

Support Funding for the Massachusetts Food Trust Program

Good for Jobs, Good for Communities, Good for Health



THE PROBLEM

Too many Massachusetts communities have poor access to healthy food and lack strong local job opportunities. A study by the Massachusetts Grocery Access Task Force found that large swaths of urban and rural Massachusetts lack good access to grocery stores and other healthy food retailers. Research shows that access to grocery stores is linked to lower rates of obesity, diabetes, and other diet-related diseases. Many of these same communities are struggling economically and lack appropriate job opportunities for local residents.

THE SOLUTION

Flexible financing to meet community needs. The Massachusetts Food Trust Program, established in law in 2014, would provide loans, grants, and technical assistance to support new and expanded healthy food retailers and local food enterprises in low and moderate income communities. This could include supermarkets, corner stores, farmer's markets, mobile markets, community kitchens, food co-ops, food truck commissaries, indoor and outdoor greenhouses, and food distribution hubs. This program was a recommendation of the Grocery Access Task Force, a public-private partnership which met for two years to tackle this problem.

Better access to healthy food = more jobs. Increased access to food retail options can drive economic growth:

- The PA Fresh Food Financing Initiative has supported 5,000 jobs
- The CA FreshWorks Fund has created or retained 1,362 jobs
- The NY Healthy Food Healthy Communities Fund has created or preserved 1,006 jobs

Public financing has leveraged significant private investment. Other states, including NY and PA, have leveraged between \$9-15 dollars in private and federal funds for every \$1 of state funding.

Local food enterprises create opportunity. Food enterprises provide good paying jobs to people with varying levels of skills, education, and language proficiency – and they can't be outsourced. For example, Commonwealth Kitchen, recently expanded to a second site in Boston, has launched over 100 businesses since August 2009, providing support and training for new companies and job opportunities for neighborhood residents.

For more information, contact Maddie Ribble at the Massachusetts Public Health Association:
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Supporting Organizations

(as of December 21, 2015)

Act FRESH Campaign
Allston Brighton Community Development Corporation
Allston Brighton Health Collaborative
American Academy of Pediatrics - Massachusetts Chapter
American Heart/Stroke Association
Be Well Berkshires
Berkshire Interfaith Organizing (BIO)
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
BOLD Teens/Codman Square Neighborhood Council
Boston Alliance for Community Health
Boston Community Capital
The Boston Foundation
Boston Public Health Commission
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
Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation
Dorchester Community Food Coop
The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts
The Food Trust
Franklin County Community Development Corporation
Franklin Regional Council of Governments
The Food Project
Fun 'N FITchburg
Greater Lowell Health Alliance
Groundwork Lawrence
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
H.P. Kendall Foundation
Joint Coalition on Health
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 Law Reform Institute
Massachusetts Public Health Association
Mattapan Food & Fitness Coalition
Metropolitan Area Planning Council
Metro South Chamber of Commerce
MetroWest Moves
Mill City Grows
Montachusett Regional Planning Commission
Neighboring Food Co-op Association
Northeast Harvest
Old Colony YMCA
Partners for a Healthier Community/Live Well Springfield
Peppers Fine Catering
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
Regional Environmental Council of Central MA
Roxbury in Motion
Springfield Food Policy Council
Springfield Partners for Community Action
Sustainable Nantucket
The Trustees of Reservations
United Neighbors of Fall River
Vicente's Tropical Market
Voices for a Healthy South Coast
Worcester Common Ground, Inc.
Worcester County Food Bank
Worcester Food & Active Living Policy Council
Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce

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