



April 1, 2024

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
24 Beacon St
Room 212
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Chair Rodrigues, Vice-Chair Friedman, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for your support of the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) in the fiscal year 2024 annual budget. The state's continued investment means millions of dollars saved in avoidable healthcare costs, more dollars circulating in the local economy, more food on the tables of some of our most vulnerable residents, and more dollars for local, healthy food grown by Massachusetts farmers. On behalf of the 300+ member organizations of the Campaign for HIP Funding, we write with a mix of gratitude for your past support and concern about the program in coming months.

We respectfully ask that as you take up H.4496, a supplemental budget filed by Governor Healey, and you include \$5.1 million for HIP, line item 4400-1004. We know that there currently is not enough funding for HIP to operate year-round, as required via language in line item 4400-1004 in the FY2023 budget, and we are concerned. Without supplemental funding, HIP will be forced to suspend program operations this fiscal year. When program suspension last happened in spring 2020, there was mass confusion and chaos at farmers' markets, and stakeholders lost trust in the program.

The FY2024 budget allocated a total of \$13.8 million for HIP (\$5 million in new funding and an \$8.8 million PAC). This is less than the \$15.1 million the program spent in FY23 despite sustained increases in program participation rates among SNAP households. So far in this fiscal year, the program grew at a rate of 19.6%. As of March 1, we estimate there was \$1.5 million in the HIP account for the remainder of the fiscal year.

HIP is a win-win program with strong impacts on public health, local economy, and the state's farmers. Program suspensions cause chaos and create distrust between farmer vendors on the front line of program delivery, SNAP clients, and the state. Massachusetts farmers coming off a year of climate-related disasters are looking for stability and predictability in their markets. HIP shoppers, including seniors, persons with disabilities, and households with a child, have seen their benefit levels significantly drop with the end of pandemic-era increases to SNAP, and are struggling to afford exactly the kinds of fresh produce that HIP provides.

The Collaborative is available to answer any questions you may have and connect you with farmers and HIP shoppers. We look forward to working with you to continue to grow this successful triple-win program. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this input.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Miller, Policy Director

On behalf of:

Organizations

AARP Massachusetts, Statewide
About Fresh, Boston
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
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
Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee, Cambridge
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
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 Food Bank, Boston
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
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
Upinngil, 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