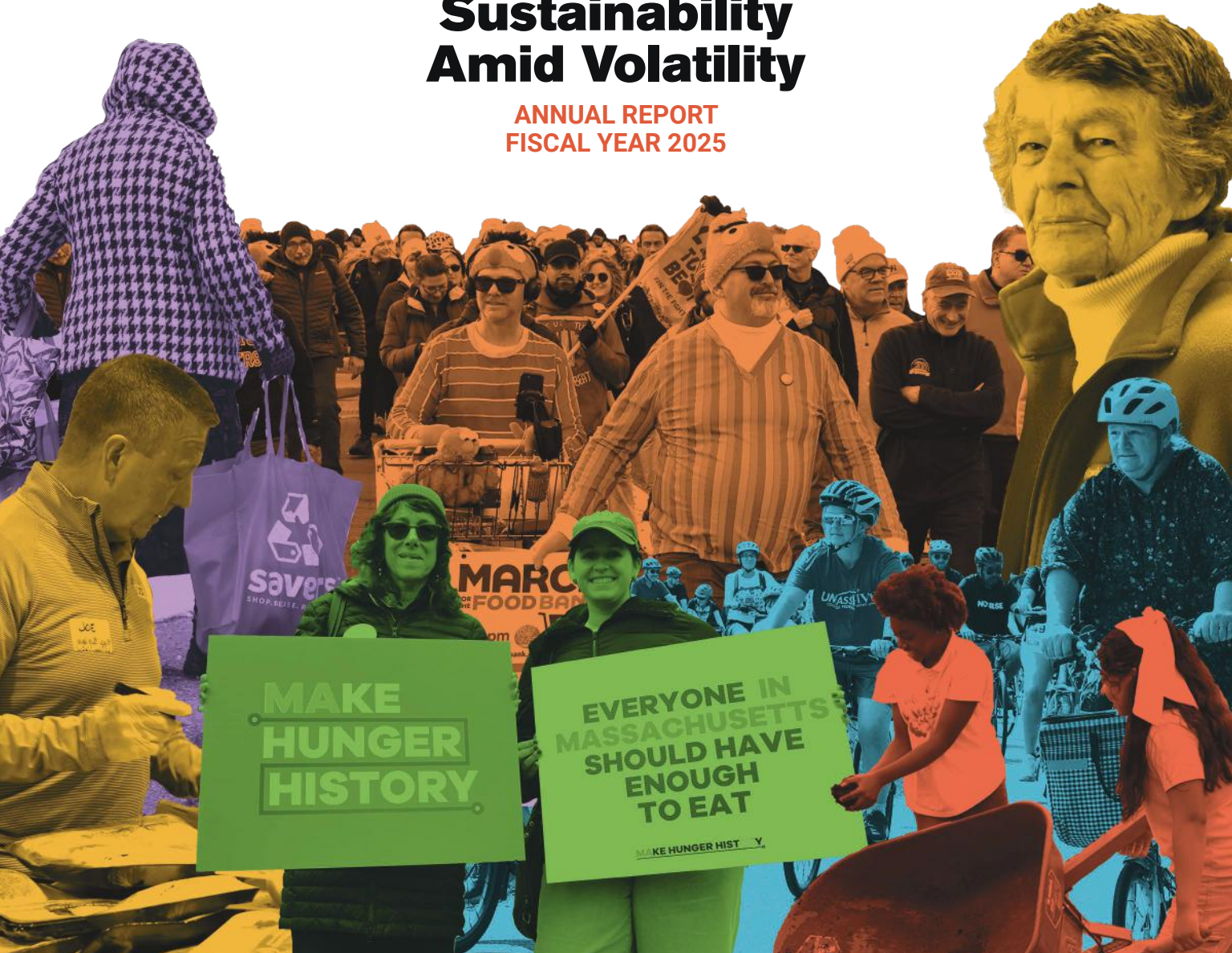


FOOD BANK

OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

Growth and Sustainability Amid Volatility

ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2025



MAKE HUNGER HISTORY.

EVERYONE IN MASSACHUSETTS SHOULD HAVE ENOUGH TO EAT


MAKE HUNGER HISTORY.

Message from Our Executive Director and Board President

As the +20-year Food Bank executive director and +5-year board member now-turned president, we want to thank you so very much for your investment in volunteering, advocating and giving to carry out our mission. Over these years, we've witnessed and experienced tough times (for different reasons): the Great Recession (economic), the pandemic (environmental) and now federal government abandonment (political).

During each of these crises, people, businesses, and other partners have always stepped up to take care of the communities in which we live. It's so reassuring to know we can count on each other.

