

Here's hoping Governor Baker has hit on recipe for healthy food in needy areas

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WE ARE heartened to see the growth in investment by venture capitalists in food businesses in Boston ([“Finding funds for food tech,”](#) Business, Sept. 18). But unfortunately, private capital has been scarce in too many of the Commonwealth’s low-income urban and rural communities — communities where far too many people lack easy access to a grocery store. This is bad for public health and our economy.

Towns and neighborhoods without healthy food businesses miss out on the economic benefits created by those businesses, including jobs and local taxes, while limiting residents’ access to healthy food options. Grocers, both large and small, face significant challenges when pursuing new and traditional capital to enter or expand in areas of highest need.

We are pleased that Governor Baker recently signed an economic development bill that authorizes seed funding for the Massachusetts Food Trust Program, which could help alleviate this problem. The Food Trust is modeled on a proven national strategy that uses modest public seed funding to spur significant private investment, drive economic growth, and create strong local job opportunities, all while increasing access to healthy food.

By launching the program this year, the Baker administration can help create the financial tools needed for the development, renovation, and expansion of health-

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That's a good recipe for public health and economic vitality.
Comments

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