

# Support Funding for the Massachusetts Food Trust Program

*Good for Jobs, Good for Communities, Good for Health*



## THE PROBLEM

**Too many Massachusetts communities have poor access to healthy food and lack strong local job opportunities.** A study by the Massachusetts Grocery Access Task Force found that large swaths of urban and rural Massachusetts lack good access to grocery stores and other healthy food retailers. Research shows that access to grocery stores is linked to lower rates of obesity, diabetes, and other diet-related diseases. Many of these same communities are struggling economically and lack appropriate job opportunities for local residents.

## THE SOLUTION

**Flexible financing to meet community needs.** The Massachusetts Food Trust Program, established in law in 2014, would provide loans, grants, and technical assistance to support new and expanded healthy food retailers and local food enterprises in low and moderate income communities. This could include supermarkets, corner stores, farmer's markets, mobile markets, community kitchens, food co-ops, food truck commissaries, indoor and outdoor greenhouses, and food distribution hubs. This program was a recommendation of the Grocery Access Task Force, a public-private partnership which met for two years to tackle this problem.

**Better access to healthy food = more jobs.** Increased access to food retail options can drive economic growth:

- The PA Fresh Food Financing Initiative has supported 5,000 jobs
- The CA FreshWorks Fund has created or retained 1,362 jobs
- The NY Healthy Food Healthy Communities Fund has created or preserved 1,006 jobs

**Public financing has leveraged significant private investment.** Other states, including NY and PA, have leveraged between \$9-15 dollars in private and federal funds for every \$1 of state funding.

**Local food enterprises create opportunity.** Food enterprises provide good paying jobs to people with varying levels of skills, education, and language proficiency – and they can't be outsourced. For example, Commonwealth Kitchen, recently expanded to a second site in Boston, has launched over 100 businesses since August 2009, providing support and training for new companies and job opportunities for neighborhood residents.

For more information, contact Maddie Ribble at the Massachusetts Public Health Association:  
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## **Supporting Organizations**

*(as of December 8, 2015)*

Act FRESH Campaign	Historic Boston Inc.
Allston Brighton Community Development Corporation	Hockomock Area YMCA
Allston Brighton Health Collaborative	Holyoke Food & Fitness Policy Council
American Academy of Pediatrics - Massachusetts Chapter	Hospitality and Recreation Management Program,
American Heart/Stroke Association	Quinsigamond Community College
Be Well Berkshires	H.P. Kendall Foundation
Berkshire Interfaith Organizing (BIO)	Joint Coalition on Health
BOLD Teens/Codman Square Neighborhood Council	Local Enterprise Assistance Fund
Boston Alliance for Community Health	Madison Park Development Corporation
Boston Community Capital	Massachusetts Alliance of YMCAs
The Boston Foundation	Massachusetts Association of Community Development
Boston Public Health Commission	Corporations
Brighton Main Streets	Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging
Brockton Neighborhood Health Center	Massachusetts Association of Health Boards
Brockton 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Corporation	Massachusetts Dietetic Association
Brockton's Promise Healthy Start Promise Team	Massachusetts Farm to School
Cambridge Food & Fitness Policy Council	Massachusetts Food Association
Children's Health Watch	Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
CISA (Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture)	Massachusetts Public Health Association
CitySprouts	Mattapan Food & Fitness Coalition
CommonWealth Kitchen	Metropolitan Area Planning Council
Community Health Network Area 9	MetroWest Moves
Community Servings	Mill City Grows
Common Capital, Inc.	Neighboring Food Co-op Association
Conservation Law Foundation	Northeast Harvest
Conservation Law Foundation Ventures	Old Colony YMCA
Cooperative Fund of New England	Partners for a Healthier Community/Live Well Springfield
Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation	Peppers Fine Catering
Dorchester Community Food Coop	Regional Environmental Council of Central MA
The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts	Roxbury in Motion
The Food Trust	Springfield Food Policy Council
Franklin County Community Development Corporation	Springfield Partners for Community Action
Fun 'N FITchburg	Sustainable Nantucket
Greater Lowell Health Alliance	The Food Project
Groundwork Lawrence	The Trustees of Reservations
Health Care For All	United Neighbors of Fall River
Health Care Without Harm	Voices for a Healthy South Coast
Health Resources in Action	Worcester Food & Active Living Policy Council
Hispanic-American Institute	

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