

THE MASSACHUSETTS EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

MEFAP

MEFAP enables the four MA food banks to provide food to every district through over

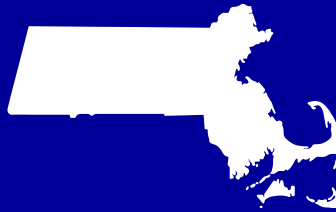
★ 900 ★

food program partners across the state.

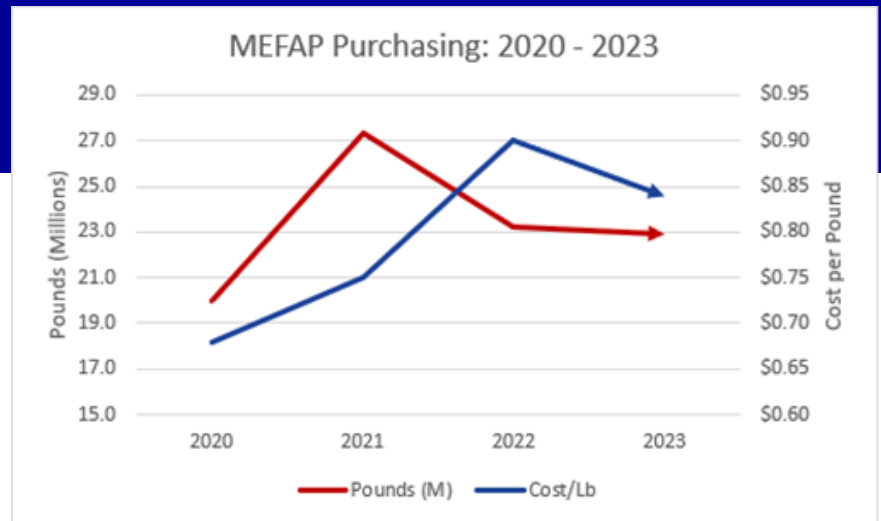
In FY23, **51% or \$14.6M,** of MEFAP dollars were spent with Massachusetts-based farmers, food producers & manufacturers, and fishermen, supporting our local economy.

MEFAP-distributed food represented **23%** of the overall total pounds distributed by the four Massachusetts food banks in FY23, or

 **25,191,218 meals.**



In 2023, MA food banks' partners reported serving more than 2x as much as before the pandemic.



Ask: FY25 State Budget request for MEFAP (line-item DAR 2511-0105): \$47 million



MEFAP enables the four MA food banks, also known as the Food Bank Coalition of MA, to purchase and distribute at no cost a consistent supply of the basics of a healthy diet, such as:



Milk



Eggs



Peanut Butter



Fresh Fruit



Vegetables

**FOOD BANK COALITION
OF MASSACHUSETTS**



- **Food Bank of Western Massachusetts**
- **The Greater Boston Food Bank**
- **Merrimack Valley Food Bank**
- **Worcester County Food Bank**

01 Hunger in Massachusetts is at historic levels.

One in three of our neighbors across the state face food insecurity, and these rates are even higher among people of color, seniors, and LGBTQ+ people. In 2023, pandemic SNAP benefits expired, leading more people to turn to the charitable food system to fill the gaps.

02 The cost of living in Massachusetts continues to rise.

Rising costs of transportation, housing, childcare, utilities, and other basic needs make it harder for each dollar to go as far as it has in the past—supermarket prices are now 25% higher than in January 2020—challenging shoppers and food banks alike. For food banks, labor shortages, supply chain issues, and unpredictable weather patterns have made food purchasing more costly.

03 MEFAP food reaches people in every city and town across the Commonwealth.

Over 900 food pantries, soup kitchens, senior meal sites, and shelters that make up the charitable food system depend on MEFAP funding to ensure neighbors can access healthy food. These organizations receive most of their food from food banks, and the four MA food banks collectively receive over a quarter of their food from MEFAP.

04 MEFAP is an economic stimulus to the Commonwealth.

In FY23, 51% MEFAP funds supported local food producers including farmers, food manufacturers, and fishermen.