Even tougher times appear to be on the horizon for many of us and, especially, people living with food insecurity because they don't earn enough to pay for their basic needs and/or because they are facing public benefits cuts with little to no opportunities to break out of poverty.

Together, we will face head on the challenges that lie ahead with you as well as our almost 200-member strong food assistance network and dozens of other social service organizations. As a part of our strategic planning process, we have mapped out four broad Food Bank goals: 

1

Expand and Strengthen Access to Food and Resources

Expand food assistance and make it more equitable, accessible, and aligned with community needs. Work with partners to improve the food assistance experience and to address food preferences and needs.

2

Strengthen Food Supply and Distribution Excellence

Grow and diversify the supply of donated, purchased, and regionally-grown food to meet current needs given our financial resources and capacity.

3

Mobilize Support and Advocate for Change

Mobilize public and private support to advocate for solutions that advance food security.

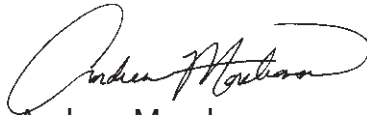
4

Advance Our Organization and Operations

Continue to build the organizational culture and operations that will best fulfill our mission.

In this report, you'll read about our impact last fiscal year across our region. You can expect even more from us this year as we leverage more resources and community action to achieve our goals.

Together, we end hunger!



Andrew Morehouse
Executive Director, Food Bank
of Western Massachusetts



Omar Irizarry
Board of Directors President



The Growing Need

Food assistance demand increased steadily throughout FY25, driven by rising food prices, housing costs, and changes to federal nutrition programs.

Nearly 50% Food Insecurity Rate

The highest among rural counties in Massachusetts



Franklin



Hampden

54% Food Insecurity Rate

The highest among more urban counties

These numbers* represent households making impossible trade-offs between food, rent, medicine, transportation, or childcare. Demand did not spike and then recede; it persisted throughout the year.

*SOURCE: *The Cost of Hunger in Massachusetts*, The Greater Boston Food Bank, 2025.



FY 2025:

Federal USDA food assistance funding dropped

13%

widening the gap between federal aid and community need

FEBRUARY 2025:

The Food Bank lost

\$440k

in canceled USDA food deliveries (~85,000 pounds)

JULY 4, 2025:

Federal reconciliation bill cut

\$200B

from SNAP, effective October 2026

Federal Uncertainty Strengthened Our Resolve



Is Good for the Economy

Regionally, SNAP delivers

\$35M

per month to 194,000 residents who spend it on food in the Western Massachusetts economy

Food Bank SNAP outreach team approved **483** applications, generating

\$1.5M

in annual economic impact

State Support is Essential

Sustained Commitment to Food Access

The Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP) remained a cornerstone of regional food security in FY25, accounting for 36% of the Food Bank's total inventory, while a 19% increase in MEFAP funding demonstrated strong state leadership at a critical moment. Continued state investment in universal school meals and the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) further strengthened food access for households across the Commonwealth. Every child has access to two meals a day during the school week. HIP provides rebates to people receiving SNAP benefits to purchase local fruits and vegetables.

The Food Bank also played an active leadership role beyond providing food – serving on Governor Healey's Anti-Hunger Task Force and contributing strategic guidance through the Make Hunger History Coalition Advisory Council, helping to shape policies and partnerships to end hunger statewide.

