



TOGETHER



WE END HUNGER



**FOOD
BANK**
OF WESTERN
MASSACHUSETTS



Annual Report
FISCAL YEAR 2022

Dear Friends,

You might think it's pollyannaish for us to aspire to end hunger. Before you do, consider what we accomplished **together** last year. We...

- Provided the equivalent of 800,000 healthy meals to an average of 93,000 individuals **every month** through 250 partner and Food Bank sites across all four counties of western Massachusetts
- Assisted 1,031 households to receive monthly SNAP benefits to purchase the equivalent of another 910,000 meals at local stores and farms, leveraging \$2.1 million in economic activity
- Assisted nearly 700 patients, who screened positive for food insecurity at area hospitals and community health centers by providing:
 - Food vouchers to purchase food at supermarkets
 - Deliveries of almost 18,000 medically tailored meals prepared by our three elder services organization partners
 - Cooking supplies and nutrition workshops to prepare their own healthy meals
 - Referrals to other social service organizations to receive wrap-around services (i.e. childcare, transportation, housing)

We must act immediately to prevent hunger and food insecurity when households are confronted with this reality on any day, week, or month. People need to eat **today** as we forge system-wide policy



solutions for **tomorrow**. On the solutions front, last year in partnership with many allies, we succeeded in getting our state and federal governments to approve important policy changes and investments in food security, including:


- Massachusetts Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) that incentivizes SNAP recipients to purchase fresh vegetables from local farmers
- Massachusetts extension of free school meals for every child at public schools
- State pilot program to assist households to achieve economic stability rather than stripping them abruptly of public benefits (the "cliff effect") as their income slowly increases
- Sustained funding of the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program
- Increased funding of the federal emergency food assistance program for food banks across the country
- Permanent federally funded summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) program to give income-eligible families \$40 per child per month over the summer to purchase food

Last year, our very own Congressman Jim McGovern championed the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health for the first time in more than 50 years. We are working with our advocacy partners across the state to advance proposed policies and innovations that resulted from this historic conference. You can learn more about our advocacy and get involved by visiting foodbankwma.org/get-involved/advocate/.


In this annual report, you will read more about how we are deepening our impact and preparing for the future. We are so very grateful to you for your continued commitment to our cause. In short... **together, we end hunger.**

In partnership,




Will Dávila
President




Andrew Morehouse
Executive Director

Moving To Meet the Needs of Our Community

The Food Bank's future larger and greener Food Distribution Center, and Headquarters in Chicopee will open its doors this September. The move would not be possible without the dedication and support of everyone who helped us **reach our Capital Campaign goal of \$26.4M at the end of 2022**. Our new home is close to the intersection of Interstates 90 and 91, enabling the Food Bank to more efficiently and effectively meet

the needs of rural, suburban, and urban communities of Western Massachusetts.

We will be able to provide more food assistance to more people and engage the community to confront underlying causes of food insecurity. The new facility is an important step in expanding our community reach and impact to meet the needs of Western Massachusetts.



Main entrance of the new facility.



Side entrance of the new facility; E. Main Street view.



ABOVE: Loading docks for dry and refrigerated deliveries and member pick up. BELOW LEFT: Main warehouse dry storage space. BELOW RIGHT: Refrigerated and freezer areas.



ABOVE: The Community Room will feature a kitchen with overhead cameras for nutrition classes. BELOW: Main stairway with energy-efficient hanging lights.



Warehouse Comparison

Our new home will provide an additional 32,500+ square feet overall. The warehouse has **over 18,000 additional square feet**, with larger sections for dry, refrigerated, and frozen products.

	SQUARE FOOTAGE	HATFIELD	CHICOPEE
Total Building		30,195	62,791
Dry		14,723	26,000
Refrigerated		2,289	5,125
Frozen		1,646	3,134
Member Shopping		1,302	2,012
Utility		—	2,155

CHICOPEE TOTAL WAREHOUSE

38,426

s.f.

HATFIELD TOTAL WAREHOUSE

19,960

s.f.



