



Spencer Masterson, Director of Make Hunger History

Food Bank of Western MA - March 26 2026

OUR APPROACH

# End Hunger Once And For All.

**MAKE  
HUNGER  
HISTORY.**

## THE FIVE PILLARS

1. Food Access
2. Healthcare
3. Nutrition & Local Food
4. Priority Populations & Communities
5. Root Causes

WE'RE ON A MISSION TO END HUNGER IN THE COMMONWEALTH. JOIN US.



OUR STRATEGY

**Coordinated Efforts**  
**Coalition Expansion**  
**Collective Advocacy**  
**Collaborative Initiatives**



### BY THE NUMBERS

- 700+ coalition members
- 170+ organizations
- 2 federal legislators
- 6 state legislators
- All regions of MA represented

WE'RE ON A MISSION TO END HUNGER IN THE COMMONWEALTH. JOIN US.





**PROTECT SNAP  
PROTECT FAMILIES  
PREVENT HUNGER**

MHH

**SNAP SAVES LIVES**

**FOOD IS NOT POLITICAL**

**EVERYONE IN MASSACHUSETTS SHOULD HAVE ENOUGH TO EAT**

MAKE HUNGER HISTORY.

**SCAN TO TAKE ACTION**

MAKE HUNGER HISTORY

**HUNGER IS A CHOICE**

**HUNGER IS A CHOICE**

**DO NOT GIVE UP**

**SNAP**



# MAKE HUNGER HISTORY



October 27, 2025

The Honorable Maura Healey  
Massachusetts State House  
24 Beacon Street  
Office of the Governor, Room 280  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Healey:

The Make Hunger History Coalition, made up of over 700 partners including food access, healthcare, public health officials, philanthropy, and grassroots advocates **urges you with the Legislature to utilize the Commonwealth SNAP benefits are not delayed as of November 1st, if the state does not utilize the SNAP contingency funds that would prevent a government shutdown.**

SNAP serves more than one million residents in Massachusetts, with the over 650,000 households utilizing benefits to purchase food at over 5,500+ participating SNAP retailers. Each month, Massachusetts receives about \$220 million federal dollars - accounting for \$1.5 billion in the Commonwealth and generating at least \$330 million in economic activity. If next month's benefits are delayed, it could have devastating impacts on the Massachusetts economy. If next month's benefits are delayed, participants turn to the statewide food pantry system. **Food banks would have to provide up to 56 million more meals than they can handle.** That's more than 4 times what the food bank system can handle on average month, in addition to the typically increased demand during the holidays.

While we continue to urge the federal administration to cover November benefits, it is clear that we cannot rely on the administration announced on October 24th that "USDA will pay for food stamps during the government shutdown many times before - from Universal School Meals, H

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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 Coakley, Senator O'Connor, and Representative Smola:

This afternoon, two US District Court judges ordered the federal government to issue at least partial November SNAP benefits. Both judges ruled by Monday, November 3 how they will handle the case. The court ordered USDA to consider and use their discretion regarding how to pay out full benefits - but did not require this.

Even if these court decisions lead to the release of federal funds for Massachusetts residents, and once issued, are likely to be delayed than the household would otherwise receive. **We urge the Committee to quickly act to provide state funds - even if it means struggling families while we wait for the release of federal funds to mitigate the most serious human and economic harm.**

**Tomorrow, November 1st, approximately 65,000 MA households (with a total caseload) will not receive their November benefits.** This is a critical time for Massachusetts residents and is critical to be able to purchase the food they need as well as the 5,500+ participating SNAP retailers. Each month, Massachusetts SNAP participants spend about \$1.5 billion, accounting for \$1 of every \$5 of grocery sales in the Commonwealth.

November 12, 2025

The Honorable Maura Healey  
Massachusetts State House  
24 Beacon Street  
Office of the Governor, Room 280  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Healey:

The Make Hunger History Coalition is made up of over 700 Massachusetts partners including food access, healthcare, public health, local officials, philanthropy, and grassroots advocates - committing together to the goal: end hunger permanently in Massachusetts.

**We want to express our sincere gratitude to the Healey Administration for the federal SNAP benefits flow to Massachusetts residents during the government shutdown - a stream of chaos and confusion coming from the federal government.**

Your decisive action ensures that over 650,000 households utilizing the food they need, as well as the 5,500+ participating SNAP retailers, are able to wait - minimizing the impacts on the health and wellbeing of families in the Massachusetts economy.

