



## **Food Bank of Western Massachusetts** **Ethical Storytelling Pledge (June 2025)**

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Thank you for sharing your story with the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. We understand that sharing your personal story requires effort and vulnerability, and we're grateful for your time, energy and expertise. Your leadership is important to help address food insecurity in our communities.

### **Sharing your personal story:**

- Inspires other impacted leaders to raise their voices & build power together.
- Raises awareness about social and economic barriers in our communities.
- Encourages everyone in the community to take a stand against hunger.
- Holds politicians accountable to end hunger through policy change.
- Can help put our struggles into greater social context, reminding ourselves, and others who are impacted by hunger and food insecurity, that we are not alone.
- Can help build useful skills like public speaking.

### **Storytellers Bill of Rights:**

As a storyteller, I have:

- Control over how, when, and where the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts is sharing my story.
- The right to ask for training, preparation, guidance, or support before and after sharing my story.
- The right to know the intended purpose of sharing my story with the Food Bank, how the story will be used, and when it will be shared.
- The right to change my mind about making my story public and can request, in writing, via letter, email, or digital text message, it be removed from the Food Bank website and social media channels at any time.
- The right to ask for a copy of my story in a format that is accessible to me and members of my community.

- The right to answer only the questions I feel comfortable responding to. I do not have to share any part of my story that I don't feel safe and comfortable making public.

### **Principles of Trust:**

When asking you to share your story, the Food Bank promises:

- To respect and recognize you as a person with many experiences and interests, not just the struggles with food insecurity you may share.
- To respect the expertise and wisdom you have gained through all your life experiences.
- To help you prepare for the speaking engagement if public speaking will be a part of sharing your story.
- To provide support and resources, when appropriate, to facilitate your participation (before, during, and after) in this work.
- To give you the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the story before it is published (for stories appearing in print or digital format), and to choose to request, in writing, via letter, email, or digital text message, removal of your story from publication at any time.
- To contact the media with corrections if they make an error in reporting your story, your name, or your gender identity and pronouns, after receiving a written message from you in writing, via letter, email, or digital text message that there was an error.
- To provide support, understanding the Food Bank cannot control external media outlets, we will do our best to help you with any changes or retractions.
- To acknowledge the impact of sharing your story, and to be mindful of when, how, and why we are asking you to participate in a storytelling process with the Food Bank.

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