



December 23, 2021

The Honorable Charlie Baker, Governor
Massachusetts State House, Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Baker,

We urge you to include \$20 million for the Healthy Incentives Program in your FY23 annual budget proposal. Doing so will demonstrate a commitment to healthy families and sustainable farms, both of which are critical to Massachusetts' recovery from the ongoing pandemic. This level of funding will support year-round operation of the program and continued growth in participation both from farmers and SNAP client households.

Throughout your time as Governor, you have supported strong, innovative public health measures to improve the long-term health of the Commonwealth. The Healthy Incentives Program is one example of the success of that work, and this investment would build upon that success. Program use has grown 34% this fiscal year, and the Department of Transitional Assistance's new tools including the DTAfinder map of HIP points of sale and text alerts to its client base are attracting more people to the program, which translates into more low-income households eating healthy food. The success of HIP will be part of the legacy of your administration, and this investment is critical to ensuring that it is sustained.

Through HIP, families purchased more than \$5.6 million in healthy produce from Massachusetts farmers in the first five months of the fiscal year alone. HIP is increasing access to healthy food in some of Massachusetts' most vulnerable communities and creating markets for local farms. Every dollar dedicated to this program is a direct investment in the health of Massachusetts residents and communities, our local economy, and our natural resources.

The Healthy Incentives Program provides a dollar-for-dollar match, up to a monthly limit dependent on household size, for SNAP dollars spent on fruits and vegetables purchased at participating farmers markets, farm stands, mobile markets, and community supported agriculture (CSA) programs across the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth has been a national leader in addressing food insecurity, farm viability, and economic development for many years. We urge you to continue to invest in HIP so that this innovative program can carry on with improving the health of our residents, sustain our farms, and support a healthy environment and economy for all residents of Massachusetts.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this input.

Sincerely,

Winton Pitcoff, Director

On behalf of:

