



Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP)

**Fiscal Year 2012
Core Food Summary Report
July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012**

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 2012

- Approximately 13% of the State's population sought emergency food assistance in FY12.¹
- 885 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 contracts – 70.9% of Core Food
Feeding America – (tuna, mac & cheese, black beans, shelf stable milk, rice, fruit juice, applesauce) – 25.4 % of Core Food
Broccoli Assoc., Amish Country Fresh – Thanksgiving Turkeys – 3.5% of Core Food
- 77 different items or types of product purchased through Core Food
- Core Food items Produced in Massachusetts:
 - J & G – Ground Beef – 2.3% of Core Food
 - Mutual – Utility-sized Ground Beef – .6% of Core Food
 - Teddie – Peanut Butter – 7.6% of Core Food
- A total of 54,537,518 pounds of food were distributed through the four regional food banks.
- Of that, 16,433,876 pounds (30.1%) were MEFAP products – a 10.5% decrease in pounds distributed over FY11.
- A total of 12,641,443 meals were provided through MEFAP.

¹ Number of SNAP Recipients: MA Dept. of Transitional Assistance; Caseload Information, Grant Levels and Eligibility Standards, and FY12 Appropriations; MA Total Population: US Census; Quick Facts; 2011.

**Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP)
Fiscal Year 2012 Core Food Summary Report
July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012**

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 885 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 2012 (FY12) MEFAP Core Food program.

Summary

The study, *Hunger in Massachusetts 2010*, shows that one in eight residents of Massachusetts is at risk of hunger. Of those in need in the Commonwealth, 43 percent do not qualify for government benefits because their income is too high; they cannot meet basic needs and therefore require emergency assistance.² The recent Map the Meal Gap study, conducted by Feeding America, indicates that 121.6 million additional meals are needed across the state to ensure that all residents are able to eat three meals a day. MEFAP plays a vital role in bridging the Meal Gap and providing all those in need with a continual supply of quality, nutritious food staples, as well as fresh produce through the Massachusetts Grown Initiative.

During FY12, the four Massachusetts Regional Food Banks collectively distributed over 54 million pounds of food, 16 million of which was purchased through the MEFAP program. This represents a decrease of 10.5% over pounds distributed with MEFAP funds in FY 2011. This decrease is due to significant price increases realized throughout the year. Product prices at the beginning of the year were an average of 5% over FY11 closing prices. Over the course of the MEFAP year, there was an average price increase of 7.5% across all commodities purchased with MEFAP Core Food funds; some staple commodities, such as peanut butter, saw increases as high as 60%. MEFAP represents more than 30% of the total distribution of product to the emergency feeding system in the Commonwealth. The food provided through this program is integral to the mission of the Commonwealth's emergency food providers to address food insecurity in their communities.

Program Funding

MEFAP was level funded in FY 2012. Total funding for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012 was \$12,500,000. (A breakdown of the funding is contained in Table 1, and a summary history of MEFAP funding and meals distributed is contained in Table 5 on page 7.) 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 FY2012, the four Massachusetts Regional Food Banks continued national product sourcing to stretch funding dollars. Beneficial pricing for items purchased through Feeding America as well as for items purchased from Agar in full trailer quantities, direct from manufacturers, helped mitigate the impact of the significant price increases throughout the year.

² Gunderson, C., Waxman, E., Engelhard, E., Del Vecchio, T., Satoh, A. & Lopez-Betanzos, A. Map the Meal Gap 2012: Food Insecurity Estimates at the County Level. Feeding America, 2012.

Table 1: FY12 MEFAP Funding

Core Food Funding	\$10,580,000
Massachusetts Grown Initiative (FY12)	\$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 distributes surplus, reclaimed, and other donated foods, purchased food, and product provided through the federal TEFAP program. Of the 1,232 member hunger-relief programs using the statewide food bank system, 885 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 FY12 MEFAP funds is detailed in Table 2.

Table 2: Allocation of FY12 MEFAP Funds Among Massachusetts Regional Food Banks

Food Bank	Location	Percent*
Food Bank of Western Massachusetts	Hatfield	13.98% (-1.19%)
The Greater Boston Food Bank	Boston	64.73% (+.07%)
Merrimack Valley Food Bank	Lowell	8.92% (+.59%)
Worcester County Food Bank	Shrewsbury	12.37% (+.53%)

*Percentages based on US Census and Feeding America statistics. Numbers in parentheses indicate change over FY2011.

