



Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP)

**Fiscal Year 2011
Core Food Summary Report
July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011**

Developed by:

**Food Bank of Western Massachusetts
The Greater Boston Food Bank
Merrimack Valley Food Bank
Worcester County Food Bank**

Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP) Highlights of Fiscal Year 2011

- Approximately 12% of the State's population sought emergency food assistance in FY11.¹
- 842 emergency food programs across the state were supported with product purchased with MEFAP funds.
- Total MEFAP funding
 - Core Food Purchase Fund \$12,500,000
 - Massachusetts Grown Initiative \$10,580,000
 - DAR program Administrative fee \$690,000
 - Operation Funding \$230,000
 - \$1,000,000
- Vendors: Agar Supply - Retail & Food Service MEFAP contract – 80.5% of Core Food
Feeding America – (tuna, mac & cheese, green beans, corn, peas, white shelf stable milk, choc. shelf stable milk, and rice) – 14.8% of Core Food
Matthew Sales, Prestage – Thanksgiving Turkeys – 3.1% of Core Food
Pioneer Valley Growers Association – Produce through Massachusetts Grown Initiative – 2.7% of total MEFAP Funding
Our Family Farms, Greenfield, MA – Milk through Massachusetts Grown Initiative – 2.3% of total MEFAP Funding
- 87 different items or types of product purchased through Core Food
- Items Produced in Massachusetts:
 - J & G Ground Beef – 4.7% of Core Food
 - Pork Cushion Meat – Mutual Beef – Boston – 0.6% of Core Food
 - Teddie Peanut Butter – 5.6% of Core Food
 - Our Family Farms, Greenfield, MA – 2.3% of total MEFAP funding
 - 942,793 pounds of produce grown in Massachusetts through the Massachusetts Grown Initiative
- 52,734,917 total pounds distributed through the four regional food banks.
- 18,359,662 pounds distributed were MEFAP products – a 6.83% increase in pounds distributed over FY10.
- 34.8% of all pounds distributed were MEFAP pounds.
- 14,122,817 meals were provided through MEFAP.

¹ Number of SNAP Recipients: MA Dept. of Transitional Assistance; *Caseload Information, Grant Levels and Eligibility Standards, and FY11 Appropriations*; MA Total Population: US Census; *Quick Facts*; 2010.

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The Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP) provides food products for citizens of the Commonwealth in need. Through the program, a consistent supply of quality, nutrient-rich foods and locally grown fresh produce has been provided through the statewide food bank network to 842 emergency food providers. MEFAP is administered by The Greater Boston Food Bank on behalf of the four Massachusetts Regional Food Banks detailed below. This report summarizes the Fiscal Year 2011 (FY11) MEFAP Core Food program.

Summary

The study, *Hunger in Massachusetts 2010*, shows that the four Regional Food Banks serve, on average, 101,400 people weekly. Of those served, 33% are children under 18 and about 14% of clients at program sites are 65 and older. Research indicates that even mild under-nutrition experienced by young children during critical periods of growth may lead to reduction in physical growth and affect brain development.² Because of issues that relate specifically to age, including decreased mobility and limited outside assistance, the elderly are also especially vulnerable to hunger and malnutrition.³ By providing a steady supply of nutritious, quality food to agencies that serve these at-risk populations, MEFAP plays a vital role in protecting the health of these emergency food provider recipients.

Hunger in Massachusetts 2010 further shows that 80% of agency clients across the Commonwealth are living in food-insecure households — defined as not having a consistent food source — and 42% of those clients reported being “food insecure with very low food security.” During FY11, the four Massachusetts Regional Food Banks collectively distributed nearly 52 million pounds of food, over 18 million pounds of which was purchased through the MEFAP program. MEFAP represents 34.8% of the total distribution of product to the emergency feeding system in the Commonwealth. The food provided through the program is integral to the mission of emergency food providers in the Commonwealth in addressing food insecurity in their communities.

Program Funding

MEFAP was level funded in FY 2011. Total funding for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011 was \$12,500,000. \$115,000 was re-allocated from the Core Food Purchase Fund to the Massachusetts Grown Initiative in FY11. (A breakdown of the funding is contained in Table 1.) The Department of Agricultural Resources managed the funding for food purchases, including funding for the Massachusetts Grown Initiative and the Department of Education managed the operation funds.

In FY2011, the four Massachusetts Regional Food Banks, through increased national product sourcing, were able to stretch funding dollars. Beneficial pricing for the items purchased through Feeding America helped the food banks increase overall distribution of product purchased through MEFAP for the second year in a row despite overall level funding and a decrease in Core Food funds. A summary history of MEFAP funding and meals distributed is contained in Table 5.

