

To: Karen.Spilka@masenate.gov; Michael.Rodrigues@masenate.gov; Ronald.Mariano@mahouse.gov;
Aaron.M.Michlewitz@mahouse.gov

CC: your personal or your organization's local State Senator and State Representative (find them here: [Find My Legislator \(malegislature.gov\)](http://malegislature.gov))

BCC: GBFB Public Affairs team at govrelations@gbfb.org

SUBJECT: Please Support \$47M for MEFAP FY25 State Budget

<Name of your business/organization>

DATE

Dear Madam President Spilka, Chairman Rodrigues, Speaker Mariano, and Chairman Michlewitz,

I am writing to express my support for **\$47 million in funding for the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP) in the FY25 State Budget** (line-item DAR 2511-0105). MEFAP feeds people in every district, enabling the four Massachusetts food banks to provide healthy food to the increasing number of neighbors seeking assistance and supports the local economy by procuring from Massachusetts vendors and farmers.

Over 850 emergency food distribution programs across the Commonwealth are supported with food purchased with MEFAP funds from the Food Bank Coalition of Massachusetts (Food Bank of Western MA [FBWMA], Merrimack Valley Food Bank [MVFB], The Greater Boston Food Bank [GBFB], and Worcester County Food Bank [WCFB]). Collectively, the MA food banks' network partners reported serving over 800,000 people through this robust charitable food system every month in 2023. MEFAP purchasing supported 67 local producers in FY23, and has been essential to small businesses, especially over the past three years. **With one in three MA residents facing food insecurity due to the state and national affordability crisis, I urge you to ensure that MEFAP is adequately funded so the food banks can continue to feed our neighbors in every city and town across the Commonwealth and support our local vendors. For more information, visit GBFB's website.**

<insert information about:

- why this matters to you
- info about your organization (location, who you serve, how long you've worked there)
- testimonial on the importance of MEFAP funding to your business/ organization /community

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

<your name, role, organization, and address>

Script for phone call:

Directions: Call your State Senator and State Representative to advocate for MEFAP. Feel free to use the script below.

“Hello, this is a request for Senator/Representative _____. My name is _____, and I live in _____. I’m calling to urge you to include in your top 5 recommendations to leadership **\$47M for the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP) in the FY25 state budget**. This program provides healthy, free food to hundreds of emergency pantries, meal programs, and shelters that serve people in all 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts. Through MEFAP, the four Massachusetts food banks can feed the growing number of neighbors struggling with the affordability crisis and turning to food pantries. MEFAP also stimulates the local economy by supporting local farmers, food manufacturers, and food wholesalers and retailers. Thank you for your consideration of this matter. You can reach me at _____ with any questions.”