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. MEFAP-distributed food represents 30.1% of the overall number of pounds distributed by the four Massachusetts Regional Food Banks in FY12. As Table 3 below shows, there was a decrease of 10.5% in the total pounds distributed this year with Core Food funds. Due to changes in the allocation percentages (noted in Table 2 above), some food banks experienced a proportionately higher decrease in pounds distributed.

Table 3: FY12 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	234 (+17%)	6,866,173 (-9.5%)	1,994,871 (-18.4%)	1,880,910
The Greater Boston Food Bank	508 (+3%)	39,972,723 (+10.0%)	11,616,013 (-9.3%)	9,850,365
Merrimack Valley Food Bank	49 (-11%)	2,422,522 (-18.3%)	1,089,033 (+1.1%)	828,693
Worcester County Food Bank	94 (no change)	5,276,100 (-9.8%)	1,733,959 (-14.7%)	1,562,849
Totals	885 (+5%)	54,537,518 (+3.4%)	16,433,876 (-10.5%)	12,641,443 (-10.5%)

*Table includes overall and MEFAP pounds distributed from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012. Numbers in parentheses indicate change over FY2011.

** 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.

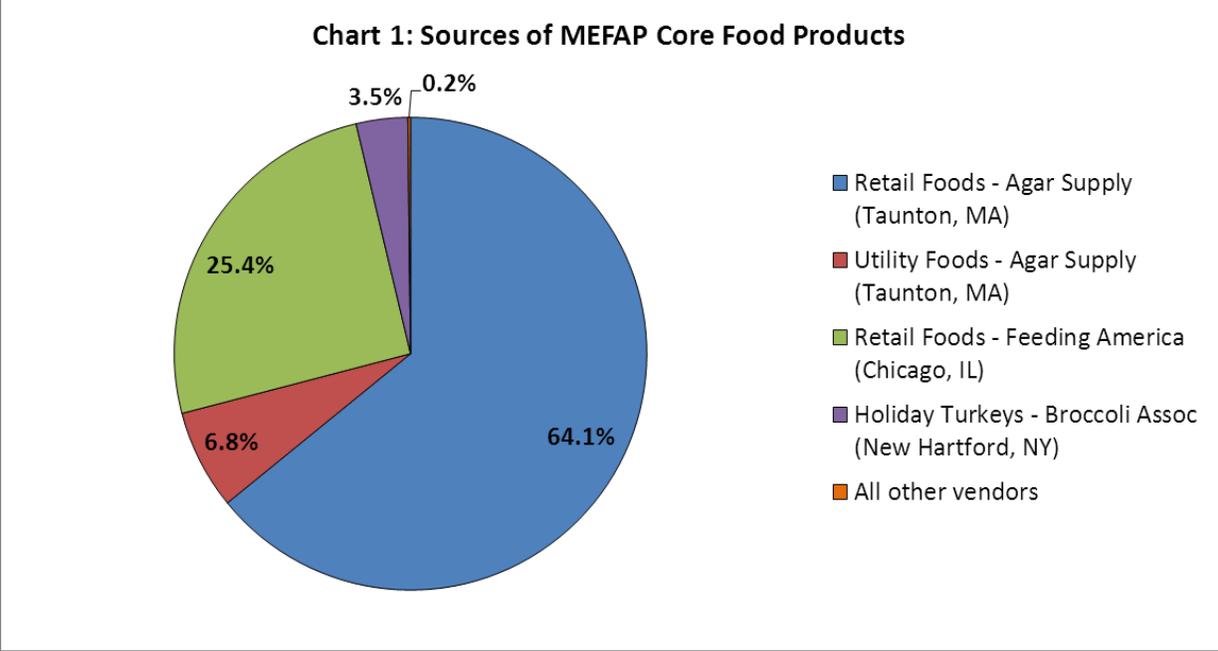
MEFAP Core Food Purchasing

In FY12, The Greater Boston Food Bank purchased over 16 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). Broccoli Associates was awarded the contract to supply Thanksgiving turkeys.

Overall, Agar provided the best pricing for all six bids. This year, Agar Supply provided the option of discounted pricing for full trailer-load, direct from manufacturer delivery for select items. GBFB and WCFB opted to receive some items, such as ground turkey, peanut butter and pasta, through this delivery method, resulting in a savings of \$141,000 against the standard Agar delivery option.

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 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 14.8% in FY11 to 25.4% in FY12 and helped to limit the impact of commodity price increases. Savings against the closest bid price for items sourced through Feeding America was over \$650 thousand.

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 thirteenth year. The Massachusetts Grown Initiative is an important way to re-invest state funds in Massachusetts growers.