² Tufts University School of Nutritional Science and Policy, *The Links between Nutrition and Cognitive Development of Children*, 1998

³ The Journal of the American Dietetic Association, “Nutrition, Aging and the Continuum of Care”, 2000

Table 1: FY11 MEFAP Funding

Core Food Funding	\$10,580,000
Massachusetts Grown Initiative (FY11)	\$690,000
Operation Funding	\$1,000,000
DAR Administrative Fee (retained)	\$230,000
Total Funding	\$12,500,000

The Massachusetts Regional Food Banks

The Massachusetts Regional Food Bank system includes The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts (FBWM), The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB), Merrimack Valley Food Bank (MVFB), and Worcester County Food Bank (WCFB). Each is a private, nonprofit 501(c) 3 corporation that provides surplus, reclaimed, and other donated foods as well as purchased food and product distributed through the federal TEFAP program. Of the 1,189 member hunger-relief programs using the statewide food bank system, 842 emergency providers received MEFAP products. These programs include pantries, soup kitchens, transitional houses, and shelters. U.S. Census Bureau service area population and poverty statistics are used to determine the allocation of MEFAP funds to the four food banks. The distribution formula for FY11 MEFAP funds is detailed in Table 2.

Table 2: Allocation of FY11 MEFAP Funds Among Massachusetts Regional Food Banks

<u>Food Bank</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Percent*</u>
Food Bank of Western Massachusetts	Hatfield	15.17%
The Greater Boston Food Bank	Boston	64.66%
Merrimack Valley Food Bank	Lowell	8.33%
Worcester County Food Bank	Shrewsbury	11.84%

*Percentages based on US Census and Feeding America statistics.

The statewide emergency food distribution network reaches every location in the Commonwealth. All agencies must serve individuals and families most in need of emergency food resources. By reducing food costs for member feeding agencies and providing high-quality nutritious food, MEFAP plays a vital role in reducing hunger in the Commonwealth. Together, the four Massachusetts Regional Food Banks provided over 18 million pounds of MEFAP-purchased food or 14.1 million meals to 842 emergency anti-hunger programs statewide that in turn fed hundreds of thousands of hungry individuals. MEFAP-distributed food represents 34.8% of the overall number of pounds distributed by the four Massachusetts Regional Food Banks in FY11. As Table 3 below shows, there was an increase of 6.8% in the pounds distributed this year with Core Food funds despite a decrease of \$115,000 – funds which were re-allocated to the Massachusetts Grown Initiative this year.

Table 3: FY11 Massachusetts Regional Food Banks Distribution Statistics*

<u>Food Bank</u>	<u>Agencies Served</u>	<u>Total Pounds Distributed</u>	<u>MEFAP Pounds Distributed</u>	<u>MEFAP Meals Distributed**</u>
Food Bank of Western Massachusetts	200 (-18.7%)	7,589,323 (-6.5%)	2,445,183 (+.7%)	1,880,910
The Greater Boston Food Bank	493 (+2.92%)	34,765,888 (+4.5%)	12,044,307 (+6.3%)	9,850,365
Merrimack Valley Food Bank	55 (+14.58%)	2,963,663 (+12.2%)	1,077,301 (+15.2%)	828,693
Worcester County Food Bank	94 (-1.05%)	5,632,567 (+3.8%)	1,778,294 (+14.3%)	1,562,849
Totals	842 (-3.0%)	52,734,917 (+3.15%)	18,359,662 (+6.8%)	14,122,817 (+6.8%)

*Table includes overall and MEFAP pounds distributed from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. Numbers in parentheses indicate change over FY2010.

** 1.3 pounds of food provides 1 meal.

MEFAP Food Purchases

MEFAP consists of two food purchasing programs: Core Food and the Massachusetts Grown Initiative.

MEFAP Core Food Purchasing

In FY11, The Greater Boston Food Bank purchased over 18 million pounds of food using MEFAP Core Food funds from vendors selected through a competitive bid process. Agar Supply of Taunton, MA was awarded the contract for retail-packaged foods, and for foodservice and institutional foods (utility). Matthew Sales was awarded the contract to supply Thanksgiving turkeys.