Rising Costs, Rising Commitment

Behind the Scenes

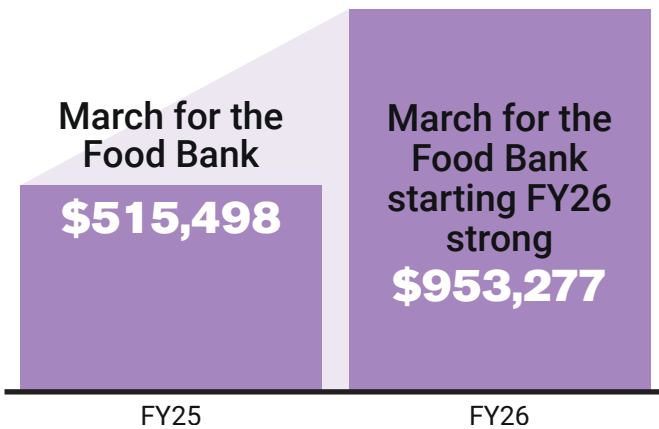
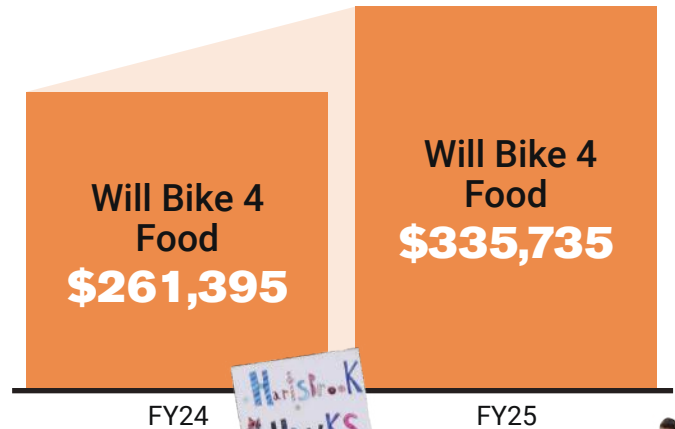
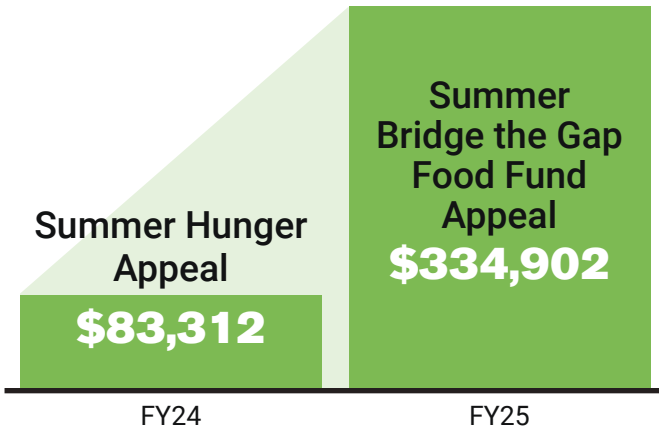
Food costs increased by nearly \$1 per pound in FY25, alongside supply chain disruptions and reduced federal supply. Behind every delivery was a coordinated effort – procurement, logistics, warehouse operations, and member food pantry/meal site relations – working together to keep food moving.



*"I have a car, but it's not on the road.
I have no way of getting to the office,
so this is perfect for me."
– SNAP phone applicant*

Incredible Community Support Carried Us Forward

Despite uncertainty, donors responded with extraordinary generosity.