The Massachusetts Grown Initiative funding was \$690,000 for the last reporting period – January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011. 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 2011 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 FY12. This list includes items purchased by all food banks as well as items purchased solely by individual food banks. To obtain the best possible pricing, the number of items was reduced from 93 in FY11 to 77 in FY12; combining multiple, similar items into one item with a greater annual quantity led to advantageous pricing.

- **Executive Order 509** – Executive Order 509, signed by Governor Patrick in April 2010, requires state agencies and sub-contractors to follow nutrition standards when purchasing food with state funds. The Executive Order is a part of Mass in Motion, a statewide effort to reduce and prevent obesity. Several items from FY11 were discontinued in FY12 as they did

not meet the nutritional requirements of EO 509. These include instant potatoes, beef stew, and beef ravioli.

- **Ground Beef and Ground Turkey** – Due to the rising price of ground beef and the nutritional benefits of turkey, MVFB and GBFB opted to discontinue the purchase of retail ground beef in favor of ground turkey; for the price of one case of ground beef, we were able to purchase approximately three cases of ground turkey. This change allowed for the distribution of an additional 217,000 pounds of more nutritious product for the same cost.
- **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 (89.5%) of all Core Food spending in FY12.
- **Decreased institutional (utility sized) items** – Purchasing utility sized food items for soup kitchens and programs that provide on-site meals decreased slightly from 9% in FY11 to 6.8% in FY12.
- **Thanksgiving Turkeys** – In 2012, 26,640 turkeys were purchased with Core Food funds and distributed over the Thanksgiving holiday season. This represents a decrease of 400 birds over FY11 as a rise in cost of 18 cents / pound led to a reduction in the percentage of funds allocated toward Thanksgiving turkeys.

Table 4: List of Food Items Purchased through MEFAP in FY12

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

*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) <u>Dairy</u> Shelf-Stable Milk, 1% American Cheese Slices Large White Eggs <u>Holiday</u> 12-14 Lb. Turkeys	<u>Fruit</u> Fresh Oranges Peaches in Natural Juice Fruit Cocktail in Natural Juice Applesauce 100% Orange Juice w/Calcium 100% Apple Juice w/Calcium 100% White Grape Juice <u>Vegetables</u> Canned Vegetables: (Peas, Corn, Carrots, Green Beans) Spaghetti Sauce Tomato Puree Diced Tomatoes Sweet Potatoes Collard Greens	<u>Grains</u> Long Grain Rice Medium Grain Rice Long Grain Brown Rice Pasta, Elbow Macaroni Pasta, Spaghetti Macaroni & Cheese <u>Cereal</u> Corn Flakes Rice Crisp Cereal Toasted Oats Cereal Quick Oatmeal <u>Soups/Meals</u> Chicken Noodle, Low Sodium Chicken with Rice, Low Sodium Vegetarian Minestrone

*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
2012	\$12,500,000.00	\$1,230,000.00	\$0.00	\$690,000.00	\$10,580,000.00	12,641,443

*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 FY12, the four Massachusetts Regional Food Banks distributed more than 16 million pounds of MEFAP food (representing over 12.5 million meals) to those in need throughout the State, a decrease of 10.5% over the prior year. Price increases both at the start and over the course of the MEFAP year had a significant impact on the pounds distributed through MEFAP, despite continued improvements in product selection and sourcing aimed at stretching funding dollars.

With commodity prices continuing to rise and the need continuing to outpace meals distributed, The Massachusetts Regional Food Banks rely even more on MEFAP funding as they strive to provide all those in need in the Commonwealth with three meals a day.

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.



Andrew Morehouse, Executive Director
Food Bank of Western Massachusetts
97 North Hatfield Road, P.O. Box 160
Hatfield, MA 01038
Phone: (413) 247-9738
Email: andrewm@foodbankwma.org
www.foodbankwma.org



Catherine D'Amato, President and CEO
The Greater Boston Food Bank
70 South Bay Ave.
Boston, MA 02118
Phone: (617) 427-5200
Email: cdamato@gbfb.org
www.gbfb.org



Amy Pessia, Executive Director
Merrimack Valley Food Bank
735 Broadway Street
Lowell, MA 01854
Phone: (978) 454-7272
Email: amy_pessia@mvfb.org
www.mvfb.org



Jean G. McMurray, Executive Director
Worcester County Food Bank
474 Boston Turnpike
Shrewsbury, MA 01545
Phone: (508) 842-3663
Email: jean@foodbank.org
www.foodbank.org