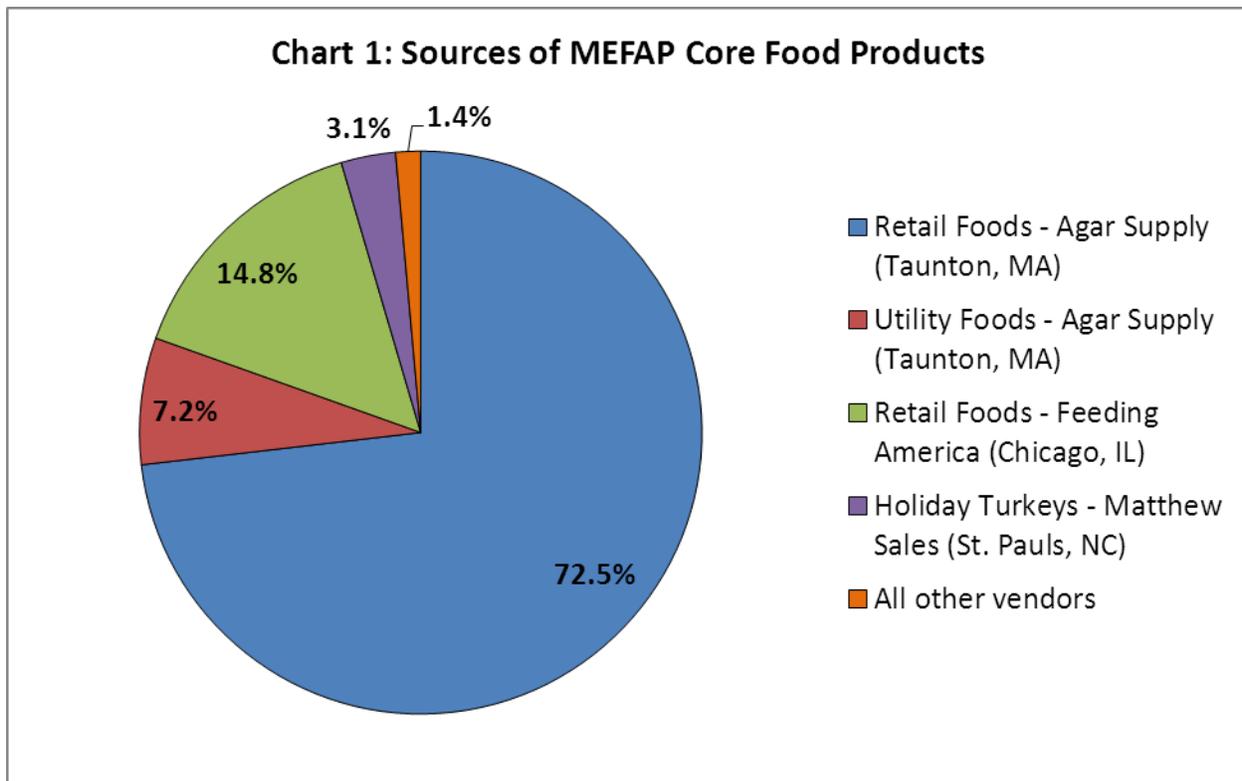
This year a change was made to the Core Food bid process to ensure the best possible pricing. Separate bids were issued for retail dairy, utility dairy, retail meat, utility meat, retail grocery and utility grocery items. This allowed companies that only supply dairy or meat products to participate in the bid process. Overall, Agar provided the best pricing for all six bids. The exceptions to this award were items that the Massachusetts Regional Food Banks were able to source at a better price through Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger relief organization.

Feeding America partners nationally with food manufacturers across the country to provide direct from manufacturer, full trailer-load pricing to food banks. The volume of product sourced through Feeding America with MEFAP Core Food funds increased from 5% in FY10 to 14.8% in FY11 and contributed significantly to the increased pounds distributed. While these Feeding America loads require additional logistics and food bank storage capacity, all of the Massachusetts Regional Food Banks made the extra effort in order to realize the savings from Feeding America sourcing and to distribute as much product as possible with the available funding.

An additional change during FY11 was the discontinuation of the direct delivery program. In prior years, 30 to 40 agencies in GBFB and MVFB service area received delivery of their allocated quantities of MEFAP product directly from the vendor. In the interests of product access equitability among all MEFAP-eligible agencies, and to keep product costs down by

limiting vendor transportation costs, in January of 2011 all deliveries of MEFAP product were made to the four food banks exclusively.

Refer to Chart 1 for a breakdown of MEFAP Core Food purchasing by vendor. All four food banks were very satisfied by the customer service supplied by Agar Supply, Feeding America and other MEFAP vendors.