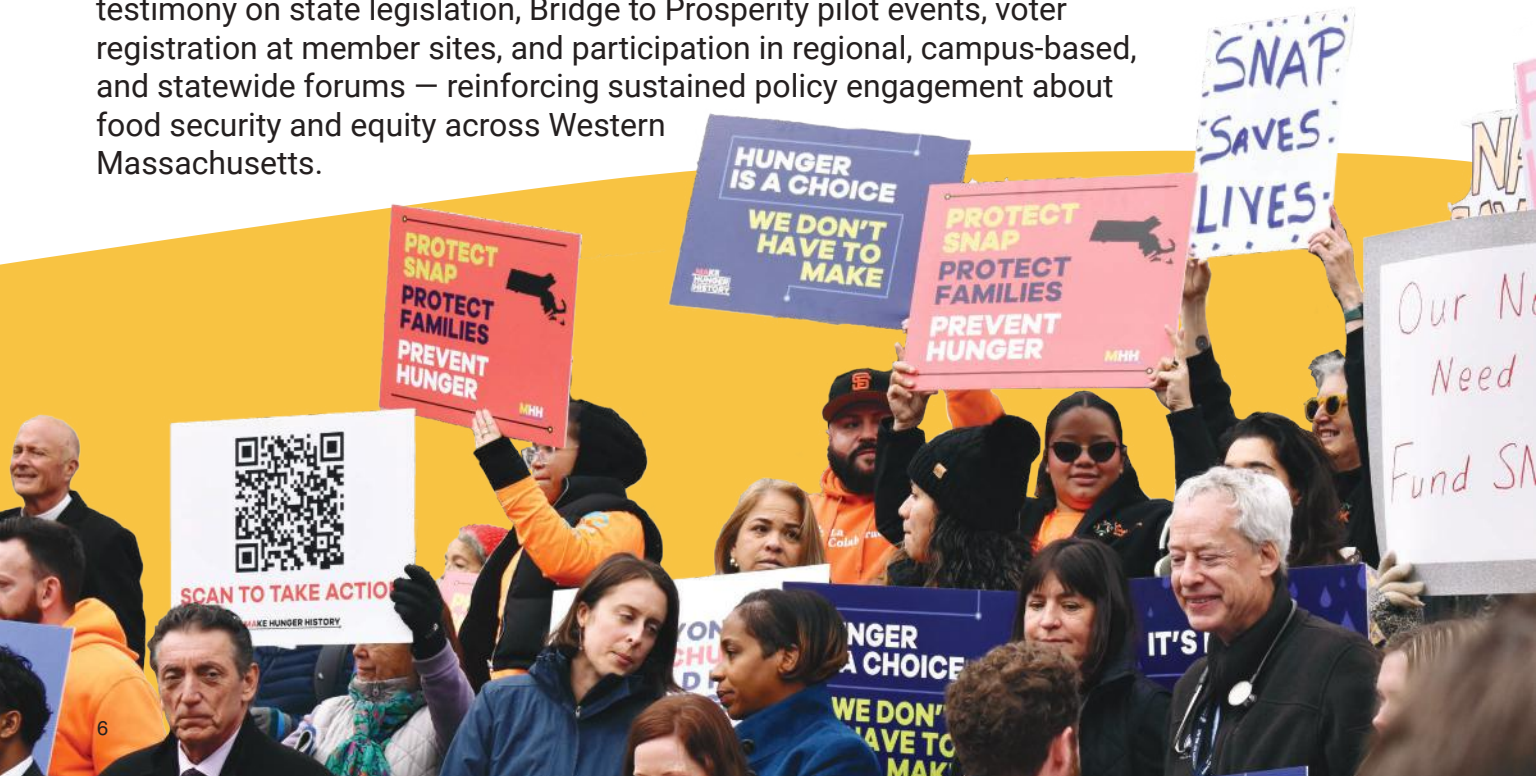


Advocacy & Comm

FY25 Policy Priorities

Throughout FY25, the Advocacy Team engaged in coordinated federal, state, and community-based education and advocacy to protect and strengthen core nutrition programs. Winter advocacy included local participation at the Human Service Forum Legislative Breakfast, the Feeding America Fly-In in Washington, DC to advocate for the Farm Bill, direct meetings with federal legislators on SNAP, and the HIP Lobby Day at the State House alongside members of the Community Engagement Team, who brought lived experience into legislative conversations.

Momentum continued through spring with strong coalition engagement and public education, including State House briefings, the Food Bank-led Western Massachusetts Transportation Advocacy Network (WMTAN) annual forum, and national advocacy at the national Anti-Hunger Policy Conference. Advocacy expanded its reach through community listening sessions, testimony on state legislation, Bridge to Prosperity pilot events, voter registration at member sites, and participation in regional, campus-based, and statewide forums — reinforcing sustained policy engagement about food security and equity across Western Massachusetts.



Community Engagement

Community Voices

The Community Engagement Team (CET) launched in January 2025, meeting twice monthly in paid sessions to explore the causes of food insecurity – including housing, transportation, health care access, and food assistance. Members supported direct service and advocacy efforts, including Brown Bag: Food for Elders, voter registration, HIP Lobby Day, and contributed community insight to the Food Bank’s three-year strategic plan.

During this same period, the Food Bank developed and implemented an Ethical Storytelling Pledge, strengthening how lived experience is shared and ensuring community stories are told with dignity, agency, and care.

