

MAKE HUNGER HISTORY.



October 31, 2025

Members of the FY2025 Closeout Conference Committee
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chair Rodrigues, Chair Michlewitz, Vice Chair Comerford, Vice Chair Ferrante,
Senator O'Connor, and Representative Smola:

This afternoon, two US District Court judges ordered USDA to use its contingency fund to issue at least partial November SNAP benefits. Both judges instructed the USDA to tell the court by Monday, November 3 how they will handle partial issuance. In addition, the Courts ordered USDA to consider and use their discretion regarding the availability of other funds to pay out full benefits - but did not require this.

Even if these court decisions lead to the release of federal SNAP funds, they will be delayed for Massachusetts residents, and once issued, are likely to be a lower pro-rated amount than the household would otherwise receive. **We urge the Closeout Conference Committee to quickly act to provide state funds - even partial state relief will help struggling families while we wait for the release of federal funds.** This is the only way to mitigate the most serious human and economic harms of a full SNAP issuance delay.

Tomorrow, November 1st, approximately 65,000 MA SNAP households (10% of the caseload) will not receive their November benefits. In total, SNAP serves more than one million residents in Massachusetts and is critical to both the 655,000+ households to purchase the food they need as well as the 5,500+ participating SNAP retailers. Each month, Massachusetts SNAP participants spend about \$212 million federal dollars - accounting for \$1 of every \$5 of grocery sales in the Commonwealth and generating at least

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\$330 million of economic activity. A partial issuance of federal funds and/or a delay in issuance **will have devastating impacts on the health and wellbeing of families and the Massachusetts economy.**

We are already seeing the impact of this crisis. Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline has seen a 4x increase in volume compared to other busy times. Food Bank of Western Massachusetts saw a 70% increase in their mobile distribution sites this week. A partner pantry of The Greater Boston Food Bank distributed food to more clients in one day this past week than during an entire week in late March of 2020. Individuals and families who rely on SNAP to put food on their table are rightfully terrified of what this delay in SNAP will mean for their families. As Massachusetts has done so many times before – from Universal School Meals, Healthy Incentives Program, and a three-month step down from COVID-related boosts to SNAP – we need Massachusetts to model what it looks like for a government to work towards a future where hunger is history.

We express our deep gratitude for the Legislature's longstanding leadership in fighting hunger and supporting families' basic needs. **We ask you to extend that leadership once more by identifying and deploying the state resources needed to provide immediate relief to households this month until Massachusetts households have access to their full federal benefits.**

Sincerely,

Children's HealthWatch
Food Bank of Western Massachusetts
Massachusetts Food System Collaborative
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
Merrimack Valley Food Bank
Project Bread
The Greater Boston Food Bank
Worcester County Food Bank

On behalf of the Make Hunger History Coalition

The Make Hunger History Coalition is made up of over 130 Massachusetts organizations and partners including food access, healthcare, public health, local agriculture, elected officials, philanthropy, and grassroots advocates – committing together to achieve one goal: end hunger permanently in Massachusetts.