Organizations

AARP Massachusetts, statewide
Alchemy Initiative, Pittsfield
All Farmers, Springfield
Alliance of Massachusetts YMCAs, Boston
Allston Brighton Health Collaborative, Boston
American Academy of Pediatrics, MA Chapter, Waltham
American Farmland Trust, Northampton
American Heart Association and American Stroke Association, Waltham
Amherst Food Co-op, Amherst
Amherst Survival Center, North Amherst
Arlington EATS, Arlington
Arlington Food Pantry, Arlington
Arlington Regional Model United Nations, Arlington
Arise for Social Justice, Springfield
Backyard Growers, Gloucester
Be Well Berkshires, Pittsfield, Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, Stockbridge
Berkshire Community Action Council, Inc., Berkshire County
Berkshire Farm & Table, Sheffield
Berkshire Grown, Berkshire County
Beverly Farmers' Market, Beverly
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Natick
Boston Area Gleaners, Inc., Waltham
Boston Children's Hospital, Boston
Boston Mayor's Office of Food Access, Boston
Boston Public Health Commission, Boston
Buy Fresh Buy Local Cape Cod, Barnstable
Cape Ann Farmers' Market, Gloucester
The Carrot Project, Boston
Catholic Charities Worcester County, Worcester
Central Mass Grown, Worcester
Central West Justice Center, Worcester
Children's HealthWatch, Boston
CISA (Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture), South Deerfield
Citizens for Citizens, Inc., Greater Fall River
CitySprouts, Boston
Clean Water Action, statewide
Coalition for a Healthy Greater Worcester, Worcester
Coalition for Social Justice, Southeastern Massachusetts
Coastal Foodshed, New Bedford
CommonWealth Kitchen, Dorchester
Community Action Agency of Somerville, Inc., Somerville
Community Action Pioneer Valley, Greenfield
Community Health Network of North Central Mass, 27 North Central towns
Community Servings, Jamaica Plain
Community Teamwork, Greater Lowell
Conservation Law Foundation, Boston
Easthampton Community Center, Easthampton
Easite Farm, Boston
Ethos, Jamaica Plain
Falmouth Service Center, Inc., Falmouth
The Family Pantry of Cape Cod, Harwich
Farm Aid, Cambridge
Florence Congregational Church, Florence
The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, Hatfield
Food For Free Committee, Inc., Cambridge
The Food Project, Lynn
FoodCorps, Boston
FoodXChange, Boston
Franklin County Community Development Corporation, Greenfield
Franklin County Food Council, Greenfield
Friedman Food Policy Action Council, Boston
Friendly House, Inc., Worcester
Friends of Sholan Farms, Leominster
Gardening the Community, Springfield
Ginny's Helping Hand, Inc., Leominster
Greater Boston Nazarene Compassionate Center, Inc., Mattapan
Greater Fall River Community Food Pantry, Tiverton
Greater Lynn Senior Services, Lynn
Greening Greenfield, Greenfield
Groundwork Lawrence, Lawrence, Methuen & Haverhill
Grow Food Northampton, Northampton
Growing Places/Fitchburg Farmers Market, Leominster
Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell, Westford
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Wellesley
Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation, Wellesley
Health Care For All, Boston
Health Care Without Harm, Statewide
Health & Social Services Consortium, Inc., South Norfolk County
Healthy Chelsea, Chelsea
Healthy Hampshire, Northampton
Hilltown Community Health Center, Worthington, Huntington
Hopkinton Harvest, Inc., Hopkinton
Holyoke Food and Equity Collective, Holyoke
Island Grown Initiative, Tisbury
Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action, Boston
Just Roots Inc., Greenfield
Let's Talk About Food, Cambridge
Lettuce Be Local, Sterling
LifePath, Inc., Greenfield
Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry, Worcester, MA
Lynn Economic Opportunity (LEO), Lynn, Nahant, Swampscott, Wakefield, Saugus and Marblehead
Marion Institute, Marion
Martin Luther King Family Services, Inc., Springfield
Mass Audubon, Statewide
Mass Farmers Markets, Waltham
Mass in Motion Holyoke, Holyoke
Mass in Motion New Bedford, New Bedford
Mass in Motion Salem, Salem
Mass In Motion Springfield, Springfield
Mass Law Reform Institute, Boston
Massachusetts Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Statewide
Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations (MACDC), Boston
Massachusetts Association of Health Boards, Plainville
Massachusetts Councils on Aging, statewide
Massachusetts Farm to School, statewide
Massachusetts Fruit Growers Association, statewide
Massachusetts Health Council, statewide
Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association, Burlington
Massachusetts Public Health Association, Boston
Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition, Boston
Merrimack Valley Food Bank, Lowell
Metropolitan Area Planning Council, Boston
Metropolitan Area Planning Council
Mill City Grows, Lowell
Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, Athol
Murray UU Church Food Pantry, Attleboro
NAC Food Pantry, Whitinsville
New England Vegetable & Berry Growers Association, New England
New England Small Farm Institute (NESFI), Belchertown
New Entry Sustainable Farming Project, Beverly
newedibles.com, Colrain
North Adams Council on Aging, North Adams
Northampton Survival Center, Northampton
Northeast Organic Farming Association, Massachusetts Chapter, Barre
Nubian United Benevolent International Association (NUBIA) Inc., Boston
Old Colony YMCA, Brockton
The Open Pantry of Greater Lowell, Lowell
Three Sisters Garden Project, Ipswich
Open Table, Maynard and Concord
Plainfield Agricultural Commission, Plainfield
Positive Change for Animals, Clinton
Project Bread-Walk for Hunger, East Boston

