

Massachusetts

FOOD TRUST PROGRAM

Good for Jobs. Good for Communities. Good for Health.



What is it?

The Massachusetts Food Trust Program will increase investment in low-income communities by providing loans, grants and technical assistance to local food businesses seeking to site or expand. The Massachusetts Food Trust Program has the power to create healthier and more prosperous communities, since once implemented, the program will increase access to healthy food and good jobs in places with limited access to affordable and healthy foods, many of which are located in low-income and communities of color.

In 2017, the Massachusetts Food Trust Program received \$1 million in capital funds as part of Governor Baker's capital budget, as well as \$100,000 in operating funds through the Legislature's FY18 operating budget. With the necessary funding now in place, we anticipate the launch and implementation of the program within the coming year.

How does it work?

The Massachusetts Food Trust Program is located within the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (EOHED).

As a first step, EOHED will select a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) to administer the program. CDFIs can be banks, credit unions, loan funds, microloan funds, or venture capital providers that are mission-driven non-profits. CDFIs share a common goal of expanding economic opportunity in low-income communities by providing access to financial products and services for local residents and businesses.



Who is Eligible?

For a project to be eligible, it must expand access to healthy foods or jobs in the food sector within low or moderate income communities. For consideration, applicants must submit an impact statement demonstrating that the activity or project will have a positive social and economic impact on the applicant's local community.

Eligible activities include:

- Development, renovation and expansion of eligible projects
- Working capital for equipment and furnishings
- Workforce training
- Certain pre-development costs such as securing a development site
- Other activities as determined by the implementing agency



Eligible projects include:

- Grocery stores
- Corner stores/bodegas
- Farmers' markets
- Community kitchens
- Food truck commissaries
- Indoor and outdoor greenhouses
- Retail, restaurant and supporting food distribution hub options
- Infrastructure for urban and rural-based community-supported agriculture businesses
- Other projects as determined by the implementing agency

How Can You Support Successful Implementation of the Massachusetts Food Trust?

The campaign to create the Massachusetts Food Trust was spearheaded by the Massachusetts Public Health Association, and was only successful because of the strong leadership from a coalition of partners and widespread support from elected officials, community groups, residents, and advocacy organizations from all corners of Massachusetts—all speaking in one voice to call for real investments in healthy food access.

As the Trust is implemented, we must continue to build support and visibility across the state, defend any efforts to rollback or divert funds, and seek ways to expand available resources.

Join the effort. Visit www.mapublichealth.org to sign up for program updates and to get involved today!

#MAFoodTrust

#HealthyFoodAccess

#MoreProgressInMA

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