UNITED WAY
Franklin and
Hampshire Region

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United is the Way to Family Economic Mobility

Commonwealth of MA United Ways Receive $1.5 Million in Congressionally Directed Spending to Support Children and Families Across Massachusetts

GREENFIELD, MA (November 12, 2026) – The Commonwealth of MA United Ways (COMUW) are collaborating to strengthen family economic mobility across Massachusetts through a $1.5 million federal investment focused on addressing food insecurity and connecting families to resources for longer-term support.

The *MA United Ways Family Economic Mobility Proposal* received **$1.5 million in Congressionally Directed Spending**, with support from U.S. Senators Elizabeth Warren and Edward Markey. The federal award is administered through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

Through this collaborative effort, United Ways across Massachusetts will work within their individual communities to strengthen economic stability for low-income children and families. The investment will help alleviate food insecurity through the purchase and distribution of food and nutritional assistance while connecting families with resources that can provide longer-term support.

"When Massachusetts families are in need, they know that they can turn to their local United Way. That is why I joined with Senator Elizabeth Warren to secure $1.5 million in Senate funding to support United Ways across our Commonwealth in responding directly to the needs in their cities and towns; because no one knows our communities better than those who live, work, and serve within them," **said U.S. Senator Edward J. Markey**, "From meeting immediate nutritional needs to connecting individuals and families with resources for their long term success, our partners at the United Way are stepping up, and we are proud to step up for them."

"No parent should have to worry about how they'll feed their children or where to turn for support. This $1.5 million will help families put food on the table and connect them with resources for a more secure future. I'll keep fighting to bring federal dollars home to Massachusetts and make sure our families have the support they deserve," **said U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren**.

"Every family deserves to know where their next meal is coming from," **said Governor Maura Healey**. "We know high grocery costs are putting pressure on families, and we're committed to making sure everyone in Massachusetts has access to the food and support they need. This $1.5 million investment will help 13 local United Ways put food on the table and connect families with resources to get ahead. I'm grateful to Senators Warren and Markey for securing this funding and to our United Way partners for the important work they do every day."

While united around a common goal, each participating United Way will use its portion of the investment based on the needs of its community and within the federal guidelines. This local approach allows United Ways to build trusted community relationships and work alongside

partners already serving children and families.

United Way of the Franklin and Hampshire Region Local Impact

United Way of the Franklin and Hampshire Region (UWFH) will distribute its portion of the COMUW funding to 5-10 community partner agencies who provide food and related food security services to communities throughout Franklin and Hampshire Counties and the North Quabbin region. Final details are currently being worked out, but distribution should begin very soon and run through August of 2027.

"These days, with costs soaring for groceries and other basic essentials, and federal safety nets disappearing, food insecurity in our region has reached crisis levels. Families are finding themselves having to actually choose between rent, utilities, or food," **says Geoff Naunheim, UWFH President & CEO**. "The funds that the COMUW are providing will help to take food out of the equation by ensuring more families in our community have better access to nutritious food and resources when they need them. Knowing where their next meal is coming from–and that it is, indeed, coming–will provide families with some much-needed relief."

Community Partnership in Action

One of the community partner agencies working with UWFH to help address food security in the region is Hilltown CDC in Chesterfield, MA. "The Hilltowns of Western Massachusetts, while beautiful and peaceful, have many unique challenges that community members face, with regular access to fresh and healthy foods being one of the most common," **says Jake Russell, Hilltown CDC Director of Community Food Resilience**. "Low-income families in our region regularly travel upwards of an hour and a half to shop at a full-service grocer, sometimes without access to a personal vehicle, costing valuable time, money, and fuel. This investment will enable us to expand our capacity to further meet these families where they are, increasing regional availability and providing home-deliveries, all while supporting our local food system."

Across the Commonwealth, this kind of work reflects the strength of the United Way network: local organizations responding to the distinct needs of their communities while working collectively toward greater family economic mobility.

About Commonwealth of MA United Ways

The Commonwealth of MA United Ways (COMUW) brings together United Ways serving communities across Massachusetts. Through collaboration, shared learning and local leadership, participating United Ways connect people and resources to address community needs and create opportunities for individuals and families to thrive.

Local solutions. Statewide collaboration. Stronger families and communities.
United is the Way.

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