Public Health Institute of Western MA,
Western MA
Public Higher Education Network of
Massachusetts (PHENOM), Statewide
Quabbin Harvest, Orange
Rachel's Table, Worcester
Regional Environmental Council of Central
MA, Worcester
Revere on the Move, Revere
Rosie's Place, Boston
Roxbury in Motion, Boston
Senior Care, Inc., Gloucester
The Senior Center in Shelburne, Shelburne
Falls
Shape Up Somerville, Somerville
Somerville Food Security Coalition,
Somerville
Southbridge Food Share, Southbridge
Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural
Partnership, South Dartmouth
Southeastern MA Food Security Network,
New Bedford
Springfield Food Policy Council, Springfield
St. Anthony's Pantry at Sacred Heart-St.
Catherine of Sweden Church, Worcester
St. James food Pantry, South Grafton
St. James Outreach Group, South Grafton
Stone Soup Cafe, Greenfield
Sustainable CAPE, Truro
Sustainable Nantucket/Community Farm
Institute, Nantucket
Tapestry, Florence
Temple Sinai, Sharon
The Greater Boston Food Bank, Boston
The Nutrition Center, Inc., Great Barrington
The Open Door, Gloucester
The Open Pantry of Greater Lowell, Lowell
The Trustees, statewide
Toxics Action Center Campaigns, Boston
United Neighbors of Fall River, Fall River
Urban Farming Institute, Roxbury
Waltham Fields Community
Farm/Community Farms Outreach, Inc.,
Waltham
Western Area Mass Dietetic Association,
Springfield
Western Massachusetts Health Equity
Network, Amherst
WHEAT Community Connections, Clinton
Winchester Farmers Market Community Hub
Inc., Winchester
Women's Lunch Place, Boston
Worcester County Food Bank, Shrewsbury
Worcester Food Policy Council, Worcester

Farms and Markets

About Fresh, Boston
All Farmers, Springfield
Amherst Winter Farmers' Market, Hadley
Andover Farmers Market, Andover
Apponagansett Farm, Dartmouth
Arrowhead Farm, Newburyport
Ashfield Farmers Market, Ashfield
Ashmont Farmers Market, Dorchester
Back Azimuth Farm, Middleborough
Barrett's Mill Farm, Concord
Berberian Farm, Northborough
Belchertown Farmers Market, Belchertown
Belmont Farmers' Market, Belmont

Bowdoin Geneva Farmers Market,
Dorchester
Braintree Farmers Market, Braintree
Bree-Z-Knoll Farm, Leyden
Breezy Gardens, Leicester
Brewster Historical Society Farmers Market,
Brewster
Brookfield Farm, Amherst
Brookside Family Farm, Westminster
Brox Farm, Dracut
Busa Farm and Markets, Concord, Lincoln,
Lexington
Cambridge Winter Farmers Market,
Cambridge
Cape Ann Farmers Market, Gloucester
Carlisle Farmers Market, Carlisle
Central Square Farmers' Market, Cambridge
Charles Square Winter Farmers Market,
Cambridge
Chestnut Hill Farm, Southborough
Citysoul Farmers Market, Springfield
Clarkdale Fruit Farms, Deerfield
Cluck & Trowel, Westport
Copley Square Farmers' Market, Boston
Cotyledon Farm, Leicester
Coyote Hill Farm, Bernardston
Crocket Creek Farm, Williamstown
Crimson and Clover Farm, Northampton
Davis Square Farmers' Market, Somerville
Dedham Farmers Market, Dedham
Dufresne's Sugar House, Williamsburg
East Boston Farmers Market, East Boston
East Street Farm Stand, Tewksbury
Easthampton Farmers' and Makers' Market,
Easthampton
Eden Pond Farm, Bernardston
Elliot Farm, Lakeville
F3 Farm, New Bedford
Farm Direct Coop, Marblehead
Farmer Dave's, Dracut
Farmers' Market at Forest Park, Springfield
Farm Direct Co-op, Marblehead
First-Flower Farm, Great Barrington
Fitchburg Farmers Market, Fitchburg
Flats Mentor Farm, Lancaster
Florence Farmer's Market, Florence
Flourish Farm, Brimfield
Foppema's Farm LLC, Northbridge
Four Star Farms, Northfield
Freedom Food Farm, Raynham
Front Yard Farm, Ware
Full Well Farm, Adams
Fungi Ally, Hadley
Gibney Gardens, Danvers
GO Farm, Amherst
Good Bunch Farm, Conway
Gooseberry Farm, West Springfield
GraftonFarmers' Market, Grafton
Granny's Place, Agawam
Graylight Farm, Lee
Grow Education, New Bedford
Hager's Farm Market, Shelburne
Harper's Farm & Garden, Lancaster
Hart Farm, Conway
Healthy Futures Farm, Westport
Heart Beets Farm, Berkley
Hill Orchard, Westford
Holiday Brook Farm, Pittsfield, Dalton
Holly Hill Farm, Cohasset
Holyoke Farmers' Market, Holyoke

