



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of
Health and Human Services

Governor's Anti-Hunger Task Force

Virtual Meeting: December 5, 2025



Agenda



1. Thank you for your work during the shutdown
2. Federal updates
3. Working Group Feedback and Recommendations
4. Listening Sessions
5. Next steps



Federal Updates



SNAP Updates

■ **Non-citizen eligibility & immigrant access to benefits:**

- The Trump Administration issued guidance implementation guidance on October 31st related to non-citizen eligibility changes, one day before states were expected to fully implement the changes. Attorney General Campbell joined a multi-state lawsuit suing USDA for illegally cutting off certain legal permanent residents.
- Additionally, the Trump Administration posted a proposed change to the “public charge” rule to expand the definition of inadmissibility for permanent residency, which, if enacted, will likely impact SNAP participation among eligible immigrants.

■ **Administrative funding**

- USDA Secretary Rollins threatened to withhold administrative funding to states, including Massachusetts, who have not turned over certain data to the federal government. Massachusetts has not received notice from USDA on the withholding of funds. AG Campbell joined a multi-state lawsuit over a similar data request; a judge ruled in favor of the states and issued a preliminary injunction on Oct 15th.

■ **Payment Error Rate**

- This week Massachusetts submitted two waiver requests to USDA that focus on ensuring accuracy measures tied to severe federal penalties only include factors within DTA’s control. If approved, these waivers would:
 1. Exclude October and November 2025 from PER calculation given multiple USDA guidance shifts on benefit administration during the shutdown;
 2. Exclude client caused errors from PER calculation



Working Group Feedback & Recommendations



Overview and timeline

Working Groups:



Increasing access to food assistance for directly impacted populations
(Subgroups on immigrants, families w/ children and persons with disabilities & older adults)



Building rural resiliency and sustaining local food systems



Funding opportunities & scaling solutions: Philanthropy & advocacy

Timeline:

Today: Task Force members provide feedback on initial recommendations

Dec: Working groups meet to refine recommendations based on task force and listening session feedback (as needed)

Dec/Jan: Co-chairs draft report based on discussions

Jan: Task Force meets to discuss final report & submits to Governor



Increasing Access to Food Assistance Feedback & Recommendations (1/2)

■ **Supporting DTA infrastructure and clients**

- Invest in DTA to help reduce the error rate and see that eligible clients maintain their SNAP benefits, including through support for staffing and IT systems
- Conduct robust outreach to ensure clients and communities are aware of the changes, including
 - Awareness of benefits for kids and mixed-immigrant families keeping kids' benefits
 - Expanding the number of Councils on Aging that participate as SNAP outreach partners
- Maximize employment and training opportunities available, including community service opportunities, to support older adults and residents with children aged 14 and older newly subject to work rules

■ **Maximizing child nutrition programs**

- Increase school breakfast and CACFP participation in impacted communities, including through
 - Targeted outreach
 - Exploring CACFP reimbursement rates
 - Exploring more regional school district food procurements and culinary spaces to maximize prices by scale and incorporation of local products
- Create a public dashboard on school breakfast and CACFP participation data to understand access and gaps



Increasing Access to Food Assistance Feedback & Recommendations (2/2)

■ **Supporting the Emergency Food System**

- Create food pantry specific guidance related to immigration enforcement and offer robust trainings and materials on it
- Hold a convening for food pantries with legal representatives to discuss best practices/strategies
- Maximize state participation in the Commodity Supplemental Food Program
- Work with philanthropy to expand delivery programs, including partnering with organization that are already going to people's homes and senior housing buildings

■ **Additional**

- Conduct a report on grocery prices by community and organization to understand equitable pricing and access for low-income residents

