	<b>\$2,766,512.70</b>	↑ <b>23.72%</b>
B & B Trading Corporation	Boston, MA	Chicken drumsticks and thighs	\$2,023,920.20	<b>\$931,434.24</b>	↓ <b>-53.98%</b>
New England Food Brokerage	Stoughton, MA	Ground beef	\$920,950.20	<b>\$1,100,553.00</b>	↑ <b>19.50%</b>
The Leavitt Corporation	Everett, MA	Peanut butter	\$879,648.00	<b>\$879,441.02</b>	↓ <b>-0.02%</b>
Galot Inc.	Carlsbad, CA	White and brown rice, cold cereal, canned chicken	N/A	<b>\$1,738,452.78</b>	N/A
Hillandale Farms	Bozrah, CT	Eggs	N/A	<b>\$1,173,132.85</b>	N/A
CEBEV	Chicago, IL	Juice	\$604,383.17	<b>\$693,852.16</b>	↑ <b>14.80%</b>
Burnette Foods	Elk Rapids, MI	Applesauce	\$312,960.00	<b>\$1,002,918.62</b>	↑ <b>220.46%</b>
Garelick Farms	Franklin, MA	Fresh milk	\$282,424.70	<b>\$336,217.71</b>	↑ <b>19.05%</b>
S&L Specialties	Ocean City, NJ	Spaghetti sauce	N/A	<b>\$243,412.80</b>	N/A

## Core Food Produce

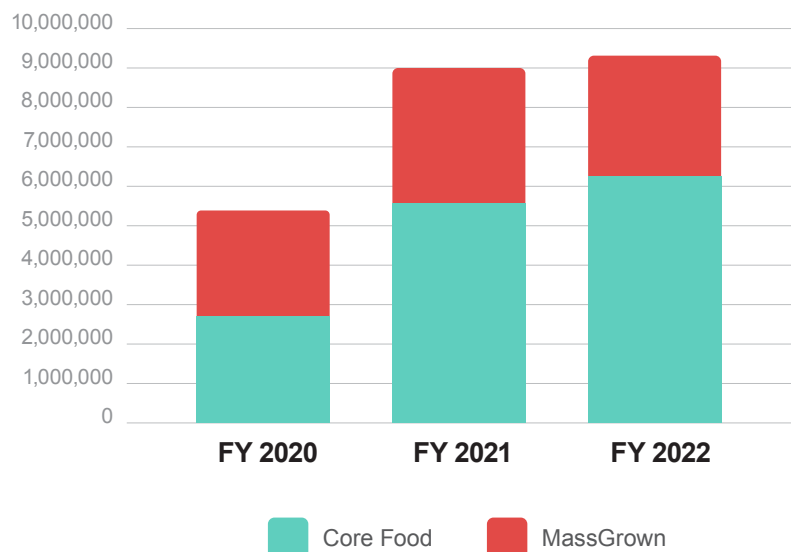
Core Food produce orders are based on weekly availability and pricing from a wide pool of in-state and out-of-state farms, produce sheds, suppliers, and brokers. In addition to the \$21.9M that was awarded through the Core Food bid process and the Massachusetts seafood vendors detailed on page 11, an additional \$4.25M of the total Core Food funding was spent on fresh produce.

To increase the volume of fresh produce and to help keep overall costs per pound low, GBFB coordinated purchases of Grade A produce items from a large pool of vendors throughout the year.

Table 6 provides a breakdown of the spending of Core Food produce funds. Special care was taken to not interfere with MassGrown ordering—items sourced were either not available through MassGrown or were ordered off-season.

