



Public Policy Priorities 2022

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
 - Farm Bill Reauthorization

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

- Protect and Strengthen Programs that are anti-poverty and anti-racist:
 - Budget, tax proposals, and welfare reform
 - Earned Income Tax Credit
 - John Lewis Voting Rights Act
- Pass the Build Back Better Infrastructure package and any component parts that may result

State:

Tier 1—We actively work on these priorities.

- Cliff Effect legislation: An act concerning public assistance for working families and the creation of a pilot program to address the impacts of the Cliff Effect.
- Hunger-Free Campus Initiative
- MEFAP—the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program
- HIP—the Healthy Incentives Program

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

- Universal School Meal Campaign
- Health Equity at All Levels (HEAL) Legislation
- Transportation

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

- Safe Communities Act
- Workforce development: Earned Income Tax Credit, Learn to Earn and Workforce Development Trust Fund
- 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).