Watch our community stories videos at foodbankwma.org/learn/community-stories/

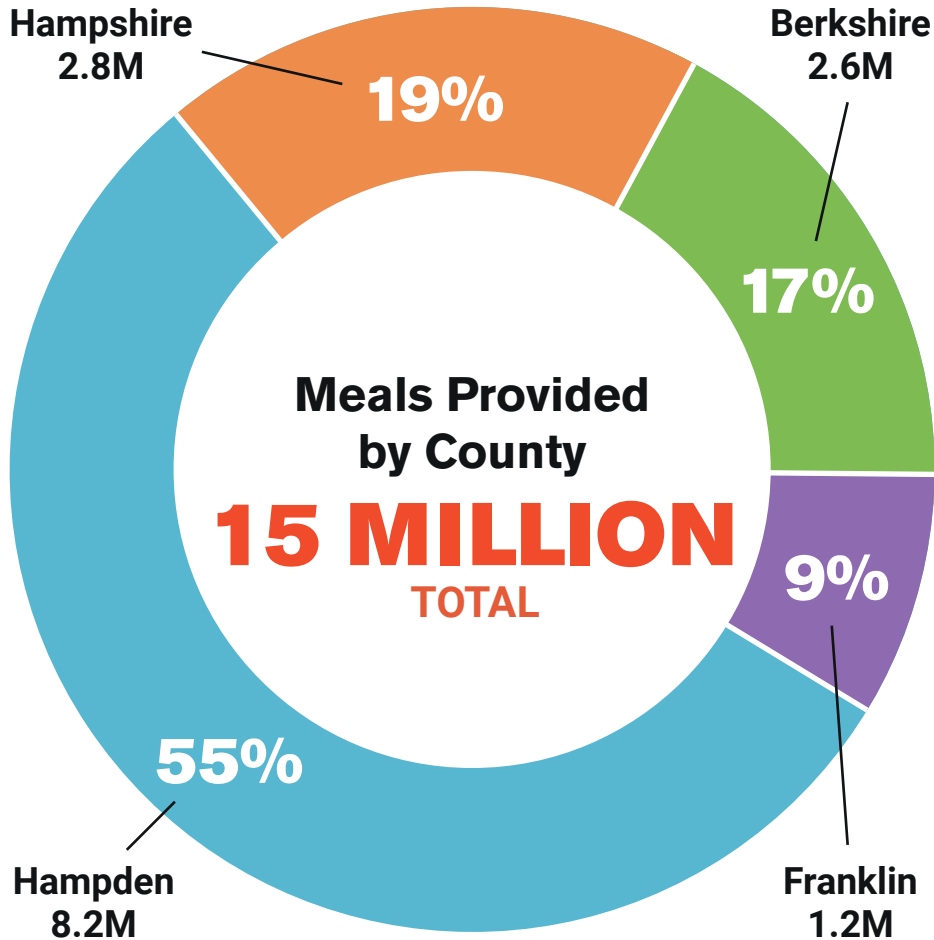


Advocacy Coordinator, Emily Reardon, Congressman Jim McGovern, and Public Policy Manager, Laura Sylvester.



2025 By the Numbers

FY2025: Oct. 2024 – Sept. 2025



Private Food Donors **All food donations*** **Dollar value**

6.3M lbs.  **\$12.5M**

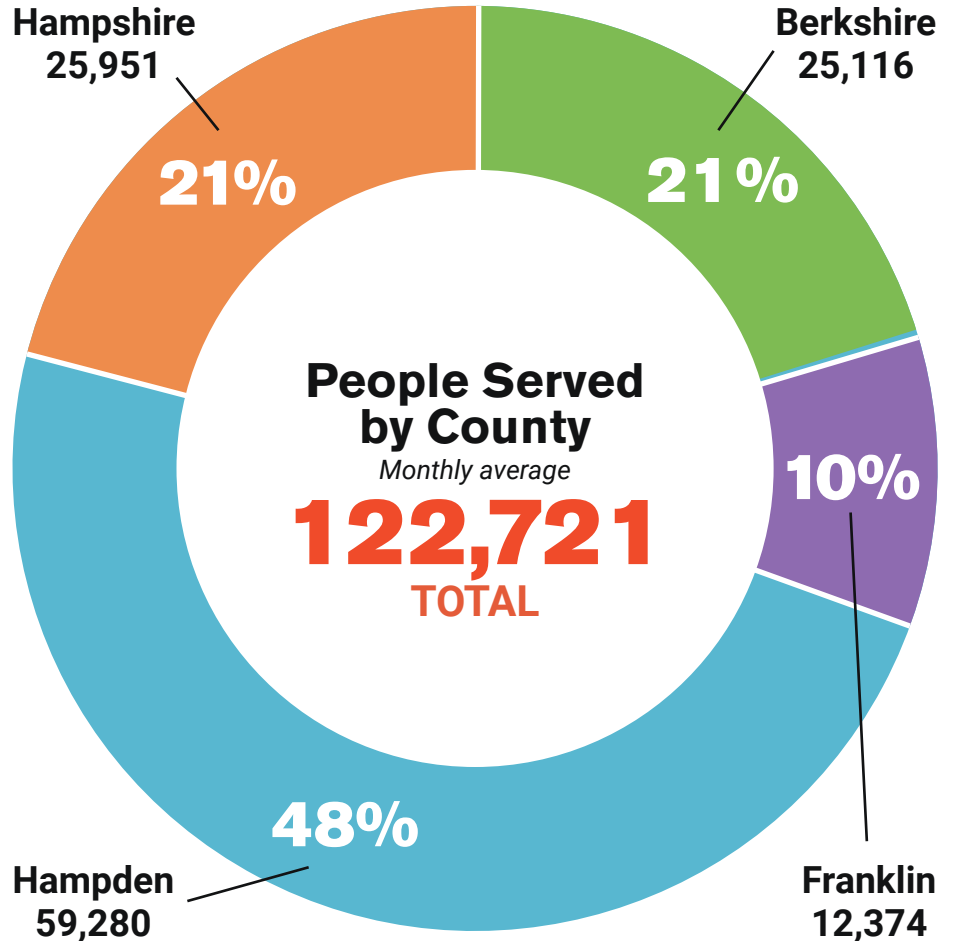
* Retail, warehouse and farm donations, and food drives

Our Growing Impact

pounds of food provided

Frozen meats, fresh vegetables, and dairy products make up **48%** of the total food provided.