**TABLE 6**  
**FY22 Core Food Produce Vendors**

VENDOR	LOCATION	ITEMS PURCHASED	FY21 SPEND	FY22 SPEND	% CHANGE
Tourtellot & Co.	Warwick, RI	Apples, avocado, broccoli, melons, cauliflower, cucumbers, eggplant, lettuce, mangoes, peaches, peppers, pineapples, salad mix, squash, tomatoes	\$463,028.75	<b>\$934,521.10</b>	↑ <b>101.83%</b>
DiSilva Fruit	Chelsea, MA	Citrus, pineapples	\$489,349.75	<b>\$730,294.55</b>	↑ <b>49.24%</b>
S. Strock & Co.	Chelsea, MA	Melons, pineapples, salad mix	\$330,172.40	<b>\$698,532.80</b>	↑ <b>115.57%</b>
Del Monte Fresh Produce	Chicago, IL	Avocado, bananas, melons, pineapples	\$493,026.50	<b>\$534,750.50</b>	↑ <b>8.46%</b>
Joseph P. Sullivan & Co.	Ayer, MA	Apples	\$34,545.00	<b>\$471,960.00</b>	↑ <b>1,266.22%</b>
Northeast Produce	Plainville, CT	Tomatoes, green and red peppers	N/A	<b>\$405,579.00</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Western Harvest	Quebec, Canada	Apples, cabbage, carrots, celery, cucumbers, onions, sweet potatoes, turnips	\$203,163.70	<b>\$149,014.80</b>	↓ <b>-26.65%</b>
Szawlowski Potato Farm Inc.	Hatfield, MA	Potatoes	N/A	<b>\$72,047.50</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Hapco Farms, LLC	Riverhead, NY	Broccoli, cauliflower	\$16,220.00	<b>\$65,520.00</b>	↑ <b>303.95%</b>
Matthew Manheim	S. Deerfield, MA	Broccoli, carrots, parsnips	N/A	<b>\$40,800.00</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Pioneer Valley Growers Association	S. Deerfield, MA	Apples, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, collard greens, lettuce, potatoes, squash, sweet potatoes, turnips	\$156,672.00	<b>\$36,528.00</b>	↓ <b>-76.69%</b>
Ward's Berry Farm	Sharon, MA	Cranberries	\$4,350.00	<b>\$28,502.00</b>	↑ <b>555.22%</b>
Community-Suffolk	Everett, MA	Carrots, tomatoes	\$44,531.00	<b>\$22,958.00</b>	↓ <b>-48.44%</b>
Boston Area Gleaners, Inc.	Waltham, MA	Apples, squash	\$12,050.00	<b>\$20,526.00</b>	↑ <b>70.34%</b>
R.S. Hanline & Co.	Shelby, OH	Mangoes, melons, pineapples	\$217,204.10	<b>\$14,212.00</b>	↓ <b>-93.46%</b>
M. D'Ottavio Produce, Inc.	Vineland, NJ	Green and red peppers, zucchini, yellow squash	N/A	<b>\$14,185.00</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Farmer Dave's	Dracut, MA	Apples, collard greens, kale, squash	\$58,840.00	<b>\$13,536.00</b>	↓ <b>-77%</b>
New England Banana	Chelsea, MA	Bananas	N/A	<b>\$3,120.00</b>	<b>N/A</b>

**CHART 2****MEFAP Fresh Produce Pounds****Core Food Seafood**

In FY22, FBCMA expanded the local seafood program. The seafood program involves a partnership with two Massachusetts seafood organizations, as well as an additional vendor partner, to collaboratively identify items that would fit MEFAP and food bank specs while providing an additional source of nutritious protein products to food-insecure populations. Over the past year, FBCMA has tripled its overall spend on local seafood.

“When the Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen’s Alliance wanted to connect our fishing community to people facing food insecurity across the state, The Greater Boston Food Bank became our crucial partner. Together, with MEFAP support, we built a program that to date has delivered almost 500,000 pounds of haddock chowder and fish stew to every corner of the Commonwealth.”

– Seth Rolbein,  
Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen’s Alliance

**TABLE 7****FY22 Core Food Seafood Vendors**

VENDOR	LOCATION	ITEMS PURCHASED	FY21 SPEND	FY22 SPEND	% CHANGE
Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance	Wellfleet, MA	Haddock chowder, Provencal stew	\$448,329.00	<b>\$436,930.00</b>	↓ <b>-2.54%</b>
Boston Sword & Tuna	Boston, MA	Pollock, salmon tails, salmon burgers	\$165,600.00	<b>\$1,244,415.30</b>	↑ <b>651.46%</b>
Eastern Fisheries	New Bedford, MA	Cod, haddock	N/A	<b>\$171,386.40</b>	N/A

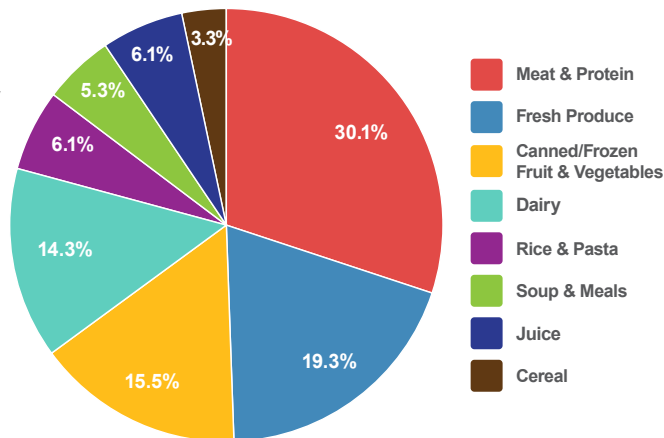
## Core Food Product Categories and Cost per Pound

The Core Food assortment is selected each year to provide a consistent supply of highly nutritious staple products with a focus on produce, protein, and dairy. Adjustments to the assortment are made annually based on feedback from FBCMA distribution sites and past-year supplier and item performance. FBCMA continues to balance the objectives of maximizing the meals distributed through the program and meeting the needs of those served by our member agencies.