Cultivating For Community at Food Bank Farms, June, 2023

New Food Bank Logo

Since 1992, the Food Bank’s logo has displayed a truck, symbolizing our dedicated efforts to deliver nutritious food across Western Massachusetts. Since then, the Food Bank’s mission and vision have evolved and deepened, extending beyond transporting food. Our impact has become multifaceted, combining delivery of immediate nutritious food directly and through the region’s Food Assistance Network with innovative strategies and systemic solutions to the underlying causes of hunger.

A simple tapestry of interwoven shapes, the new logo symbolizes the strength and interconnectedness of the Food Bank, its members and supporters, and the community. The vibrant blue and green colors reflect the hope and vitality of the work we do. The logo radiates warmth and stands as a beacon of shared action for a brighter tomorrow.

We will roll out the rebrand incrementally starting this summer, replenishing materials on an as-needed basis to reduce costs and waste. We thank you for your support over the years and look forward to our continued partnership to create a Western Massachusetts where no one faces food insecurity, and everyone always has access to enough nutritious food.



Food Supply Chain Obstacles

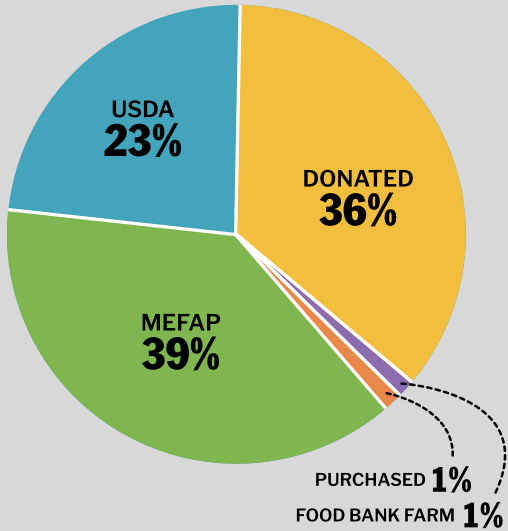
Last fiscal year to the present, the Food Bank (and all 200 food banks nationally) has experienced unprecedented supply chain obstacles. Beginning in August 2022, we began experiencing delays from our largest source of food – the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP). In September,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

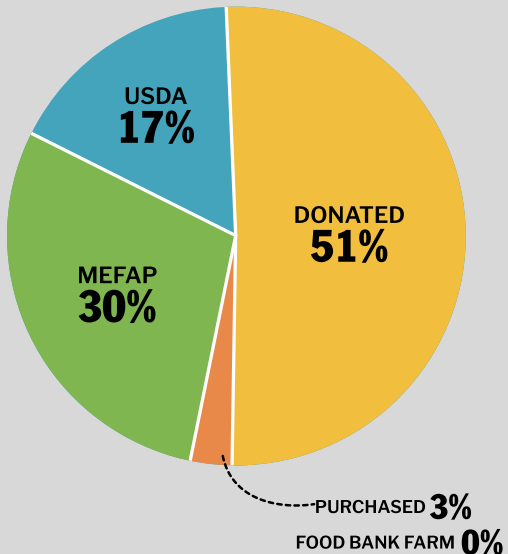
The last pandemic-era federal benefits ended in March 2023, driving the demand for food assistance even higher.

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



POLICY IN FOCUS

At the Food Bank, we support households who need healthy food in the short term and also confront the underlying conditions that cause food insecurity in the first place. In September 2022, Congressman Jim McGovern convened a national conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health hosted at the White House. One of the goals from the conference is the call to end hunger in our country by 2030.

The Advocacy team at the Food Bank is proud to be part of a statewide group of anti-hunger advocates to bring this goal to fruition. Included in our public policy priorities for this year are **Massachusetts** legislative bills to:

- Require all schools to make school breakfast and lunch available to all students at no charge to the student or their family.
- Create a grant program at the Department of Higher Ed for state two- and four-year colleges to mitigate hunger on campus
- Expand Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to legally present immigrants
- Establish funding to create and expand food literacy curriculum in K-12 schools.
- Permanently fund the Healthy Incentives Program
- Increase funding for Regional Transit Authorities

We're also working to implement the Cliff Effect Pilot Program we successfully advocated for in partnership with the Massachusetts legislature. Passed in the



Left to right: Dawn Creighton, former Mass. Senator Eric Lesser, Representative Pat Duffy, Laura Sylvester, and Kristen Joyce celebrating the passing of a bill studying ways to mitigate the Cliff Effect.