Every \$1 donated provides the equivalent of 2 nutritious meals



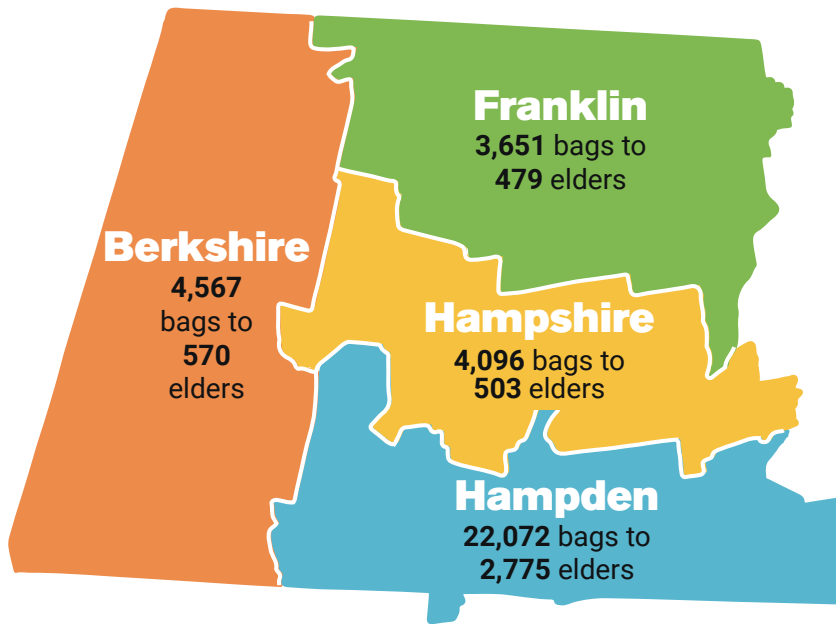
Volunteer hours

11,180



91

cents of every \$1 in revenue is invested in programmatic impact



Brown Bag: Food for Elders

The Brown Bag program provides eligible seniors with a free bag of groceries once a month at local senior centers.

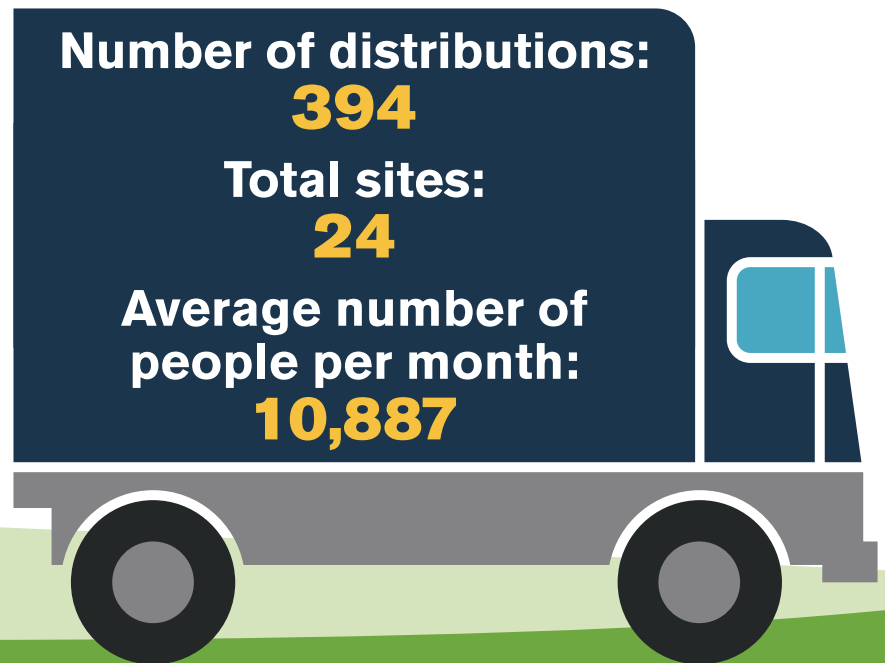
**35,354 bags to
4,462 elders**

Note: County data does not add up to totals since we have 1 BB site in Worcester county – Athol. Athol served 968 bags to 135 elders.