The percentages by product category remained largely the same from FY21, with meat and protein, produce, canned/frozen vegetables and fruit, and dairy comprising almost 80% of total distribution volume. See Chart 3 below for a breakdown of MEFAP Core Food items distributed by product category.

**CHART 3**

**FY22 Core Food Product Category Mix by Pounds Distributed**



In FY22, **13,700 turkeys**, representing 0.9% of Core Food funding, were purchased with MEFAP Core Food funds and distributed over the Thanksgiving holiday season.

While the quantity purchased remained unchanged from FY21, the cost per pound increased by **11%** due to supply chain challenges. The cost of turkeys increased from \$1.13 per pound in FY21 to \$1.25 in FY22.

As shown in Chart 4, beef, poultry, and seafood are some of the highest-cost-per-pound categories in the program, but they are also a focus for FBCMA and the agencies we serve. Additionally, dairy, egg, and meat items can be subject to volatile pricing changes during the year. These higher costs are partially offset by the lower cost per pound of fresh produce and non-meat protein categories.

**CHART 4**

**FY22 MEFAP Core Food Cost per Pound by Category**

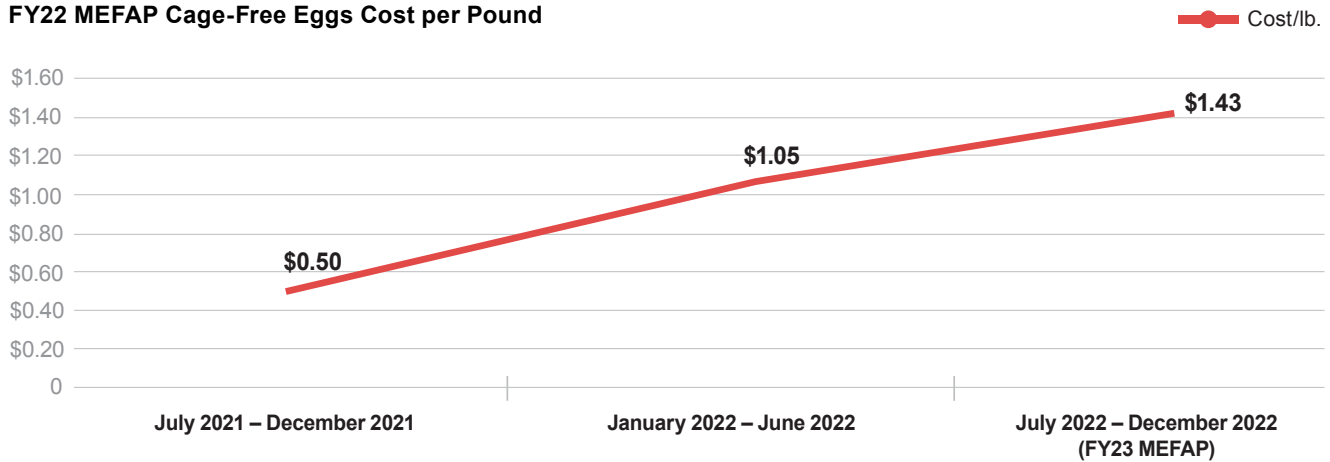


## Cage-Free Eggs

The cost of eggs increased significantly in FY22. The cost grew from \$0.50/lb. in the first half of FY22 (July – December 2021) to \$1.05/lb. in the second half (January – June 2022). This is a 74.25% increase compared to last year's growth, with eggs priced at \$0.53/lb. from July to December 2020 and \$0.60/lb. from January to June 2021. Supply chain challenges, avian influenza, and cage-free legislation has significantly increased the cost over the past year, and FBCMA expects this cost increase to continue into the beginning of the new MEAP 2023 fiscal year.

### CHART 5

FY22 MEAP Cage-Free Eggs Cost per Pound



"We are a family owned and operated farm that has been growing potatoes in the Connecticut River Valley growing region of Western Massachusetts for 113 years and hope to continue to do for generations to come. We value our relationship with the GBFB and all the affiliated MA food banks as well our neighboring food bank, The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, of which we are a dedicated partner. Thank you once again for including us in the MFAP program."

– Diane Szawlowski Mullins,  
Szawlowski Potato Farms Inc.

## Massachusetts Grown Initiative

The Massachusetts Grown Initiative (MassGrown) was introduced into MEFAP to give food-insecure individuals access to fresh produce while simultaneously opening a new market for local farmers. Currently in its 24th year, the program successfully reinvests MEFAP funds into Massachusetts' agricultural industry. MassGrown aids the four regional food banks in their efforts to maximize the nutritional value of distributed food. As the four regional food banks continue to focus on increasing the volume of fresh produce and nutrient-rich food, the MassGrown Initiative provides a vital opportunity to source top-quality products locally. The MassGrown FY22 ran from January 1 through December 31, 2022.