Indian Line Farm, Great Barrington
Intervale Farm, Westhampton
Just Roots, Greenfield
Justamere Tree Farm, Worthington
Ladybug Farm Produce, Hubbardston
Lane Gardens & Oakdale Farms, Dighton,
Rehoboth, Seekonk
Lanni Orchards, Lunenburg
Langwater Farm, Easton
Leominster Marketplace, Leominster
Lexington Farmers' Market, Lexington
Long Life Farm, Hopkinton
Lynn Central Square Farmers' Market, Lynn
Lyonsville Farm, Colrain
MacArthur Farm, Holliston
Manda Farm, Plainfield
Many Forks Farm, Clarkburg
Many Hands Organic Farm, Barre
Marini Farm LLC, Ipswich
Mary's Garden, Southbridge
Mattapan Farmers Market, Mattapan
McKinstry Market Garden Inc., Chicopee
Medway Community Farm, Inc, Medway
Mill City Grows, Lowell
Moonlight Farm, Ashby
Moonlight rose, Swansea
Movement Ground Farm, Berkley
Mycoterra Farm, South Deerfield
MX Morningstar Farm, Copake
Natick Farmers Market, Natick
The Neighborhood Farm, Boston
Nest and Song Farm, Westport
New Bedford Farmers Markets, New
Bedford
Next Barn Over Farm, Hadley
The Newburyport Farmers' Market,
Newburyport
Newton Farmers' Market, Newton
Northampton Farmers Market, Northampton
Nuestras Raices, Holyoke
Nutwood Farm, Cummington
Oak Square Farmers Market, Brighton
Old Friends Farm, Amherst
Original Easton Farmer's Market, Easton
Out There Organics, Truro
Overlook Farm, Brookfield
Paradise Hill Farm/Boan Farm, Westport
Park Hill Orchard, Easthampton
Patti's Patch, Middleboro
Pignatare's Farm, Westfield
Quabbin Harvest, Orange
Rainbow Harvest Farm, Greenfield
REC Community Farmers Markets,
Worcester
Red Apple Farm, Red Apple Farm
Red Fire Farm, Montague, Granby
Red Gate Farm, Ashfield
Revere Farmers Market, Revere
ReVision Urban Farm, Dorchester
Rice's Roots Farm, Petersham
River Street Gardens, Halifax
Riverdale Farm, Groton
Roslindale Village Main Street, Roslindale
Sabatia Flower Farm, Barnstable
Sally Frank's Farmers' Market, Melrose
Sapowsky Farms, Granby
Seeds of Solidarity, Orange
Sentinel Farm, Belchertown
Shelburne Falls Farmers Market, Shelburne
Falls

Sibling Organic Crops, Brockton
Siena Farms, Sudbury
Silverbrook Farm, Dartmouth
Simple Gifts Farm, Amherst
Skinny Dip Farm, Westport
Somerville Winter Farmers Market,
Somerville
Souza Family Farm, Rehoboth
Springfield Central Downtown Farmers'
Market, Springfield
Stoneham farmers market, Stoneham
Stony Hill Farm, Wilbraham
Stoughton Farmers Market, Stoughton
Summit farm, Belchertown

Sweet Birch Herbals, Northampton
Sweet Morning Farm, Leyden
Tangerini's Farm, Millis, Natick
The Atherton Farm, Buckland
The Benson Place, Heath
The New Bedford Farmers Market, New
Bedford
Trotwood Acres Farm, Westfield
Truro Educational Farmers' Market, Truro
Two Field Farm, Wayland
Under the Sun Farm, North Dighton
Under the sun farm, Raynham
Union Square Farmers Market, Somerville
Upingil, Gill

Upswing farm, Ashland, Holliston
Urban Artisan Farm Inc., Springfield
Urban Farming Institute, Dorchester
Valley Opportunity Council, Chicopee
Wakefield Farmers Market, Wakefield
Wally's Vegetables, Haverhill
Watertown Farmers' Market, Watertown
Wayland Winter/Summer Farmers' Markets,
Wayland
We Grow Microgreens, Hyde Park
Winchester Farmers Market, Winchester
Wright-Locke Farm, Winchester