



January 12, 2024

The Honorable Maura Healey, Governor  
Massachusetts State House, Room 280  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Healey,

The Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) has had a profound impact on Massachusetts families and farms, resulting in positive health outcomes for some of the Commonwealth's most vulnerable families, and supporting farm sustainability through millions of dollars in increased sales. The Massachusetts Food System Collaborative was established to promote, monitor, and facilitate implementation of the [Massachusetts Local Food Action Plan](#), accepted by the state in 2015. The Collaborative supports collective action towards a sustainable, equitable, resilient local food system, and the Campaign For HIP Funding is one of our longest-running campaigns.

**The Campaign For HIP Funding urges you to include \$25 million for HIP (4400-1004) in your Fiscal Year 2025 budget proposal.** Doing so will demonstrate a commitment to healthy families and sustainable local farms, both of which are critical to Massachusetts' response to the economic downturn. This amount, \$25 million, will support year-round operation of HIP, including continued growth in participation both from farmers and SNAP client households, including newly reinstated benefits for lawfully present immigrant households, and education and outreach efforts to ensure the program is equitably reaching all communities in the Commonwealth.

HIP is one example of Massachusetts' history of innovative policy approaches to combat food insecurity and support local farms, and this \$25 million investment would build upon that success. Program usage has historically grown at 33%, and an upcoming user experience redesign of the program will make HIP more accessible, meaning a growing consumer base.

Through HIP, families purchased more than \$9.7 million in produce from Massachusetts farmers in the first half of the fiscal year. Every dollar dedicated to this program is a direct investment in the health of Massachusetts residents and communities, in our local economy, and in our natural resources. The \$61 million of incentives earned since HIP's launch in April 2017 has had a profound impact on hundreds of thousands of households, and hundreds of local farms in Massachusetts.

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.

HIP is the only nutrition incentive program that operates on this scale nationwide, continuing Massachusetts' legacy of national leadership in innovative policy approaches to relieving hunger and supporting local agriculture. We urge you to further invest in HIP so that this innovative program can continue to improve 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,

Rebecca Miller, Policy Director

On behalf of these Campaign for HIP Funding supporters:

**Organizations**

AARP Massachusetts, Statewide	Coalition for a Healthy Greater Worcester, Worcester
About Fresh, Boston	Coalition for Social Justice, Southeastern Massachusetts
Alchemy Initiative, Pittsfield	Coastal Foodshed, New Bedford
All Farmers, Springfield	CommonWealth Kitchen, Dorchester
Alliance of Massachusetts YMCAs, Boston	Community Action Agency of Somerville, Inc., Somerville
Allston Brighton Health Collaborative, Boston	Community Action Pioneer Valley, Greenfield
American Academy of Pediatrics, MA Chapter, Waltham	Community Health Network of North Central Mass, 27 North Central towns
American Farmland Trust, Northampton	Community Servings, Jamaica Plain
American Heart Association and American Stroke Association, Waltham	Community Teamwork, Greater Lowell
Amherst Food Co-op, Amherst	Conservation Law Foundation, Boston
Amherst Survival Center, North Amherst	Easthampton Community Center, Easthampton
Arlington EATS, Arlington	Ethos, Jamaica Plain
Arlington Food Pantry, Arlington	Falmouth Service Center, Inc., Falmouth
Arlington Regional Model United Nations, Arlington	The Family Pantry of Cape Cod, Harwich
Arise for Social Justice, Springfield	Farm Aid, Cambridge
Backyard Growers, Gloucester	Florence Congregational Church, Florence
Be Well Berkshires, Pittsfield, Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, Stockbridge	The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, Hatfield
Berkshire Community Action Council, Inc., Berkshire County	Food For Free Committee, Inc., Cambridge
Berkshire Farm & Table, Sheffield	The Food Project, Lynn
Berkshire Grown, Berkshire County	FoodCorps, Boston
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Natick	FoodXChange, Boston
Boston Area Gleaners, Inc., Waltham	Franklin County Community Development Corporation, Greenfield
Boston Children's Hospital, Boston	Franklin County Food Council, Greenfield
Boston Mayor's Office of Food Access, Boston	Friedman Food Policy Action Council, Boston
Boston Public Health Commission, Boston	Friendly House, Inc., Worcester
Buy Fresh Buy Local Cape Cod, Barnstable	Friends of Sholan Farms, Leominster
Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee, Cambridge	Gardening the Community, Springfield
Cape Ann Farmers' Market, Gloucester	Ginny's Helping Hand, Inc., Leominster
The Carrot Project, Boston	Greater Boston Food Bank, Boston
Catholic Charities Worcester County, Worcester	Greater Boston Nazarene Compassionate Center , Inc., Mattapan
Central Mass Grown, Worcester	Greater Fall River Community Food Pantry, Tiverton
Central West Justice Center, Worcester	Greater Lynn Senior Services, Lynn
Children's HealthWatch, Boston	Greening Greenfield, Greenfield
CISA (Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture), South Deerfield	Groundwork Lawrence, Lawrence, Methuen & Haverhill
Citizens for Citizens, Inc., Greater Fall River	Grow Food Northampton, Northampton
CitySprouts, Boston	Growing Places/Fitchburg Farmers Market, Leominster
Clean Water Action, Statewide	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  
 Healthy Chelsea, Chelsea  
 Healthy Hampshire, Northampton  
 HESSCO, Sharon  
 Hilltown Community Health Center, Worthington,  
 Huntington  
 Holyoke Office of Planning and Economic  
 Development/Holyoke Mass in Motion, Holyoke  
 Hopkinton Harvest, Inc., Hopkinton  
 Island Grown Initiative, Tisbury  
 IUW-CWA Local 81776, Marblehead  
 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 - Fall River  
 Mass In Motion - New Bedford  
 Mass In Motion - Salem  
 Mass In Motion - 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  
 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, Lowell  
 newedibles.com, Colrain  
 North Adams Council on Aging, North Adams  
 Northampton Survival Center, Northampton  
 Northeast Organic Farming Association, Massachusetts  
 Chapter, Barre