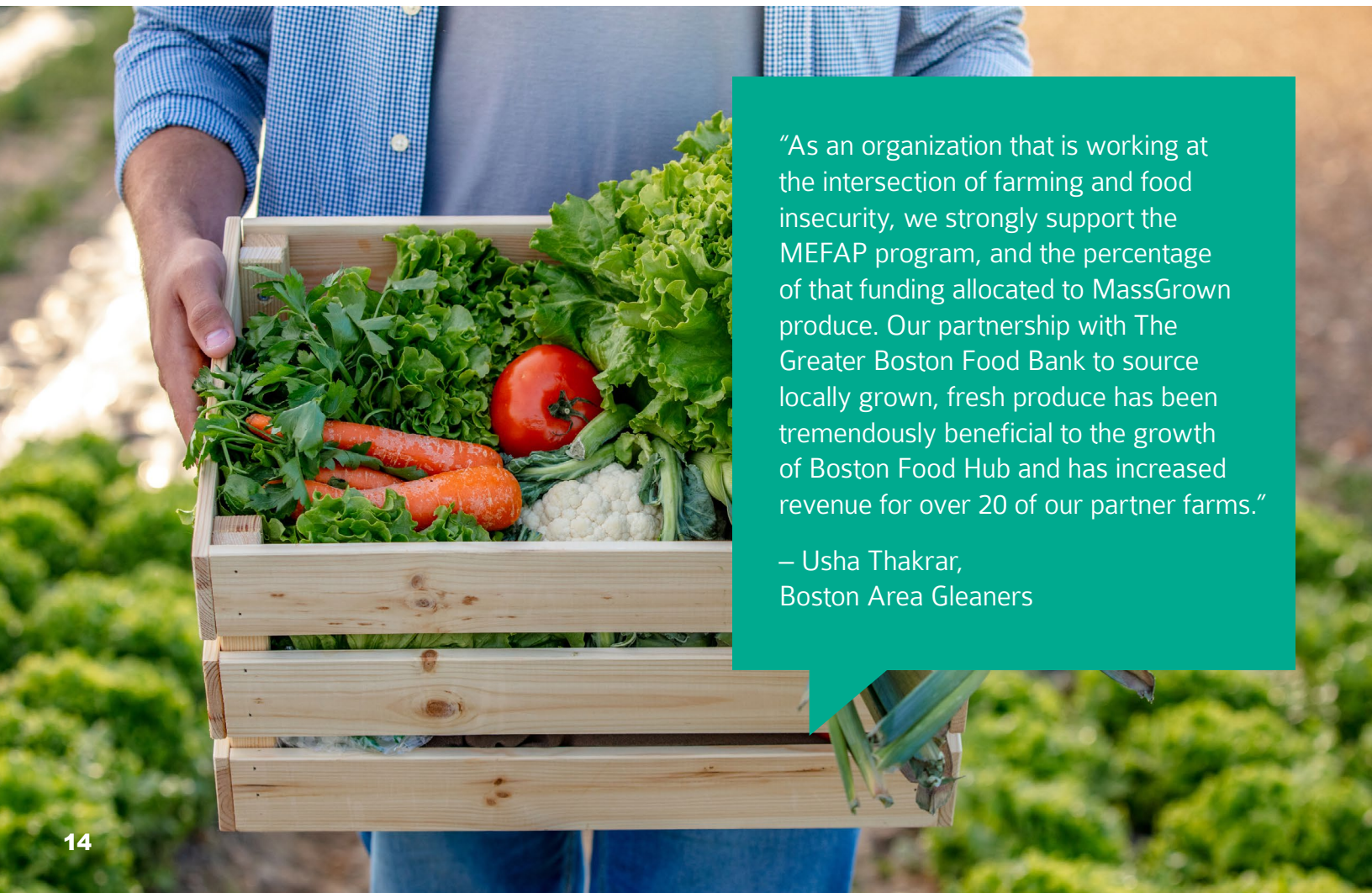
## MassGrown Spend and Partner Farms

MassGrown funding was \$2.2M in FY22, an increase of 53.1% over FY20 due to additional funding for the FY21 and FY22 years. The MassGrown allocation comprised 7.7% of the total of food purchase funding, which was unchanged from FY21. Each food bank determines what percentage of its total funding for food to apply toward MassGrown. In FY22, FBWM allocated 8.5% of its food purchase funding to MassGrown, GBFB 8.0%, and WCFB and MVFB 6.0%.



In FY22, regional food banks distributed **3,531,248 pounds** of MassGrown produce, dairy, and poultry.

Despite receiving the same amount of funding in FY22 as in FY21, MassGrown distribution decreased by 4.9% due to supply challenges and the high cost of food. Because of these persistent headwinds, FBCMA continues to seek additional MEFAP funding in the state budget.

