



Advocates' Toolkit

GBFB's Public Policy & Advocacy Strategy

We believe that access to healthy food is a human right.

The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) aims to advance food access and affordability, expand economic opportunity, and strengthen food systems infrastructure through data-driven, equitable advocacy in partnership with government, grassroots advocates, and local, state, and federal coalitions.

- GBFB powers a network of 600 community food distribution partners in 190 communities across Eastern Massachusetts.
- Our statewide Food Equity and Access report found that as many as 1 in 3 people in Massachusetts faced food insecurity at some point in 2024, with disproportionate impacts on Black, Latinx, and LGBTQ+ people.
- GBFB's network provides healthy food to over 600,000 people each month, more than twice as many as in 2019.
- GBFB's SNAP Outreach and Enrollment team supported over 1,200 households in applying for SNAP benefits last year.

State and Federal Public Policy Priorities (2025-2026)

Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP)

MEFAP enables the four Massachusetts food banks to distribute nourishing, local food to community members in every city and town across the Commonwealth. [Join us](#) in advocating for **strong MEFAP funding in the FY27 state budget** (line item 2511-0105).

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

This USDA program allows food banks across the country to provide emergency food and nutrition assistance at no cost to supplement the diets of low-income Americans. Urge Congress to include [strong TEFAP funding](#) in the next Farm Bill.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

As our nation's first line of defense against hunger, SNAP helps more than 40 million low-income Americans purchase food. In Massachusetts, for every one meal distributed by a food

bank, SNAP provides nine meals. Urge Congress to [protect SNAP benefits and eligibility](#) in the next Farm Bill.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) supports food access for low-income seniors. GBFB is the only administrator for the state. Urge Congress to for CFSP in the Farm Bill so that GBFB can continue to serve the growing number of seniors needing food assistance.

GBFB supports these additional federal and state policy initiatives related to equitable access to food, local food systems, community health, and economic mobility.

- School Meals
- Healthy Incentives Program (HIP)
- SNAP for Immigrants
- Women Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition benefits
- Food Security Infrastructure
- Promoting Food Donation and Food Waste Reduction
- Affordable Housing Initiatives
- Food is Health Initiatives
- Hunger-Free Campus Initiative
- Advancing Health Equity
- Cash Assistance for Families in Deep Poverty
- Tax Relief for Families
- Cliff Effects Pilot Programs



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