Massachusetts Grown Initiative

The Massachusetts Grown Initiative was introduced into MEFAP to give low-income individuals access to fresh produce, while simultaneously opening a new market for local farmers. The program has been a success since it began and it is currently in its eleventh year. The Massachusetts Grown Initiative is an important way to re-invest state funds in Massachusetts' growers.

Funding for The Massachusetts Grown Initiative was increased by \$115,000 to \$690,000 in the last reporting period – January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010. The primary vendors used for these funds were the Pioneer Valley Growers' Association (PVGA) located in South Deerfield, MA and Our Family Farms dairy in Greenfield, MA. PVGA, a cooperative of local growers, provided high-quality fresh produce such as cabbage, carrots, beets, broccoli, onions, apples, corn, eggplant, spinach, potatoes, peppers, squash, collard greens, tomatoes, turnip, and strawberries throughout the year. Our Family Farms provided a weekly delivery of fresh milk to GBFB, MVFB, and FBWM. In addition to these two vendors several other Massachusetts farms including Lanni and Brookfield Orchards were used during the course of the Massachusetts Grown fiscal year. For a more detailed summary of the program, refer to the "Massachusetts Grown Fiscal Year 2010 Summary Report," on file with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources.

Determining Core Food Purchasing

Table 4 below details all items purchased with Core Food funds in FY11. This list includes items purchased by all food banks as well as items purchased solely by individual food banks. The food banks strive to strike a balance between sharing items in common to keep costs down and providing foods that may be unique to the different communities we serve. The list of items is based on agency surveys, food bank dietitians' recommendations, past history of product velocity, and market conditions affecting product cost. The final product list is nutritionally balanced and satisfactory to both agencies and clients. Some highlights of the Core Food purchases include:

- **Purchasing items produced in Massachusetts** – Massachusetts produced peanut butter, lean pork cushion meat, and 90% lean ground beef were purchased and distributed through MEFAP in FY11 along with fresh produce through the Massachusetts Grown Initiative.
- **Offering greater variety and nutritional value** – Several items were added to increase overall nutritional value and variety.
- **Retail packed items** – Retail size items purchased for food pantries and programs that provide bags of food for clients to take home continued to represent the majority (88.7%) of all Core Food spending in FY11.
- **Decreased institutional (utility sized) items** – Purchasing utility sized food items for soup kitchens and meals programs that provide meals on site decreased slightly from 9% in FY10 to 7.2% in FY11. GBFB and MVFB are the only food banks that distribute utility packed product and the smaller percentage reflects a more accurate percentage that these meal sites represent.
- **Thanksgiving Turkeys** – In 2011, 27,040 turkeys were purchased with Core Food funds and distributed over the Thanksgiving holiday season.

Table 4: List of Food Items Purchased through MEFAP in FY11

Institutional Sized Food Items (Utility) – MVFB & GBFB Only		
<u>Proteins</u> Ground Beef, 90% Lean* Ground Turkey, 90% Lean Chicken Thighs Pork Cushion Meat* Tuna in spring water Peanut Butter* Canned Beans: (Baked, Pinto, Dark Red Kidney)	<u>Fruits</u> Orange Juice Concentrate Fruit Cocktail Fruit Cocktail, Light Peaches Applesauce <u>Vegetables</u> Canned Vegetables: (Carrots, Corn, Peas) Spaghetti Sauce Diced Tomatoes Frozen Vegetables: (Broccoli, Corn, Green Beans, Peas, Spinach, Mixed Vegetables)	<u>Grains</u> Rice Pasta Elbows Pasta, Spaghetti Instant Mashed Potatoes <u>Cereal</u> Oatmeal <u>Soups/Meals</u> Chicken Noodle Soup Chicken Noodle Soup, low sodium Beef Stew

*Items produced by Massachusetts companies

Retail Sized Food Items		
<u>Protein</u> Ground Beef, 90% Lean* Ground Turkey, 90% Lean Chickens, Whole Canned Chicken Chunk Lite Tuna in Water Peanut Butter* Canned Beans: (Black, Red Kidney, Vegetarian Baked Beans, Pink, Gandules) <u>Dairy</u> Shelf-Stable Milk, 1% Shelf-Stable Chocolate Milk, 1% American Cheese Slices Large White Eggs <u>Holiday</u> 12-14 Lb. Turkeys 3 Lb. Canned Hams	<u>Fruit</u> Fresh Oranges Peaches in Natural Juice Pineapple Chunks in Natural Juice Fruit Cocktail in Natural Juice Applesauce 100% Orange Juice w/Calcium 100% Apple Juice w/Calcium 100% White Grape Juice All Fruit Spread <u>Vegetables</u> Canned Vegetables: (Peas, Corn, Carrots, Green Beans) Spaghetti Sauce Tomato Puree Sweet Potatoes Collard Greens	<u>Grains</u> Long Grain Rice Medium Grain Rice Long Grain Brown Rice Pasta, Elbow Macaroni Pasta, Spaghetti Macaroni & Cheese Instant Mashed Potatoes <u>Cereal</u> Corn Flakes Rice Crisp Cereal Toasted Oats Cereal Quick Oatmeal <u>Soups/Meals</u> Beef Stew Chicken Noodle Chicken Noodle, Low Sodium Chicken with Rice, Low Sodium Vegetarian Minestrone Beef Ravioli