A person wearing a blue checkered shirt is holding a wooden crate filled with fresh vegetables, including lettuce, carrots, and tomatoes. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green foliage.

"As an organization that is working at the intersection of farming and food insecurity, we strongly support the MEFAP program, and the percentage of that funding allocated to MassGrown produce. Our partnership with The Greater Boston Food Bank to source locally grown, fresh produce has been tremendously beneficial to the growth of Boston Food Hub and has increased revenue for over 20 of our partner farms."

— Usha Thakrar,  
Boston Area Gleaners

The food banks' partner food distribution agencies appreciated the variety as well as the quality of the local fresh produce available during the most recent MassGrown season. FBCMA continued to expand its MassGrown partnerships in FY22 with the addition of three new vendors, for a total of 22 local farms.

FBCMA's largest MassGrown partner continues to be Pioneer Valley Growers Association, which sources from 50 partner farms across western Massachusetts. The coalition's spend continues to move away from a concentration on the top 4–5 partner farms and larger local brokers toward independent family farms, such as Szawlowski Potato Farm and Honey Pot Farm. FBCMA also continues to build on its partnership with the Boston Area Gleaners, which sources from many Massachusetts farms. Table 8 lists partner farms that provided products to FBCMA during the 2022 MassGrown fiscal year.

**TABLE 8**  
**FY22 MassGrown Farms**

FARM	LOCATION	FY21 SPEND	FY22 SPEND	% CHANGE
Pioneer Valley Growers Association	South Deerfield, MA	\$606,123.00	<b>\$445,760.10</b>	↓ <b>-26.46%</b>
Farmer Dave's LLC	Dracut, MA	\$271,866.00	<b>\$221,183.00</b>	↓ <b>-18.64%</b>
Michael Davidian dba Davidian's Farm Market LLC	Northborough, MA	\$187,823.00	<b>\$219,630.80</b>	↑ <b>16.93%</b>
Szawlowski Potato Farm Inc.	Hatfield, MA	\$184,162.50	<b>\$192,512.50</b>	↑ <b>4.53%</b>
Matthew Manheim	South Deerfield, MA	\$135,146.50	<b>\$41,804.00</b>	↓ <b>-69.07%</b>
Ward's Berry Farm	Sharon, MA	\$119,564.50	<b>\$140,021.00</b>	↑ <b>17.11%</b>
New England Apple Products Company	Leominster, MA	\$118,837.44	<b>\$65,553.75</b>	↓ <b>-44.84%</b>
Honey Pot Farm, LLC	Hatfield, MA	\$116,943.00	<b>\$208,515.00</b>	↑ <b>78.30%</b>
Boston Area Gleaners, Inc.	Acton, MA	\$72,917.00	<b>\$170,017.50</b>	↑ <b>133.17%</b>
Lookout Farms, LLC	South Natick, MA	\$52,864.00	<b>\$45,768.00</b>	↓ <b>-13.42%</b>
Reed Farm, LLC	Sunderland, MA	\$43,200.00	<b>\$35,123.50</b>	↓ <b>-18.70%</b>
Joseph P. Sullivan & Co., Inc.	Ayer, MA.	\$40,110.00	<b>\$32,200.00</b>	↓ <b>-19.72%</b>
Mapleline Farm LLC	Hadley, MA	\$28,390.05	<b>\$56,376.00</b>	↑ <b>98.58%</b>
Atlas Farm LLC	Deerfield, MA	\$25,096.00	<b>\$70,578.00</b>	↑ <b>181.23%</b>
McKinstry Market Garden, Inc.	Chicopee, MA	\$24,557.75	<b>\$152,562.00</b>	↑ <b>521.24%</b>
Plainville Farm	Hadley, MA	\$15,699.10	<b>\$22,069.94</b>	↑ <b>40.58%</b>
Harrison W. Bardwell	Hatfield, MA	\$11,158.92	<b>\$18,570.00</b>	↑ <b>66.41%</b>
Joe Czajkowski Farm	Hadley, MA	\$4,418.24	<b>\$1,540.00</b>	↓ <b>-65.14%</b>
Mark Wendolowski	Hatfield, MA	\$1,728.00	<b>\$27,044.00</b>	↑ <b>1,465.05%</b>
Benjamin Mark Perrault	Easthampton, M	\$0.00	<b>\$2,877.00</b>	N/A
John J. Bysiewski	South Deerfield, MA	\$0.00	<b>\$27,140.00</b>	N/A
Ryan Voiland dba Red Fire Farm	Montague, MA	\$0.00	<b>\$9,395.00</b>	N/A

## Produce, Dairy, and Poultry

Non-produce pounds sourced through MassGrown have declined slightly from FY21 levels as the food banks focus on purchasing lower-cost-per-pound produce items with MassGrown funds, in order to maximize the impact of the funding.



