

# THE MASSACHUSETTS FOOD TRUST PROGRAM

Please cosponsor amendment #1314 by Rep. Donahue to support healthy food access

Funding history - FY25: \$200K; FY22: \$300K; FY23: \$300K; FY24: \$300K

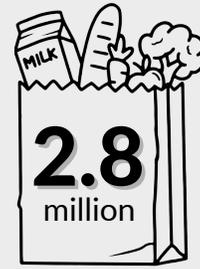
FY26 Budget Fact Sheet

The Massachusetts Food Trust Program (MFTP) leverages state and private dollars to close gaps in food access statewide by increasing the availability of healthy, affordable food retail in low-income communities with few to no grocery stores. The program provides loans, grants, and business assistance to support new and expanding healthy food retailers and small businesses producing, promoting, and selling healthy food in Massachusetts.

## \$300K IN OPERATING SUPPORT FOR MFTP HAS:

- Improved access to healthy food retail for **more than 418,000 residents**
- Supported **more than 1,200 jobs, 90% hired from within the local community**
- Financed **more than 81 projects across 11 of 14 Massachusetts counties**
- And more!

### 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

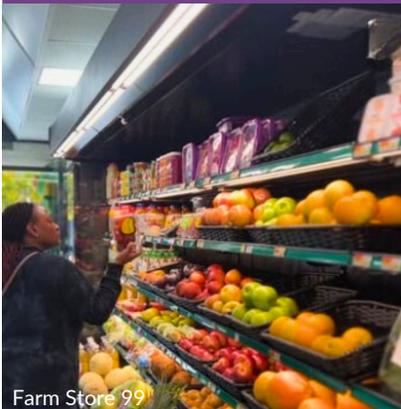
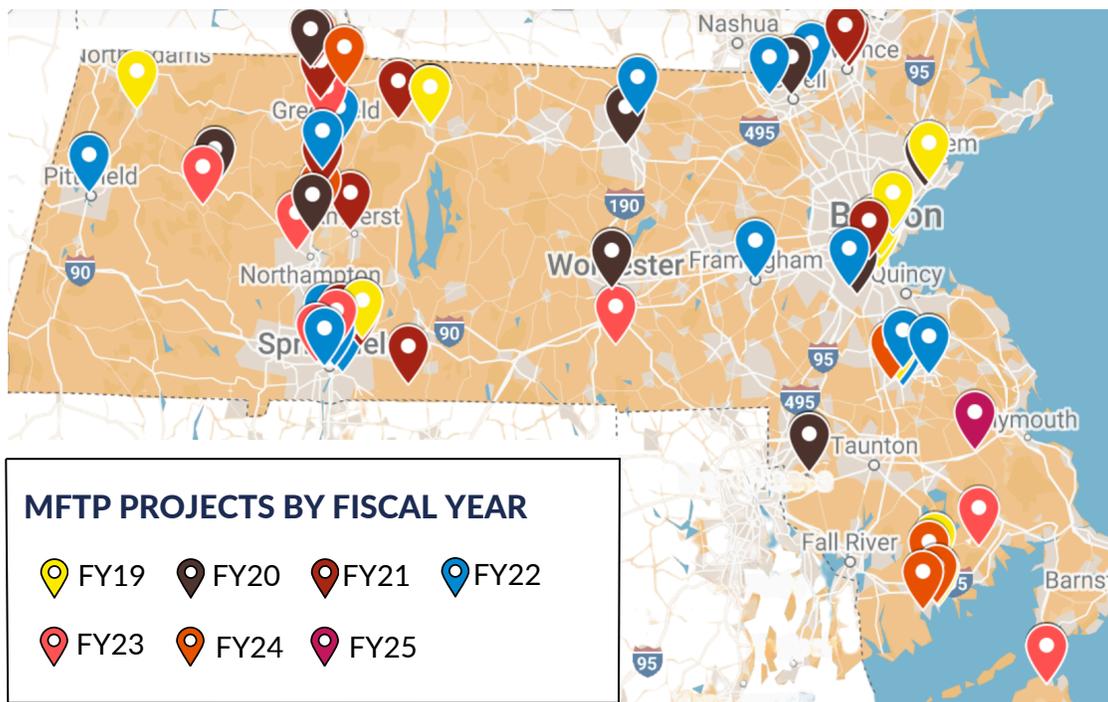


Retailers are woman-owned



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