Nourishing the North Shore, Newburyport  
 Nubian United Benevolent International Association  
 (NUBIA) Inc., Boston  
 Old Colony YMCA, Brockton  
 The Open Pantry of Greater Lowell, Lowell  
 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  
 Quabbin Food Connector, Inc., 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  
 SeniorCare, Inc., Gloucester  
 The Senior Center in Shelburne, Shelburne  
 Shape Up Somerville, Somerville  
 Somerville Food Security Coalition, Somerville  
 Southbridge Food Share, Southbridge  
 Southcoast Food Policy Council, Marion  
 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 Nutrition Center, Inc., Great Barrington  
 The Open Door, Gloucester  
 The Trustees, Statewide  
 Toxics Action Center Campaigns, Boston  
 United Neighbors of Fall River, Fall River  
 Urban Farming Institute, Boston  
 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  
 Women's Lunch Place, Boston  
 Worcester County Food Bank, Shrewsbury  
 Worcester Food Policy Council, Worcester  
 YMCA Southcoast, New Bedford

### **Farms and Farmers Markets**

Amherst Winter Farmers' Market, Hadley  
 Apponagansett Farm, Dartmouth  
 Arrowhead Farm, Newburyport  
 Ashfield Farmers market, Ashfield

Ashmont Farmers Market, Dorchester  
 Barrett's Mill Farm, Concord  
 Berberian Farm, Northborough  
 Belchertown Farmers Market, Belchertown

Beverly Farmers' Market, Beverly  
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  
Cricket 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  
Eastie Farm, East Boston  
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 Farmers Market, Florence  
Flourish Farm, Brimfield  
Foppema's Farm LLC, Northbridge  
Four Star Farms, Northfield  
Freedom Food Farm, Raynham  
Fresh Truck, Boston  
Front Yard Farm, Ware  
Fungi Ally, Hadley  
Gibney Gardens, Danvers  
GO Farm, Amherst  
Good Bunch Farm, Conway  
Gooseberry Farm, West Springfield  
Grafton Farmers' 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  
Holyoke Food and Equity Collective, 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 Farmers 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  
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

Three Sisters Garden Project, Ipswich  
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, Boston  
Winchester Farmers Market, Winchester  
Winchester Farmers Market Community Hub Inc.,  
Winchester  
Wright-Locke Farm, Winchester