Of the 3,531,248 pounds of food distributed through MassGrown, **97.7% was fresh produce, 2.2% was local milk and yogurt, and 0.1% was locally raised poultry.**

## Product Variety Mix

The variety of produce offered by Massachusetts farms has been instrumental in supplementing other food bank produce sources. It is crucial that food banks are able to source staple crops, such as potatoes, apples, onions, carrots, and cabbage, through MassGrown.

FBCMA works closely with participating farms, meeting with them prior to the growing season to collaborate on their growing plans; this effort ensures both that the desired product will be available to the food banks and that farms are not left with excess product. As food bank ordering priorities shift, it is important that these changes are shared with the farms, as MassGrown purchasing is a significant portion of some of the participating farms' annual sales.

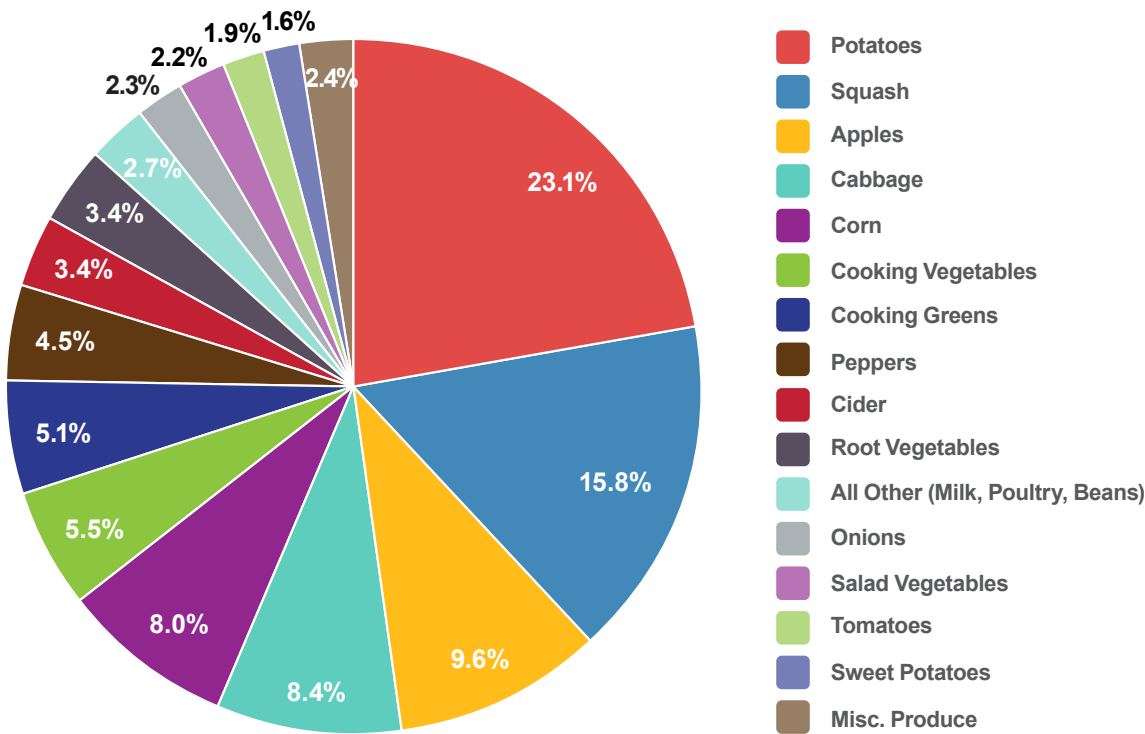


**Potatoes were the highest-volume category in 2022**, accounting for 23% of the MassGrown distribution. **Squash and apples were the second- and third-highest categories**, at 15.8% and 9.6%, respectively. Together, these three categories make up nearly half of the MassGrown produce pounds distributed.

Chart 6 details the pounds distributed by category.