Rural Resiliency & Sustaining Local Food Systems Feedback & Recommendations



- **Re-establish Local Food Purchasing Agreement (LFPA) and Local Food For Schools – successful federal programs that operated in MA but were eliminated by USDA in 2025.**
 - LFPA was a transformative program that provided public funds for community-based organizations to purchase food from Massachusetts farmers to distribute to food insecure families.
 - Local Food For Schools provided integral connections between farms and schools across the Commonwealth, helping to increase the awareness of production practices while increasing nutritional value of school meals.
- **Sustain and expand the Food Security Infrastructure Grant (FSIG) Program.**
 - Explore program changes that expand eligibility and accessibility and that address impacts of SNAP cuts.
 - Prioritize transportation, distribution, and middle of the supply chain resiliency, particularly in rural areas, for food and seafood businesses.
- **Develop a state tax credit for farmers/producers who are donating food.**
 - Support *An Act Encouraging the Donation of Food to Persons In Need* currently filed by Senator Comerford and Representative Kane, which would provide a tax credit to Massachusetts farmers in the amount of the fair market value of the donated food, with a \$25,000 non-refundable tax credit for farmers, while extending civil liability protections. Amend bill to allow for the same credit for fishers and seafood processors who donate food.
- **Ensure adequate funding for HIP at the beginning of each fiscal year.**
 - Program uncertainty when it is not funded at adequate levels reduces food security for consumers and sustainability for farmers.

Funding Opportunities and Scaling Solutions Feedback & Recommendations



- Maximize federal and state funding opportunities**

- Increase school breakfast participation and emphasize child nutrition programs to leverage federal reimbursement
- Invest in the Department of Transitional Assistance efforts to reduce payment error rates and support access to SNAP

- Deepen public-private partnerships**

- Create a clear, dedicated fundraising campaign to mobilize philanthropy for food security responses statewide with a focus on regional solutions
- Develop and support partnerships between anti-hunger organizations and agriculture organizations to feed residents
- Identify and fund opportunities for assisting residents with low incomes to remain connected to SNAP
- Partner with mutual aid organizations to support community food security efforts
- Evaluate outcomes of initiatives, measure food security trends, and assess community-level access to food
- Identify opportunities to address capacity challenges of local programs
- Increase food donations/food rescue and deepen impact of current efforts through education campaigns, expanding infrastructure, and leveraging state-level efforts, such as the Food Waste Ban.



Listening Session Feedback



Listening Session Schedule

The Anti-Hunger Task Force kicked off listening sessions last month.

Date	Time	Location
Monday, November 17	5:30-7:30p	Bristol County Agricultural High School -- 135 Center St. Dighton, MA 02715
Wednesday, November 19	5:30-7:30p	Virtual
Tuesday, December 9	5:00-7:00p	Springfield Technical Community College -- 1 Armory St. Springfield, MA 01105
Wednesday, December 10	5:30-7:30p	Charlton Public Library -- 40 Main St, Charlton, MA 01507
Monday, December 15	5:30-7:30p	Northern Essex Community College - Haverhill Campus -- 100 Elliott St, Haverhill, MA 01830

We invite listening session participants to provide feedback on any of the following prompts:

- What suggestions do have for short and long-term strategies to address federal cuts to SNAP?
- What are the key considerations the task force should address in forming recommendations?
- What would help the residents in your community be food secure in light of federal cuts?



Next steps

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- Working Group Meetings
 - Dec 8th at 2p – Immigrant sub-work group meeting
 - Dec 9th at 10a – Older adults and people with disabilities sub-work group meeting
 - Dec 11th at 3p – Families with children sub-work group meeting
 - Dec 12th at 1p – Funding opportunities working group meeting
- Listening Sessions
 - Tuesday, December 9th, 5:00-7:00p, Springfield Technical Community College -- 1 Armory St. Springfield, MA 01105
 - Wednesday, December 10, 5:30-7:30p, Charlton Public Library -- 40 Main St, Charlton, MA 01507
 - Monday, December 15, 5:30-7:30p, Northern Essex Community College - Haverhill Campus -- 100 Elliott St, Haverhill, MA 01830
- Anti-Hunger Task Force next meeting: January 29, 2026 from 3:30-5p