Congressman Jim McGovern (left) meeting with students from the Hunger Free Campus Coalition at an advocacy gathering at Worcester State University.



The Hunger Free Campus Coalition gathering at the Massachusetts State House before meeting with legislators to discuss solutions to college hunger.

Economic Development Bill in December 2022, this innovative pilot will provide job training and financial coaching for up to 100 families throughout Massachusetts, giving them cash assistance to make up for the sudden loss of SNAP, housing, or other benefits that result from their increase in earned income.

We also work on **federal** legislation including bills to:

- Strengthen and increase SNAP benefits
- Increase USDA funding for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
- Expand the child tax credit and pay it out monthly rather than yearly

During the COVID pandemic, the Biden Administration expanded the child tax credit to \$300 per child and paid it monthly to families. This tax credit alone resulted in a nearly 46% decrease in child poverty across the country,* providing much-needed breathing room for millions of American families. Making the child tax credit permanent would be life-changing for so many who are struggling to make ends meet and go a long way toward ending hunger.

Massachusetts is already a national leader in many policy areas – expanding SNAP benefits for three months past the ending of the COVID emergency, expanding universal school meals for an extra year, and easing SNAP eligibility requirements for college students. Yet, there is so much more we can do. If you'd like to join us to end hunger in Massachusetts, you can sign up for advocacy alerts at foodbankwma.org/get-involved/advocate/ or email advocacy@foodbankwma.org.

* source: U.S. Census Bureau

“We *are* Making *a* Difference.”

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Pastor Doyle St. Louis, All Nation Church of God

According to the most recent data,* food insecurity affects 1 in 10 people in our service region. Unconscionably, this rate rises to 1 in 4 for children and for Black and Hispanic populations.

The Food Bank partners with over 160 local member food pantries, meal sites, and shelters to

ensure we meet the needs of our diverse communities, especially those disproportionately affected. These sites are operated by individuals who live in the communities where they are located, making them uniquely suited to people facing hunger in their area. Just over 80% of the food distributed by The Food Bank goes to our members.

* source: Feeding America, 2022

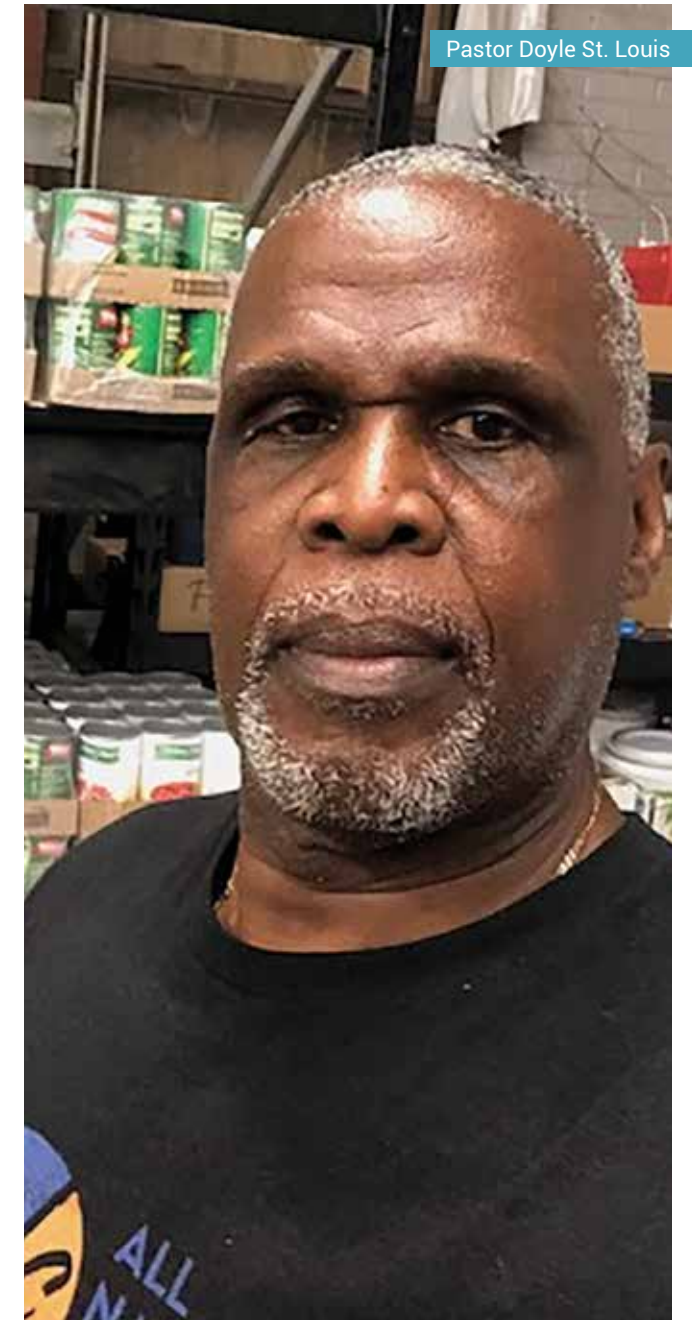
“We have a 23-year relationship with the Food Bank,” said Doyle St. Louis, one of the pastors at All Nation Church of God in Springfield.