*Items produced by Massachusetts companies

Table 5: MEFAP Funding History

Fiscal Year	Total Funding	Operating Funding	Nutrition Education Funding	Mass Grown Initiative Funding	Core Food Funding	Meals Distributed through Core Food
		DOE 7051-0015	DFA 2511-0105	DFA 2511-0105	DFA 2511-0105	
1995 & 1996	\$1,000,000.00	\$142,000.00	-	-	\$858,000.00	--
1997	\$1,000,000.00	\$142,000.00	-	-	\$858,000.00	1,176,128
1998	\$3,448,000.00	\$448,000.00	-	-	\$3,000,000.00	3,748,435
1999	\$7,430,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$260,000.00	\$6,020,000.00	5,176,882
2000	\$7,430,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$5,980,000.00	4,972,956
2001	\$7,430,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$5,950,000.00	6,261,695
2002	\$7,360,000.00	\$930,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$330,000.00	\$5,950,000.00	6,408,176
2003	\$7,185,600.00	\$830,600.00	\$75,000.00	\$330,000.00	\$5,950,000.00	6,038,672
2004	\$7,027,000.00	\$747,000.00	\$0.00	\$330,000.00	\$5,950,000.00	7,036,356
2005	\$7,027,000.00	\$747,000.00	\$0.00	\$330,000.00	\$5,950,000.00	6,927,565
2006	\$7,027,000.00	\$747,000.00	\$0.00	\$330,000.00	\$6,113,252.00	6,927,565
2007	\$13,250,000.00	\$1,250,000.00	\$0.00	\$600,000.00	\$11,400,000.00	12,770,887
2008	\$12,137,000.00	\$1,247,000.00	\$0.00	\$550,000.00	\$10,340,000.00	12,482,075
2009	\$13,127,000.00	\$1,247,000.00	\$0.00	\$600,000.00	\$11,280,000.00	11,535,297
2010	\$12,509,518.00	\$1,239,518.00	\$0.00	\$575,000.00	\$10,695,000.00	13,219,524
2011	\$12,500,000.00	\$1,230,000.00	\$0.00	\$690,000.00	\$10,580,000.00	14,122,817

*Meals data not available for FY1995 and FY1996.

Operation Funding Supports Distribution

The Massachusetts Department of Education serves as the state agency for operating funds to support the distribution of food. The food banks use the percentages in Table 2 to equitably allocate funds according to poverty statistics for the population served by each food bank. The operating funds are applied to the costs of labor associated with receiving, warehousing, transporting, and distributing MEFAP product. Table 5 above details the funding. The Massachusetts Regional Food Banks have had to raise additional private funds to cover the cost of distribution.

Conclusion

In FY11, the four Massachusetts Regional Food Banks distributed more than 18 million pounds of MEFAP food (representing over 14 million meals) to those in need throughout the State, an increase of 6.8% over the prior year. This food was distributed to 842 member agencies that are providing emergency food assistance. MEFAP serves those most in need by providing nutrient rich food. While continued improvements in product selection and sourcing allow the Massachusetts Regional Food Banks to stretch MEFAP dollars and increase distribution, it is important to note that the need continues to outpace the pounds distributed.

Over the past year, many food banks across the nation continued to see increased demand and declining donations due to the weakened economy. State revenue shortages in combination with rising prices have impacted the segment of the population that can least afford it. The Massachusetts Regional Food Banks have weathered this decline better than food banks in most other states because of MEFAP funding. MEFAP has now taken on an even more critical role in helping the four Massachusetts food banks effectively serve more than 101,400 people a week.

The Massachusetts Regional Food Banks and their staff would like to acknowledge the support of the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources and the Massachusetts Department of Education. We would also like to thank the Governor's Office, the Lieutenant Governor's Office, and the Legislature for their commitment to help end hunger in Massachusetts. For more information on the specific programs and activities of the Massachusetts Regional Food Banks please note the following contact information.



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