**CHART 6**

**FY22 MEFAP MassGrown Pounds by Category**

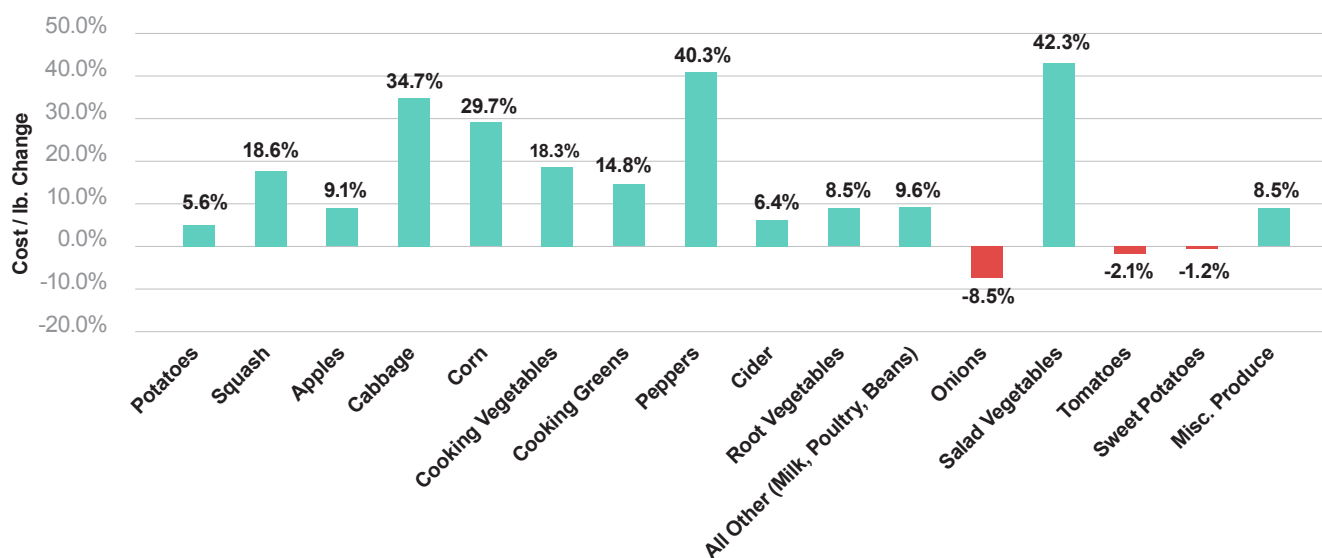


## MassGrown Cost per Pound

There was an overall 25.5% increase in the cost paid per pound across all categories procured through the program. The increase was driven by a variety of factors impacting the agricultural sector, including labor shortages, transportation challenges, and weather issues, all of which impacted supply and drove up pricing. The overall cost per pound increase and the decrease in MassGrown distribution highlight the need for additional funding. Chart 7 details changes in costs by produce category compared to last year.

**CHART 7**

**FY22 Cost per Pound Changes by MassGrown Produce Category**



\*The cost per pound of onions decreased by 8.5% in FY22 due to increased supply and improved weather conditions for growing. Salad vegetables, peppers, and cabbage had the largest cost-per-pound increase.



“It’s been great working with The Greater Boston Food Bank. It has been a rewarding experience to know that so much of the food we as farmers work so hard to produce is being distributed and enjoyed by so many people across our very own state. The funding that the Greater Boston Food Bank receives goes a long way in supporting local Massachusetts farms while providing loads of fresh and healthy food to our local community.”

– Will McKinstry,  
McKinstry Market Garden

## Operating Funding Supports Distribution

The MDAR managed operating funds to support the distribution of food. Funds are allocated to the food banks, as shown in Table 1, based on poverty statistics for the population served, among other criteria. Food bank operating funds remained level at \$1M in FY22, as maximizing funding for food purchasing continues to be prioritized. The operating funds are applied to the costs of labor associated with receiving, warehousing, transporting, and distributing MEFAP product.

Table 9 details the funding history for the program. FBCMA continues to raise additional private funds to cover the full cost of distribution.