Mobile Food Banks

Our Mobile Food Bank delivers a truckload of fresh and non-perishable groceries to community sites for immediate distribution.

Mobiles and Brown Bags are the Food Bank's two direct distribution programs.



SNAP-Ed

Among the many detrimental cuts in the “Big Beautiful Bill” passed by Congress last year was funding for SNAP-Ed. The program provides free nutrition education in schools, food pantries, and community centers across Massachusetts and has been proven to help families with lower incomes make healthier food choices, stretch their food budgets, and lead more active lives.

Though the “Big Beautiful Bill Act” eliminated funding for SNAP-Ed, it did not fully eliminate the underlying legal authority for the program under the Food and Nutrition Act. Thankfully, Massachusetts state funding has enabled SNAP-Ed to continue through 2026.

Nutrition Education Expansion

176

nutrition classes and cooking demonstrations reaching 7,950 participants

11,770

additional participants reached through Mobile Food Bank, Brown Bag sites, & outreach

41

health fairs featuring food sampling and nutrition education

Nutrition Coordinator
Abigail Killian



Food Access Network

The Food Assistance Navigation (FAN) team facilitated 990 referrals – about half from patients at local hospitals and community health centers who were deemed “food insecure.” Through these partnerships, FAN distributed more than \$275,000 in food vouchers and coordinated 800 medically tailored food boxes, providing the equivalent of 8,000 meals to individuals with specific dietary needs and chronic illnesses.

The team also added Boston Children’s Hospital as a fourth health care partner, launching a medically-tailored food box program and transitioned to electronic food vouchers for greater access and flexibility. FAN’s innovative model was featured at a national Feeding America conference.

“This new voucher system is going to make everything so much easier. Being able to use it at different stores relieves a lot of stress.”

– FAN participant

The Food Bank FAN Team: Sary Torres, Damaris Arroyo, Johanna Farrell, Alan Dallmann



Food Bank Farm's harvest:
20,396 pounds
of fresh produce

Food Bank Farm tenants contributed
42,000 lbs.
of organic vegetables in lieu of cash rent

17 local farmers donated
326,000 lbs.
of produce

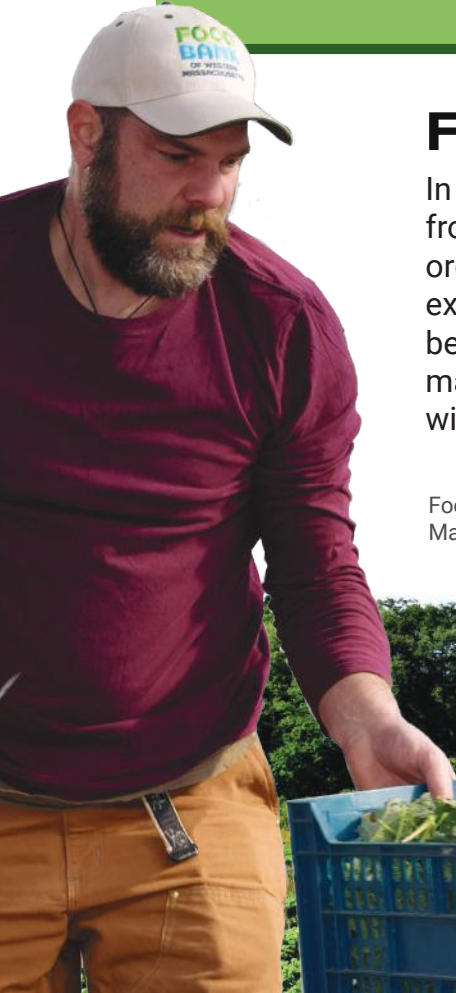
1.3 million pounds
of local produce purchased



Farm Program Success

In 2026, the parcel of our farm operated by our farm manager will shift from hand-scale, minimal-till cultivation on 2.3 acres to mechanized organic farming on 5 acres, increasing vegetable production for people experiencing food insecurity. At the same time, additional idle fields will be prepared for future cultivation. During the winter months, our farm manager grows vegetables in our greenhouses. Seasonal volunteers will still play an important role in supporting farm operations.

