



Advocate to End Hunger

WCFB believes that food is a fundamental right of all people and that hunger is an issue of social justice. Through advocacy, we engage our partners, communities, and elected officials in creating long term solutions to address the root causes of hunger.

We believe to end hunger we need to support policy changes that:

1. Raise Wages & Increase Economic Opportunity
2. Support a Healthy & Equitable Food System
3. Support and Protect State and Federal Funding for Food Assistance Programs

Your Voice Matters!

Did you know that...

- it only takes three phone calls to an elected official for them to take notice of an issue?
- a personalized email or letter from a constituent really makes a difference to a policy maker?
- just a handful of comments on social media can get a legislators attention?

Become an Advocate!

Here's How:

1. **Sign up** to receive action alerts at www.foodbank.org/learn-more/advocacy.
2. **Contact your local, state and federal elected officials** to ask them to support programs and policies like the ones mentioned on the reverse that support people in being hunger-free and healthy. Not sure who your elected officials are? Visit www.wheredoivotema.com.
3. **Connect with us** and your elected officials on social media – we're on Twitter and Facebook, and so aren't many elected officials!
4. **Share Your Story**. Have you or someone you love experienced the hardship of not having enough food in your home? Your experience can help our elected officials understand. Consider sharing your story at www.foodbank.org/learn-more/advocacy.

Our Advocacy Partners

Local

Worcester Food Policy Council
Worcester Community Labor Coalition
Community Legal Aid

Statewide

Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
Massachusetts Public Health Association
Project Bread
Massachusetts Food Systems Collaborative

Regional

Food Solutions New England

National

Feeding America
Food Research and Action Center
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
Share Our Strength





Creating a hunger-free community

2015-2016 Public Policy Priorities

Local Level

Worcester's Urban Agriculture Rezoning Initiative - amending the zoning code will allow commercial urban agricultural activities in the city of Worcester, supporting economic development and the local food system.

Fight for \$15 – TIFs are tax incentive agreements made with developers on projects in the City of Worcester. The Worcester Community Labor Coalition is asking that the City's TIF Policy specify that developers must pay a minimum wage of \$15/hour for all new jobs created, and that women, people of color, and persons from low-income communities be targeted in hiring.

State Level

Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP). - MEFAP provides a consistent supply of quality, nutrient-rich foods and locally grown fresh produce to residents of the Commonwealth through the four Massachusetts Food Banks and their collective network of 845 food pantries, community meal programs, and shelters.

Close the "SNAP Gap"! (Through outside budget language or H.429) – Create a common application for Mass Health and SNAP benefits (as well as other DTA administered benefits), thus improving efficiency and increasing food security for over 570,000 people who are on MassHealth and qualify for SNAP.

Establish a living wage for employees of big box retail stores and fast food chains (S.1024). Establish a \$15/hour minimum wage at big box retail and fast food chains.

Implement and Fund the MA Food Trust (\$500,000 FY17 Budget line item 7007-0300, H.3983 \$10 million over 5 years). The MA Food Trust Program, established by law in 2014, would provide loans, grants, and technical assistance to support new and expanded healthy food retailers and food enterprises in low and moderate income communities.

Federal Level

Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act - Priorities for the coming reauthorization include strengthening the Summer Nutrition Programs so they can meet the needs of children and communities when school is out, continuing to support the momentum of school breakfast expansion in every state, and ensuring more children have a healthy start by improving early childhood nutrition programs.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – oppose funding cuts and harmful policy proposals including efforts to block grant or cap funding; impose restrictive work requirements; or otherwise reduce benefits or restrict eligibility or participation.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) – encourage the Secretary of Agriculture to apply bonus TEFAP purchase criteria as generously as possible and make fruits and vegetables purchases for TEFAP early and often to increase the availability of TEFAP commodities.