

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
- Allston Brighton Community Development Corporation
- Allston Brighton Health Collaborative
- American Academy of Pediatrics - Massachusetts Chapter
- American Diabetes Association
- American Heart/Stroke Association
- Atrius Health
- Be Well Berkshires
- Berkshire Interfaith Organizing (BIO)
- Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
- BOLD Teens/Codman Square Neighborhood Council
- Boston Alliance for Community Health
- Boston Area Gleaners, Inc.
- 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
- The Daily Table
- Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation
- Dorchester Community Food Coop
- Everett Community Growers
- The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts
- The Food Trust
- Franklin County Community Development Corporation
- Franklin Regional Council of Governments
- The Fresh Truck
- The Food Project
- Fun 'N FITchburg
- Greater Fall River Partners for a Healthier Community Inc.
- 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
- Joint Coalition on Health
- Lawrence CommunityWorks
- 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
- Neighborhood Produce
- Neighboring Food Co-op Association
- New Entry Sustainable Farming Project
- Northeast Harvest
- Oak Square Farmers Market
- Old Colony YMCA
- Partners for a Healthier Community/Live Well Springfield
- Peppers Fine Catering
- Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
- Regional Environmental Council of Central MA
- Revere CARES Coalition
- Revere on the Move
- 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
- World Farmers
- YWCA