Doyle started out hosting periodic food drives at his church before learning about The Food Bank in 1999. Over the next 18 years, the church served 50 families, providing food once a month and in between, giving out whatever food they had on hand. Seeing the impact on those families, he eventually found a larger building measuring over 20,000 square feet to be able to serve more people. Today, the church serves 283 families and individuals per month.

“MEN WILL PULL ME
ASIDE AND IN TEARS,
TELL ME HOW MUCH THE
PANTRY MEANS TO THEM
AND THEIR FAMILIES.”

“Sixty-five percent are families with children,” said Pastor St. Louis. “Folks are hurting and don’t always talk about it. Sometimes, men will pull me aside and in tears, tell me how much the pantry means to them and their families. We are making a difference.”

People he has helped are now volunteering at his food pantry. All of this has inspired Pastor St. Louis to assist others to create food pantries in the area, including in Holyoke. If a pantry doesn’t have transportation to get to the Food Bank, he will pick up food on their behalf.



New Funding for Wrap-Around Services

For decades, the healthcare industry has accepted the concept of Social Determinants of Health referring to “upstream” causes like food insecurity. Understanding this connection, several years ago the Food Bank started the Food Insecurity Screening & Referral Initiative (FISRI) in partnership with the Holyoke Health Center (HHC). Thanks to a three-year innovation grant from the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, care providers at the health center screened their patients, and those who were found to be food insecure were referred to a Food Bank employee who worked out of HHC. Through conversations with the patient, Damaris Arroyo, Food Assistance Resource Coordinator, was able to refer them to food resources such as food pantries in their neighborhood, the Food Bank’s SNAP outreach team, and the Mobile Food Bank and Brown Bag food distribution sites. In addition, partnerships with several other community organizations allowed her to make referrals for services including housing and childcare assistance, Meals on Wheels, employment training, and more.

In January 2020, MassHealth launched a “Flexible Services Program” as part of a demonstration project funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This demonstration project established Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs), groups of health providers who are financially accountable for their members’ costs and quality of care. The intent of ACOs is to increase quality (i.e., patient health) while decreasing costs and reducing the “siloeing” of health care services. The Flexible Services Program is designed to address the Social Determinants of Health by

providing certain ACO-enrolled patients with access to nutrition and housing.

In 2020, the Food Bank began to partner with ACOs and by 2022 we had contracts with three of them: Mass General Brigham, which includes Cooley Dickinson Hospital; Community Care Cooperative (C3), which includes Holyoke Health Center, Community Health Center of Franklin County, Hilltown Community Health Center, and Friends of the Homeless; and Boston Medical Center, which includes Mercy Medical Center in Springfield.