**TABLE 9**

### MEFAP Funding History

FISCAL YEAR	TOTAL FUNDING	OPERATING FUNDING*	NUTRITION EDUCATION FUNDING	MASSGROWN INITIATIVE FUNDING	CORE FOOD FUNDING	MEALS DISTRIBUTED THROUGH MEFAP
		DOE 7051-0015	DFA 2511-0105	DFA 2511-0105	DFA 2511-0105	
1995 & 1996**	\$1,000,000.00	\$142,000.00	-	-	\$858,000.00	--
1997	\$1,000,000.00	\$142,000.00	-	-	\$858,000.00	1,176,128
1998	\$3,448,000.00	\$448,000.00	-	-	\$3,000,000.00	3,748,435
1999	\$7,430,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$260,000.00	\$6,020,000.00	5,176,882
2000	\$7,430,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$5,980,000.00	4,972,956
2001	\$7,430,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$5,950,000.00	6,261,695
2002	\$7,360,000.00	\$930,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$330,000.00	\$5,950,000.00	6,408,176
2003	\$7,185,600.00	\$830,600.00	\$75,000.00	\$330,000.00	\$5,950,000.00	6,038,672
2004	\$7,027,000.00	\$747,000.00	\$0.00	\$330,000.00	\$5,950,000.00	7,036,356
2005	\$7,027,000.00	\$747,000.00	\$0.00	\$330,000.00	\$5,950,000.00	6,927,565
2006	\$7,027,000.00	\$747,000.00	\$0.00	\$330,000.00	\$6,113,252.00	6,927,565
2007	\$13,250,000.00	\$1,250,000.00	\$0.00	\$600,000.00	\$11,400,000.00	12,770,887
2008	\$12,137,000.00	\$1,247,000.00	\$0.00	\$550,000.00	\$10,340,000.00	12,482,075
2009	\$13,127,000.00	\$1,247,000.00	\$0.00	\$600,000.00	\$11,280,000.00	11,535,297
2010	\$12,509,518.00	\$1,239,518.00	\$0.00	\$575,000.00	\$10,695,000.00	13,219,524
2011	\$12,500,000.00	\$1,230,000.00	\$0.00	\$690,000.00	\$10,580,000.00	14,122,817
2012	\$12,500,000.00	\$1,230,000.00	\$0.00	\$690,000.00	\$10,580,000.00	12,641,443
DFA 2511-0105						
2013	\$13,000,000.00	\$1,240,000.00	\$0.00	\$720,000.00	\$11,040,000.00	13,838,476***
2014	\$14,000,000.00	\$1,260,000.00	\$0.00	\$780,000.00	\$11,960,000.00	16,089,423
2015	\$15,000,000.00	\$1,280,000.00	\$0.00	\$840,000.00	\$12,880,000.00	16,697,380
2016	\$17,000,000.00	\$1,320,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,088,704.00	\$14,591,296.00	18,819,628
2017	\$17,000,000.00	\$1,320,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,222,048.00	\$14,457,952.00	20,979,361
2018	\$17,413,831.00	\$1,328,276.62	\$0.00	\$1,229,065.04	\$14,856,489.34	22,356,343
2019	\$18,000,000.00	\$1,340,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,284,027.85	\$15,375,972.15	22,653,636
2020	\$20,000,000.00	\$1,380,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,437,519.86	\$17,182,480.14	23,404,229
2021	\$30,000,000.00	\$1,580,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,190,698.86	\$26,229,301.14	29,353,645
2022	\$30,000,000.00	\$1,580,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,201,129.00	\$26,218,871.00	29,579,198
2023	\$30,000,000.00	\$1,580,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,201,129.00	\$26,218,871.00	TBD

\*Operating funding includes funds provided to FBCMA and the administration fee retained by the MDAR.

\*\*Meals data not available for FY95 and FY96.

\*\*\*The formula for calculating meals distributed was adjusted in FY13 from 1.3 lbs. of food per meal to 1.2 lbs. of food per meal.



In FY22, FBCMA distributed more than 35 million pounds of MEFAP food, representing over 29 million meals statewide.

## Conclusion

FBCMA continues to find creative ways to stretch funding dollars and maximize meals distributed with program funds, respond strategically to challenging market and supply chain conditions, and reinvest in Massachusetts by partnering with and prioritizing in-state vendors—all while providing an assortment of the commodities most needed by emergency food providers and those they serve.

As we continue bridging the meal gap in the Commonwealth, FBCMA relies on MEFAP funding. While FY22's MEFAP funding has increased from FY20 and remained flat from FY21, MEFAP distribution has not increased significantly, as compared to FY21, highlighting the need in communities that continues to persist at historic levels. MEFAP remains a critical piece of the response to food insecurity across Massachusetts. Without MEFAP, FBCMA would not have been able to distribute an unprecedented 134.2M pounds of food over the past year.

FBCMA and its teams would like to acknowledge the support of the MDAR, the Governor's Office, the Lieutenant Governor's Office, and the Legislature for their commitment to help end hunger in Massachusetts. For more information on the specific programs and activities of FBCMA, please contact the member food banks listed to the right.

### FOOD BANK COALITION OF MASSACHUSETTS



Andrew Morehouse, Executive Director  
Food Bank of Western Massachusetts  
97 North Hatfield Road, P.O. Box 160  
Hatfield, MA 01038  
Phone: (413) 247-9738  
Email: [andrewm@foodbankwma.org](mailto:andrewm@foodbankwma.org)  
[www.foodbankwma.org](http://www.foodbankwma.org)



Catherine D'Amato, President and CEO  
The Greater Boston Food Bank  
70 South Bay Avenue  
Boston, MA 02118  
Phone: (617) 427-5200  
Email: [cdamato@gbfb.org](mailto:cdamato@gbfb.org)  
[www.gbfb.org](http://www.gbfb.org)



Amy Pessia, Executive Director  
Merrimack Valley Food Bank  
735 Broadway Street  
Lowell, MA 01854  
Phone: (978) 454-7272  
Email: [apessia@mvfb.org](mailto:apessia@mvfb.org)  
[www.mvfb.org](http://www.mvfb.org)



Jean G. McMurray, CEO  
Worcester County Food Bank  
474 Boston Turnpike  
Shrewsbury, MA 01545  
Phone: (508) 842-3663  
Email: [jean@foodbank.org](mailto:jean@foodbank.org)  
[www.foodbank.org](http://www.foodbank.org)



70 South Bay Avenue  
Boston, MA 02118-2700

Tel: 617.427.5200

**GBFB.org**