We express our deep gratitude for your longstanding leadership in supporting families' basic needs in the Commonwealth.

We look forward to continuing to work together with the Healey Administration to address hunger in Massachusetts.

Sincerely,

Make Hunger History Coalition

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December 3, 2025

Dear Massachusetts Legislature and Members of the Governor's Anti-Hunger Task Force,

The Make Hunger History Coalition urges swift and decisive action in response to the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), signed into law on July 4th by President Trump. This legislation threatens access to critical programs that support food access and healthcare for Massachusetts residents.

The Make Hunger History Coalition brings together more than 700 members from food access, healthcare, public health, local agriculture, public officials, philanthropy, and grassroots advocates. Together, we are all united by one common goal: All Massachusetts residents have dignified access to food and the economic resources needed to make choices about their food. The root causes of hunger are many, and as such, the solutions cannot all be driven by one sector, but the role of the state and federal government is paramount in promoting food security. In Massachusetts, we have a strong history of leadership and collaboration between state government and advocacy organizations in ensuring residents have access to food such as with the passage of a permanent School Meals for All program or incentivizing local produce through the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP).

### SNAP is essential, but under attack

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the largest and most effective nutrition program. Currently in Massachusetts, more than a million residents - 32% of whom are children and 24% seniors - receive monthly support for buying groceries through SNAP. In 2024, Massachusetts received \$2.6 billion in federal funds that was spent in the local economy and has a projected multiplier effect in which every dollar creates \$1.50 in economic activity. SNAP is a critical support for more than just food insecure families, but also for grocery stores, farmers, and the entire economy.

SNAP's reach and structure make it a cornerstone of food assistance, delivering nine more meals than food banks can provide. Massachusetts benefits from a strong network of food banks, food pantries, and other food assistance providers, but even their best efforts will not be able to fill the gap created by these cuts to SNAP.

The withholding of SNAP funds by the Trump Administration during the federal shutdown gave us a clear window into this reality. Over the first week of the SNAP crisis, Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline received 5 times the amount of calls than the same week in 2024. During that same time, just as households were starting to lose access to benefits, Food Bank of Western Massachusetts saw a 70% increase in their mobile distribution sites and a partner

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# Working Groups

## Food Access

- GOAL: Ensure that all residents can access and buy food.
- Federal & State advocacy
- Affordability - increasing access

## Healthcare Partnerships

- GOAL: Integrate food security and healthcare.
- SNAP Gap - MassHealth participants not on SNAP

## Nutrition & Local Food

- GOAL: Support residents to eat nutritious and local food.
- Supporting existing food system policy efforts
- Increase awareness of the role of local food systems in ending hunger.

# Working Groups

## Priority Populations & Communities

- Goal: Enhance food support programs for priority populations and communities.
- Community Network to support Latino families in MA.
- Database of existing efforts dedicated to improving healthy food access.

## Root Causes

- GOAL: Address root causes which contribute to hunger.
- Narrative Change & strategic communications.
- Regional/local engagement in MHH.

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HUNGER  
HISTORY.**



**Make SNAP Strong**

# Invest in SNAP Caseworkers

- **SNAP is the most effective anti-hunger program, but residents can't access it.**
  - In 2025, on average, DTA was unable to connect on 68% of calls trying to reach a caseworker.
  - Currently, there are about 1,300 SNAP cases per worker, up from about 850 per worker pre-COVID.
  - DTA is taking weeks to process documents - leaving residents in limbo.

# ASK: Additional 200 DTA Caseworkers

- Increases access so eligible households receive the benefits they need
- Improves accuracy to reduce or eliminate new state costs
- Fixes unprecedented challenges reaching DTA for help
- Shortens lines at overwhelmed food pantries across the state
- Brings in up to \$500M in federal funds to support families & businesses

**\$30M ask = \$500M impact = 1,600% ROI!**

# Advocacy Opportunities

- Sign-on Letter with 161 organization sponsors - SENT
- Email your individual State Representative and State Senator
- March 31
  - Provide testimony at the Ways & Means Committee public hearing on
- April 7
  - Support for DTA staff at DTA offices
- April 8
  - Lobby day with SEIU local 509 at State House —>



# Join Us!

Become an **Organizational Member**

Join as an **Individual**

Join a **Working Group**

**Advocate!**

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**HUNGER**  
**HISTORY.**



**MAKE**

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