



Public Policy Priorities 2021

At The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, we lead the community in advocating for food security and promote solutions that address the underlying causes of hunger in our region, including institutional racism and funding inequities. The policies we promote help advance our mission to *feed our neighbors in need and lead the community to end hunger*.

Federal:

Tier 1—We actively work on these priorities.

- Protect and Strengthen Federal Nutrition Programs
 - SNAP
 - Child Nutrition Reauthorization
 - TEFAP—The Emergency Food Assistance Program

Tier 2—We work on these priorities in coalition with other organizations who are taking the lead.

- Protect and Strengthen Anti-Poverty Programs
 - Budget, tax proposals, and welfare reform
 - Earned Income Tax Credit
- Pass the HEROES Act to provide Covid-related relief to individuals and states

State:

Tier 1—We actively work on these priorities.

- HIP—the Healthy Incentives Program
- MEFAP—the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program
- Cliff Effect legislation
- Hunger-Free Campus Initiative
- Universal School Meal Campaign

Tier 2—We work on these priorities in coalition with other organizations who are taking the lead.

- Health Equity at All Levels (HEAL) Legislation
- SNAP Gap/Common Application
- Transportation
- Workforce development: Earned Income Tax Credit, Learn to Earn and Workforce Development Trust Fund

Tier 3—We support efforts of other organizations by adding our name to sign-on letters, etc.

- Safe Communities Act
- MA Food Trust
- Affordable housing
- Access to affordable services/education, such as childcare, higher education, behavioral health services, substance abuse treatment, and services for seniors and disabled people.
- Universal access to affordable health insurance
- Support sister organizations' policy priorities when overlapping and appropriate (for example: MA Food System Collaborative, CISA, MA Public Health Association, Lift Our Kids Coalition).