

Food Supply Chain Obstacles

Last fiscal year to the present, the Food Bank (and all 200 food banks nationally) has experienced unprecedented supply chain obstacles. Beginning in August 2022, we began experiencing delays from our largest source of food – the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP). In September, delays and cancellations of food deliveries followed suit from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

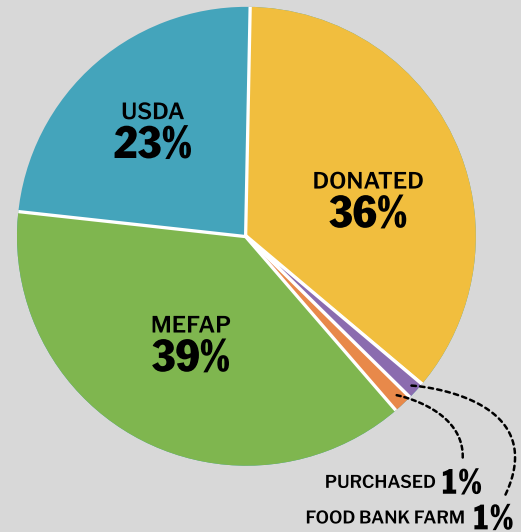
While MEFAP deliveries have improved, the USDA is still struggling to purchase enough food from national manufacturers and farmers due in large part because of competition from private food companies with larger purchasing budgets. Other factors include increased labor costs, extreme weather events, food price inflation, and a nationwide shortage of truck drivers.

The last pandemic-era federal benefits ended in March 2023, driving the demand for food assistance even higher.

In response, the Food Bank allocated an extra \$1 million in emergency funds to spend on healthy food to fill the gap until these supply chain disruptions are resolved. Local supermarkets have also increased the volume of donated frozen meats and dry goods.

Food Sources

FY22



FY23 YTD

