



September 16, 2025

Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities  
24 Beacon Street  
Rooms 312D and 146  
Boston MA 02133

RE: S.104 / H.222, An Act relative to an agricultural healthy incentives program

Dear Chairs Kennedy and Livingstone, and Members of the Committee:

The Massachusetts Food System Collaborative is pleased to offer this written testimony in support of S.104 / H.222, An Act relative to an agricultural healthy incentives program. 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 leads collective action towards a sustainable, equitable, resilient local food system through advocacy campaigns and networks. We work with hundreds of food system partners across the Commonwealth who help us identify our legislative priorities, including farmland access and protection, food security, and more.

The Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) 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. S.104 / H.222 will codify HIP in statute and re-establish a trust fund that would be able to accept public and private funding, potentially increasing the reach and impact of HIP.

We are in support of S.104 / H.222, and ask that the Committee edit the following in section 1 “[t]he program shall...entitle the recipient to receive a matching benefit reimbursed on the recipient’s EBT card,” to either remove the word “matching” or replace with “[t]he program shall provide that actively receiving SNAP benefits shall entitle the recipient to a benefit reimbursed on the recipient’s EBT card when redeemed for eligible fruit and vegetable purchases”, or similar language as the Committee see fits. This will maintain the as-of August 17, 2025 single-swipe feature that DTA has upgraded HIP transactions to. Now, SNAP clients can access their full \$40/60/80 HIP benefit regardless of the amount left in their EBT account, where previously vendors were forced to swipe up to forty transactions for \$1 each, if a client only had \$1 left on their EBT account and wanted to purchase more than \$1 of HIP-eligible produce.

HIP’s impact on families, farms, and the local economy since its launch in April 2017 has been significant:

- SNAP recipients have purchased more than \$83 million of produce from local Massachusetts farmers, earning back an equal amount of incentives that they can later use.

- According to data published by DTA, more than 200,000 households have participated in the program, representing more than 300,000 individuals; in a recent month, 60% of the households that have used the program include a senior, 19% include a child, and 37% include a person with a disability.
- The program's success translates into an annual savings of millions of dollars in public health costs, due to reductions in chronic disease and medical costs brought about by healthy eating.<sup>1 2</sup>
- For every dollar spent on purchasing produce directly from a Massachusetts farmer, an additional \$2 in local economic activity is generated, meaning HIP has stimulated at least \$166 million in financial transactions in the Commonwealth.<sup>3</sup>
- For the 255 Massachusetts farmer vendors participating in HIP, the \$83 million in increased sales has made it possible for them to hire more staff, purchase goods and services from local businesses, and employ sustainable management practices that protect farmland and other natural resources, contributing to the Commonwealth's environmental health.

Incentives that give consumers more buying power to purchase fresh and healthy food through food assistance programs have a long history of success in Massachusetts, dating back to our first-in-the-nation farmers market coupon program for WIC recipients in 1986. There is a need and opportunity to support and expand these efforts in order to: deliver SNAP and other benefits more strategically to help increase purchases of fresh, healthy, local food; demonstrate the long term viability of such incentives programs; and offer a model that can be replicated widely and sustained into the future. Many other states look to Massachusetts as a leader in public policy, as one of the only states with a statewide nutrition incentive program. Passing S.104 / H.222 into law this session would demonstrate the state's continued support of HIP and the citizens of the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth has invested heavily in an extensive program operating infrastructure, including a small staff team, management, and outreach for HIP. This legislation is needed to protect the Commonwealth's investment, and to ensure that the program and a potential funding source exist in statute so that HIP will continue to operate.

We appreciate the Committee taking up this issue, and urge you to consider HIP in the context of Massachusetts' food system as a whole; both Massachusetts farmers and consumers benefit from this program. We respectfully request that the Committee pass S.104 / H.222 favorably. The Collaborative is available to provide additional information and connections to practitioners and advocates who can offer further details, at the pleasure of the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.jsi.com/resource/evaluation-of-the-healthy-incentives-program-an-analysis-of-the-state-of-massachusetts-food-insecurity-nutrition-incentive-grant-program/>

<sup>2</sup><https://childrenshealthwatch.org/an-avoidable-2-4-billion-cost-food-insecurity-and-hunger-in-massachusetts/>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.buylocalfood.org/buy-local/local-food-calculator/>

Rebecca Miller, Policy Director

**On behalf of the Campaign for HIP Funding:**

**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 Justice, 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, Statewide  
Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition, Boston  
Merrimack Valley Food Bank, Lowell  
Metropolitan Area Planning Council, Boston  
Metrowest Food Collaborative, Hudson  
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

### **Farms and Farmers Markets**

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

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

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