This new ACO structure has allowed the Food Bank to receive funding to offer additional wrap-around services by passing funds through to our partners, such as Greater Springfield Senior Services, West-Mass ElderCare, Highland Valley Elder Services, and LifePath. Depending on the needs of each patient, these organizations provide home-delivered, medically tailored meals. Other partners, Just Roots in Greenfield and Agrics Organics Farm in Wilbraham, provide boxes of fresh local vegetables. We can also offer grocery store vouchers to give people a boost while they get connected with other available food assistance. More recently, the now four-member FISRI team assists patients who come to us from outside the ACOs through generous grants provided by Health New England, Baystate Health (Better Together), and Mass General Brigham.

Recently, MassHealth’s ACO demonstration project was expanded and extended through 2027. This is excellent news as continued funding will allow us to assist more patients to access healthy food and improve their health and quality of life.



Cultivating For Community at Food Bank Farms, April 2023

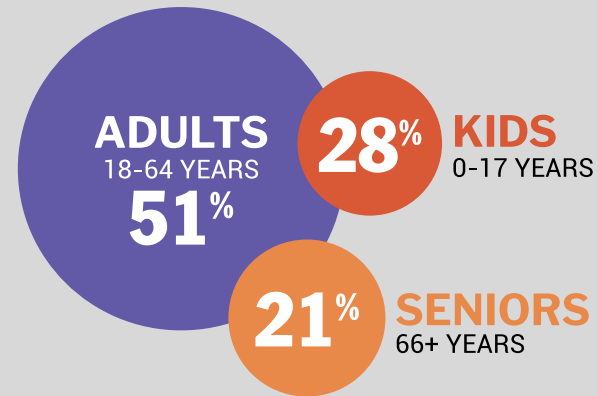
FY2022 Impact Data

Last fiscal year, we distributed **12.1 million pounds of food**, the equivalent of **10.1 million meals**. More than 50% was perishable. Last year we began tracking the amount of culturally preferred food distributed — **324,000 pounds** specifically requested by recipients.

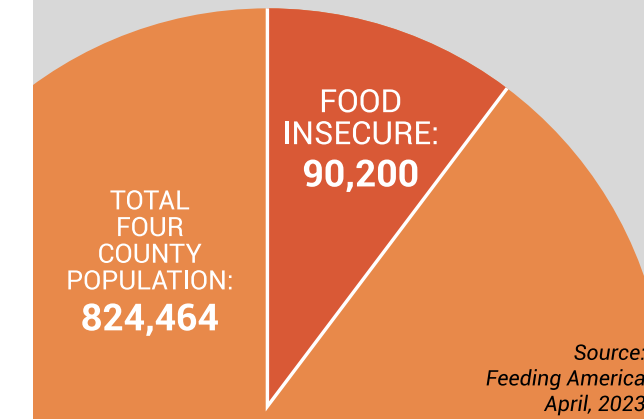
FY 2022: October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022

