

Massachusetts Food and Nutrition Security State Profile

Purpose

The purpose of the Food and Nutrition Security Profile (Profile) is to provide an overview of state and regional efforts and infrastructure to advance food and nutrition security. Although not exhaustive, the Profile serves as a resource to support greater collaboration across disciplines and sectors to improve equitable access to food. The intended audience includes public health practitioners, food policy councils, community-based organizations, food banks and pantries, school district wellness councils, food sovereignty organizations including Indigenous groups and coalitions, and others with a mission to improve food and nutrition security.

The Profile serves as a companion to the [National Food and Nutrition Security Profile](#) and will be reviewed and updated biennially. If you have any questions or comments about your Profile, please contact the Center for Advancing Healthy Communities at CAHCinfo@chronicdisease.org.

Food Banks, Pantries, and Feeding Programs

The following food banks are members of Feeding America's [network](#).

- [The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts](#)
 - View the [programs offered](#).
 - Serves Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire Counties.
 - View the [partner agencies](#).
- [The Greater Boston Food Bank](#)
 - View the [programs offered](#).
 - View the [counties served](#).
 - View the [partner agencies](#).
- [Worcester County Food Bank](#)
 - View the [programs offered](#).
 - Serves Worcester County.
 - View the [partner agencies](#).

Select Food and Nutrition Security Programs

Food Is Medicine Programs

- Find the [Double Up Food Bucks](#) program in your state.
- [Healthy Incentive Program](#) led by Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance.
- Locate the [Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program](#) (GusNIP) grantees in your state:
 - *Current Nutrition Incentive Funding:*
 - [City of Boston](#) (2021-2025)
 - [The Urban Food Initiative](#) (2020-2024 and 2022-2026)

- *Current Produce Prescription Funding:*
 - [Boston University Medical Center](#) (2021-2025)
 - [Collaborative for Educational Services](#) (2022-2025)
 - [Nuestras Raices](#) (2022-2025)
 - [Wellspring Cooperative Corporation](#) (2022-2025)

Community Nutrition Education Programs

- [Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program](#) (EFNEP)
 - The implementation agency is the University of Massachusetts Amherst.
- [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education](#) (SNAP-Ed)
 - The Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance is the state agency responsible for MA SNAP-Ed. SNAP-Ed implementing agencies include Ascentria Care Alliance, Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, UMass Extension Nutrition Education Programs, and YMCA of Greater Boston.

Senior Nutrition Programs

- [Elderly Nutrition Program](#) led by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs.
- [Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program](#) led by the Department of Agricultural Resources.

Child Nutrition Programs

[United States Department of Agriculture \(USDA\) Child Nutrition Programs](#) contacts for implementing agencies of programs listed below:

- Child and Adult Care Food Program
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program
- Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program
- National School Lunch Program (Universal School Lunch Program)
- School Breakfast Program (Universal School Breakfast Program)
- Special Milk Program
- Summer Food Service Program (SUN Meals)
- The Patrick Leahy Farm to School Program
- USDA Foods in Schools

Emergency Food Response

- USDA Food and Nutrition Service [State COVID-19 Waivers and Flexibilities](#)
- [Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan](#)
- [Federal Emergency Management Agency Regional Contact](#) – Region 1
- [Emergency Food Assistance Program \(TEFAP\) Contacts](#)

Food (Policy) Coalitions and Councils

- View [list of food policy councils](#) in each state through the John Hopkins Center for Livable Future's 2021 Food Policy Network Map.
- [The Boston Food Access Council](#)
- [The MA Coalition for Local Food and Farms](#)

- [The Southeastern Massachusetts Food Security Network](#)
- [Worcester Food and Active Living Policy Council](#)

Other Food and Nutrition Security Organizations

- [National Farm to School Network - Massachusetts](#) increases access to local food and nutrition education to improve children’s health, strengthen family farms, and cultivate vibrant communities.
- [Regional Environmental Council](#) brings people together to create a just food system and to build healthy, sustainable, and equitable communities in Worcester and beyond.
- [The Marion Institute](#) focuses on building healthy environments, advocating for social justice, and creating resilient communities.
- [Massachusetts Food System Collaborative](#) supports collective action toward an equitable, sustainable, resilient, and connected local food system in Massachusetts.
- [Massachusetts Food Trust](#) helps launch and expand businesses that increase access to healthy, affordable food in communities.
- [City of Boston, Mayor’s Office of Food Justice](#) aims to build a food system in Boston that is equitable, resilient, sustainable, and just.
- [USDA Local Food Directories](#)

Data Sources and Resources

- [Massachusetts Profile of Hunger, Poverty and Federal Nutrition Programs](#) – Food Research and Action Center
- [Food Security in the U.S.](#) – USDA
- [Child Nutrition Programs Dashboard](#) – USDA
- [Food Environment Atlas](#) – USDA
- [Map the Meal Gap](#) – Feeding America

Public Health Contacts for Food and Nutrition Security

[Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion](#)

Lea Susan Ojamaa, Deputy Director
lea.ojamaa@mass.gov

[Maternal and Child Health Program](#)

Elaine Fitzgerald Lewis, Bureau Director
Elaine.L.FitzgeraldLewis@mass.gov

[Women, Infants, and Children Program](#)

Rachel Colchamiro, Acting Director
Rachel.Colchamiro@state.ma.us

For additional information or questions about the Profile, please contact the Center for Advancing Healthy Communities at CAHCinfo@chronicdisease.org.



The Improving Food Security, Access to Safe Physical Activity, and Social Connectedness project, commonly known as Building Resilient Inclusive Communities (BRIC), was a national project of the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors that was supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Cooperative Agreement #OT18-1802, Strengthening Public Health Systems and Services through National Partnerships to Improve and Protect the Nation's Health, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The contents of the profile are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by, CDC/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

The National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) and its more than 7,000 Members seek to strengthen state-based leadership and expertise for chronic disease prevention and control in states and nationally. For more information, visit chronicdisease.org.