

THE MASSACHUSETTS FOOD TRUST PROGRAM

Please authorize \$10 million for the MFTP in the Environmental Bond Bill

Bonding history - \$6 million authorization in the 2018 Economic Development Bill

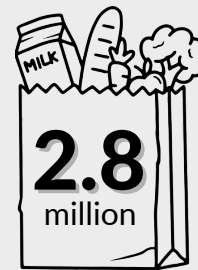
Environmental Bond Bill Fact Sheet

As cuts to federal nutrition and agricultural programs add strain to a statewide food system that is already overburdened, projects like the Massachusetts Food Trust Program (MFTP) plays an important role in offsetting disruptions to farms, food pantries, and grocery stores. MFTP leverages state and private dollars to close gaps in food access by increasing the availability of healthy, affordable food retail in communities with few to no grocery stores.

\$10M BOND AUTHORIZATION ENABLES MFTP TO CONTINUE:

- Improving access to healthy food retail for **more than 418,000 residents**
- Supporting **more than 1,200 jobs**, with **90% hired from the local community**
- Financing **more than 91 projects across 11 of 14 Massachusetts' counties**
- **Reducing the state's carbon footprint** by decreasing the need to transport produce from out of state
- **Boosting local agriculture**—20% of MFTP financing recipients are farms, greenhouses, and farmers' markets

DID YOU KNOW?



people in low income areas in Massachusetts lack access to grocery stores, including:



700K
children



523K
older adults

Source: The Massachusetts Food Trust

LOCAL FOOD BUSINESSES CREATE OPPORTUNITY

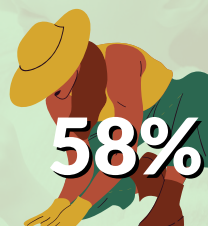
MFTP is a public/private partnership overseen by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources and administered by the Local Enterprise Assistance Fund and Franklin County Community Development Corporation. Through this collaborative structure, MFTP empowers local food businesses to create meaningful opportunity in communities statewide. Food businesses provide good paying jobs to people with varying levels of skills, education, and language proficiency – and they can't be outsourced. MFTP means jobs, economic development, and increased access to healthy food in communities across Massachusetts.



Unique retailers and/or organizations have been funded



Retailers are owned by a person of color

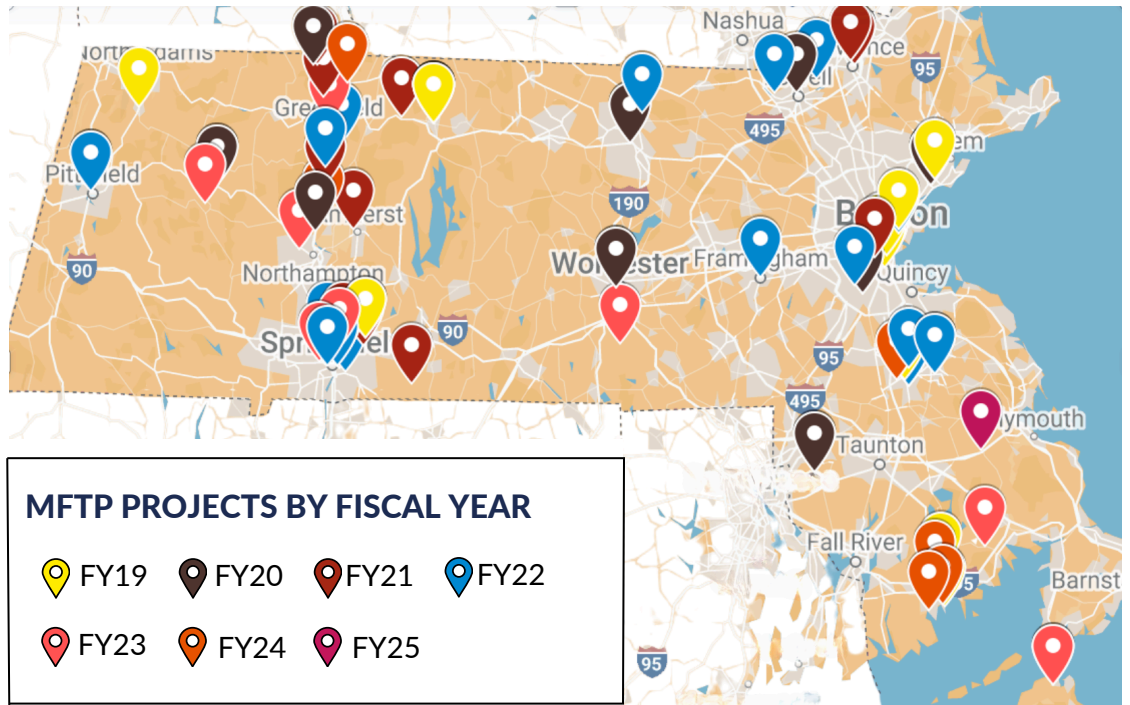


Retailers are woman-owned



Projects accept SNAP & WIC

MASS. FOOD TRUST PROGRAM, AS OF APRIL 2025



HEALTHY FOOD FINANCING IN ACTION

MARSHALL'S STORE

📍 Bernardston, MA

- Provides essential food access for Benardston residents, where the closest grocery store is 6.5 miles away
- A MFTP loan and grant helped new store owners purchase the business and build infrastructure to expand produce offerings
- Only source of fresh food for residents in Bernardston, 50% of which are older adults who rely on food benefits like SNAP

COASTAL FOODSHED

📍 New Bedford, MA

- Sources inventory from Northeast farms, purchasing produce and dairy
- MFTP loan helped purchase refrigerators to store farm produce before it is distributed to markets
- Improves food access in neighborhoods without stores through mobile and online markets

FARM STORE 99

📍 Springfield MA

- Farm Store 99 is the business venture of a person of color owned family farm based out of Wilbraham
- MFTP financing helped the family farm open the store in downtown Springfield, which is a food desert
- Provides year-round access to fresh farm produce and groceries for Springfield residents

