

# MEDIA ADVISORY



## For Immediate Release

The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts  
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## The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts to kick off construction of new headquarters in Chicopee

**When:** Thursday, June 2, 2022  
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

**Where:** Chicopee River Business Park,  
Field at the corner of Carew & East Main Streets  
Chicopee, MA

(Hatfield, Mass.) – The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts will officially kick off the construction phase for its larger and greener food distribution center and headquarters in Chicopee on June 2, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. The event will take place in the Chicopee Business Park at the construction site and future location of The Food Bank. **Representatives from the media are also invited to attend this private event. (Please contact The Food Bank for parking instructions.)**

Scheduled speakers at the groundbreaking include Mayor John Vieau – City of Chicopee, Congressman Richard Neal (MA 2<sup>nd</sup> District), Congressman Jim McGovern (MA 3<sup>rd</sup> District). All three lawmakers have been highly supportive of The Food Bank’s expansion and planned move to Hampden County, where more than half the individuals reside who receive food assistance from The Food Bank.

Other invited speakers include Laura Canter – Executive Vice President, MassDevelopment, Michelle LeClair – Chief Investment Officer, Mascoma Community Development, and Matt Bannister – Senior Vice President, Marketing and Corporate Responsibility, PeoplesBank. The W. Mass. directors from U.S. Senators Edward J. Markey and Elizabeth Warren will also share prepared remarks. Andrew Morehouse, Executive Director of The Food Bank, will explain how the new facility and a move to Hampden County will strengthen food security in the entire region.

“We are eternally grateful to the community at all levels for supporting our capital campaign to build our future home which will enable The Food Bank to carry out its mission for decades to come,” said Andrew Morehouse, Food Bank executive director.

In 2020, The Food Bank purchased an undeveloped parcel of land at Chicopee Business Park from the Westmass Area Development Corporation to build a much larger distribution center and headquarters to meet the growing need for healthy emergency food for residents at risk of hunger across Western Massachusetts. The organization has outgrown its current headquarters in Hatfield. The Food Bank has had to turn away more than one million pounds of food donations due to lack of adequate storage space. The new, larger facility will double the organization's warehouse capacity, and its ability to accept and distribute healthy food from a variety of sources that include local farmers and retailers, the USDA and the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP).

As the region's clearinghouse for the Western Massachusetts frontline emergency food network, The Food Bank partners with 173 local food pantries, meal sites and shelters to serve a broad range of people facing food insecurity in the region. Since 2005, The Food Bank has more than tripled the amount of food it distributes to Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire Counties. It has also increased other services such as comprehensive nutrition assistance, and public education and advocacy on state and federal public policies.

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*The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts believes that everyone has a right to healthy food regardless of their circumstances. Serving Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire counties, The Food Bank leads the region's emergency food network, distributing nutritious food to households with lower incomes. Since 1982, they have been providing individuals facing hunger with the food they need to survive and leading communities towards long-term solutions to food insecurity by addressing its underlying causes. They are committed to creating a Western Massachusetts where no one goes hungry, and everyone has access to nutritious food. For more information, visit [foodbankwma.org](http://foodbankwma.org).*



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