

# Massachusetts FOOD TRUST PROGRAM

Good for Jobs, Good for Communities, Good for Health



## Support the Massachusetts Food Trust in the FY17 Budget

**Please co-sponsor Rep. Donahue's amendment to dedicate \$500,000 for the Massachusetts Food Trust Program within the MA Office of Business Development (7007-0300)**

*To sign on, contact Carolyn Cismondi in Rep. Donahue's office: x7783 or [Carolyn.cismondi@mahouse.gov](mailto:Carolyn.cismondi@mahouse.gov)*

### 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 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 Kristina St. Cyr at the Massachusetts Public Health Association: [kstcyr@mapublichealth.org](mailto:kstcyr@mapublichealth.org), 781-603-6716.*

# Organizations supporting the Massachusetts Food Trust

(as of April 13, 2016)

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