Food Bank Farm
Manager Lee Gadoway



FY2025 Financials

Fiscal Year: October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025

Income

Food	\$25,618,694	67%
Individuals & Corporate Donations	\$5,197,263	14%
Private Grants	\$4,032,970	11%
Government Grants	\$1,754,252	5%
Member Programs	\$144,196	0%
Other	\$1,218,224	3%
Total	\$37,965,599	100%

Expenses

Programs	\$34,426,005	90%
Development	\$1,342,225	4%
Administration	\$2,229,300	6%
Total	\$37,997,530	100%

Statement of Financial Position

Current Assets	\$11,001,572
Fixed Assets (net)	\$27,684,369
Other Assets	\$21,123,401
Total Assets	\$59,809,342

Accounts Payable	\$86,912
Other Current Liabilities	\$666,887
Long-Term Liabilities	\$20,194,365
Total Liabilities	\$20,948,164

Net Assets	\$38,861,178
-------------------	---------------------

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$59,809,342
---	---------------------

"We were elated to receive not only nutritious food, but also kitchen items we truly needed. We didn't expect that level of care. It made us feel supported in ways we hadn't imagined." — FAN participant

Board of Directors

President: Omar Irizarry | Massachusetts Department of Mental Health

Vice President: Stephen Speelman | Price Chopper/Market32

Treasurer: Mary McGovern | Country Bank

Clerk: Shannon Wilson | Way Finders

Olivia Aguilar | Mount Holyoke College

Ann Barker | Quonquont Farm

Suzanne Beck | Northampton Chamber of Commerce (retired)

Terry Burman | Retired executive

Elizabeth Eagleson | Brightwood Health Center

Mary Feuer | Community Health Programs

Joesiah González | Principal consultant – Executive strategy & operations

Xiaolei Hua | Florence Bank

Maureen James | Skoler, Abbott & Presser, P.C.

Willette Johnson | Springfield Public Schools (retired), Coalition of Experienced Black Educators

Andrea Leibson | Franklin County Community Meals Program (retired)

Johanna Maldonado | Stop & Shop

Bishop Bruce Shaw | New Hope Pentecostal Church

Willie Spradley, Jr. | Mass Mutual (retired), Manage Your Health and Wealth LLC

Ariana Williams | Martin Luther King, Jr. Family Services

Beth Young | Big Y Foods



“The agent that I talked to was very friendly, very nice, and told me everything I wanted to know.”
— SNAP phone applicant

Building Capacity for Tomorrow

Beliefs

Access to Food is a Right – Everyone in Western Massachusetts deserves access to the food they need and prefer without barriers or stigma.

Food Assistance Should Be Convenient and Dignified – Food assistance should provide the quality and variety of food people seek, in convenient, welcoming, and respectful settings.

Systemic Change Is Necessary for Lasting Food Security – To create lasting food security, we must advocate for public policies that address the systemic causes of food insecurity, including poverty and discrimination in all its forms. We seek community-driven solutions that reflect the diversity of needs, strengths, and perspectives in our region.

Centering Community Voices Makes Us Better and Stronger – We do our best work when we listen to and learn from those most impacted by hunger. To achieve our mission, we must uplift lived experience and build trust by centering community voices in our programs, partnerships, and advocacy.

Our Team Is Our Greatest Asset – We appreciate, support, and invest in our team members and achieve our impact through their talent, creativity, & dedication.

Mission

To build lasting food security by providing nutritious food and partnering with communities to end hunger in Western Massachusetts.

**FOOD
BANK**

**OF WESTERN
MASSACHUSETTS**

**TOGETHER, WE
END HUNGER**

2026-2028 Strategic Plan

In FY25, the Food Bank developed and approved a new strategic plan, including refreshed vision, mission, values, and beliefs – identifying core drivers for long-term sustainability, equity, and impact.

Vision

Everyone in our region has access to nutritious food without barriers or stigma.

Values

Respectful – We value everyone’s experiences and perspectives, and treat everyone with respect, dignity and kindness.

Trustworthy – We act with integrity, humility, and transparency, and are accountable to each other and everyone we engage with.

Connected – We learn from our team, our partners, and people experiencing food insecurity, and nurture collaborative relationships to grow our impact.

Inclusive – We foster diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging that are vital to our work, our culture, and achieving our mission.

Innovative – We are curious and resilient, continually learning, adapting, and seeking creative ways to build food security.

Impactful – We make thoughtful, mission-driven decisions and use our resources wisely to deliver quality work and lasting impact.

See our
strategic
plan on our
website



**FOOD
BANK**
OF WESTERN
MASSACHUSETTS
25 Carew Street
Chicopee, MA 01020

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #444
Springfield MA

Thank You To Our Donors

To our food and fund donors – thank you. Your commitment makes food security possible. We cannot do this work without your support.

To ensure that we are efficiently investing resources, we've published our list of individual, corporate, and institutional donors on our website. Please visit foodbankwma.org/AR25

