Support Funding for the Massachusetts Food Trust Program

FY21 Operating Budget Request: $300,000 in line item 2511-0100, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
FY21 Capital Budget Request: $4 million
2020 Economic Development Bond Reauthorization Request: $10 million

The Massachusetts Food Trust Program (MFTP) provides loans, grants, and business assistance to increase access to healthy, affordable food in low-income, underserved areas statewide. The MFTP is administered by the Local Enterprise Assistance Fund and Franklin County CDC and is overseen by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources. To learn more or to apply, visit: massfoodtrustprogram.org.

Program Successes

Since the launch of the program in October 2018:

- 14 new or expanded healthy food retail projects were funded
- More than 370 jobs have been created or retained
- More than 110,000 MA residents have increased access to healthy food
- More than 100,000 square feet of retail was created or retained
- 100% of awarded projects either produce or sell MA grown foods
- 100% of awarded projects accept SNAP benefits
- Received more than 50 requests for loans, grants, and business assistance, representing 12 out of the 14 MA counties
- More than $8 million in private and federal funds leveraged to the state’s $2 million investment

The Need to Support Increased Healthy Food Access

- A 2017 data analysis found that 2.8 million people living in low income areas in Massachusetts lack access to grocery stores, including more than 700,000 children and 523,000 older adults.
- Many of these same communities are struggling economically and lack job opportunities for local residents. The MFTP offers debt capital at lower than market rate interest and can make riskier investments, filling a financing gap in low-and moderate-income communities.
- Research shows that access to grocery stores is linked to lower rates of obesity, diabetes, and other diet-related diseases.

The Need for Continued Investment

As the program continues to thrive, several factors necessitate an increase in operating and capital dollars.

- **Operating Dollars**: Adequate staffing is required to manage the ever expanding program portfolio and provide pre– and post-loan technical assistance to funded projects.
- **Capital Dollars**: The MFTP has seen a rate of applications higher than similar programs in other states. Increased capital dollars are required to finance the rise in both individual applications as well as the high dollar amount requested per application.

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ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORTERS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS FOOD TRUST PROGRAM
(As of February 2020)

Act FRESH Campaign
Allston Brighton Community Development Corporation
Allston Brighton Health Collaborative
American Academy of Pediatrics - Massachusetts Chapter
American Diabetes Association
American Heart/Stroke Association
Atrius Health
Be Well Berkshires
Berkshire Interfaith Organizing (BIO)
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
Bodega Makeover Project
BOLD Teens/Codman Square Neighborhood Council
Boston Alliance for Community Health
Boston Area Gleaners, Inc.
Boston Community Capital
The Boston Foundation
Boston Public Health Commission
Bread of Life
Brighton Main Streets
Brockton Neighborhood Health Center
Brockton 21st Century Corporation
Brockton’s Promise Healthy Start Promise Team
Cambridge Food & Fitness Policy Council
Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission
Children’s Health Watch
CISA (Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture)
City Fresh Foods
CitySprouts
CommonWealth Kitchen
Community Development Partnership
Community Health Network Area 9
Community Servings
Common Capital, Inc.
Conservation Law Foundation
Conservation Law Foundation Ventures
Cooperative Fund of New England
Daily Table
Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation
Dorchester Community Food Coop
Everett Community Growers
The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts
The Food Trust
Franklin County Community Development Corporation
Franklin Regional Council of Governments
The Fresh Truck
The Food Project
Fun ’N FitChburg
Greater Fall River Partners for a Healthier Community Inc.
Greater Lowell Health Alliance
Groundwork Lawrence
Groundwork Somerville
Growing Places
Health Care For All
Health Care Without Harm
The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts
Health Resources in Action
Henry P. Kendall Foundation
Hilltown Community Development Corporation
Hispanic-American Institute
Historic Boston Inc.
Hockomock Area YMCA
Holyoke Food & Fitness Policy Council
Hospitality and Recreation Management Program, Quinsigamond Community College
Joint Coalition on Health
Kijani Grows
Lawrence CommunityWorks
Local Enterprise Assistance Fund
Madison Park Development Corporation
Massachusetts Alliance of YMCAs
Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations
Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging
Massachusetts Association of Health Boards
Massachusetts Dietetic Association
Massachusetts Farm to School
Massachusetts Food Association
Massachusetts Food System Collaborative
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
Massachusetts Public Health Association
Mattapan Food & Fitness Coalition
Metro South Chamber of Commerce
MetroWest Moves
Mill City Grows
Montachusett Regional Planning Commission
Neighborhood Produce
Neighboring Food Co-op Association
New Entry Sustainable Farming Project
Northeast Harvest
North Attleboro Council on Aging & Senior Center
Nourishing the North Shore
Oak Square Farmers Market
Old Colony YMCA
Partners for a Healthier Community/Live Well Springfield
Peppers Fine Catering
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
Project Bread
Regional Environmental Council of Central MA
Revere CARES Coalition
Revere on the Move
Roxbury in Motion
Southeastern MA Agricultural Partnership (SEMAP)
Springfield Food Policy Council
Springfield Partners for Community Action
Sustainable CAPE
Sustainable Nantucket
The Trustees of Reservations
United Neighbors of Fall River
Urban Farming Institute
Vicente’s Tropical Market
Voices for a Healthy South Coast
Wave Foods
Worcester Common Ground, Inc.
Worcester County Food Bank
Worcester Food & Active Living Policy Council
Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce
World Farmers
YWCA Northeastern Massachusetts