263,467
individuals
SERVED IN FY2022

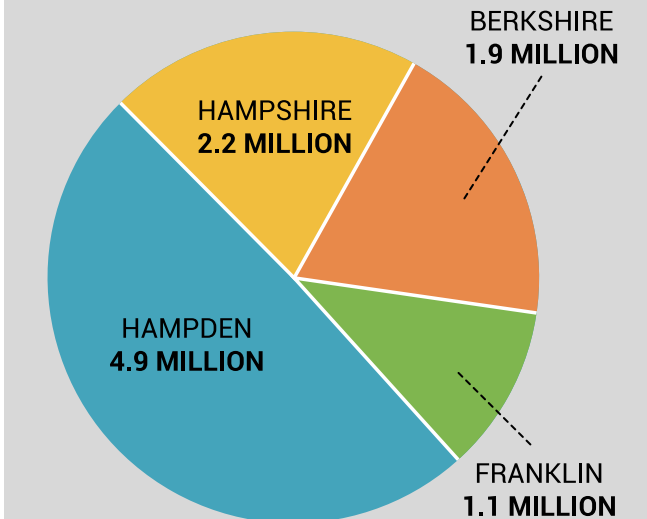
AN AVERAGE OF
93,280
per month



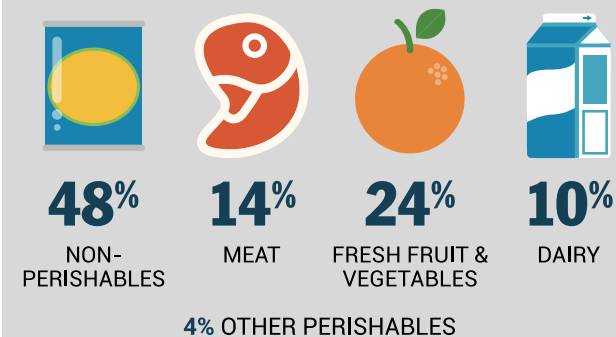
Food Insecurity
Rate **10.9%**



Meals Provided By County

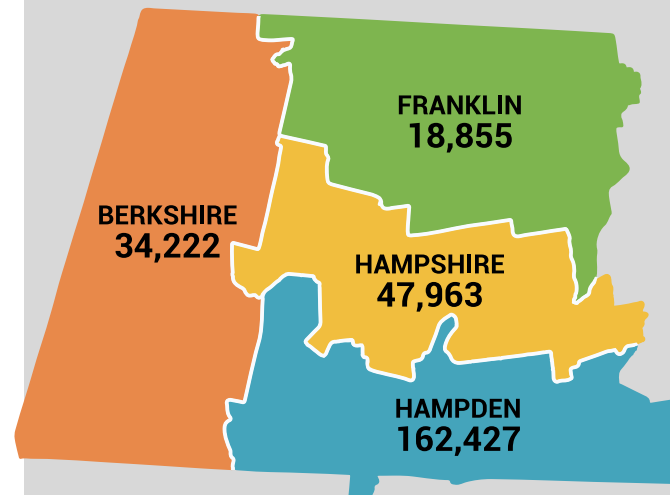


Food Distribution



**12.1 Million lbs. =
10.1 Million Meals**

Individuals Served By County



**\$1 Donation
= 3 Meals**



With every dollar you donate, we can provide the equivalent of **three nutritious meals** to our neighbors experiencing food insecurity.

**Over 20 Local
Farms Donate to
The Food Bank**

**Our 245
Western
Mass
Partners**



51 Brown Bag Sites
104 Food Pantries
30 Hot Meal Sites
26 Mobile Food Banks
25 Non-emergency sites
9 Shelters

2022 Financials

The Food Bank collected \$1.95 million dollars in revenue that is specifically restricted to support the construction of our future home in Chicopee. Capital campaign donations are reflected in total "Individuals & Corporate Donations" revenue.

Statement of Financial Position

Current Assets	\$24,786,865
Fixed Assets (net)	\$11,320,038
Other Assets	\$18,989,623
Total Assets	\$55,096,526
Accounts Payable	\$84,930
Other Current Liabilities	\$1,977,405
Long-Term Liabilities	\$20,171,187
Total Liabilities	\$22,233,522
Net Assets	\$32,863,004
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$55,096,526

Income

Food	\$15,704,978	59%
Individuals & Corporate Donations	\$7,582,167	28%
Private Grants	\$1,934,878	7%
Government Grants	\$1,635,990	6%
Member Programs	\$37,433	0%
Other	-\$155,774	-1%
Total	\$26,739,672	

Expenses

Programs	\$20,756,960	91%
Development	\$858,974	4%
Administration	\$1,293,596	5%
Total	\$22,909,530	

Fiscal Year: October 1, 2021 - September 30, 2022

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**Thank you to all our donors who
continue to support our mission.**



To ensure that we are efficiently investing our resources, we've published on our website our list of individual, corporate, institutional, and food donors. Please visit foodbankwma.org/AR2022