

Massachusetts FOOD TRUST PROGRAM

Good for Jobs, Good for Communities, Good for Health



Protect the Massachusetts Food Trust in the FY18 Budget

➤ **FY18 Senate Budget Line Item 7007-0300** (MA Office of Business Development): \$100,000 for operating expenses

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 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 Kristina St. Cyr at the Massachusetts
Public Health Association: kstcyr@mapublichealth.org, 781-603-6716.



Organizations supporting the Massachusetts Food Trust

(as of June 14, 2017)

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