

# Feeding Our Neighbors Coalition



## Continue State SNAP Food Benefits: Support the Cabral/Garcia Amendment #247

The Coalition is deeply grateful to the MA Legislature for funding State SNAP benefits in the December 2023 Supplemental Budget (4400-1032). Currently DTA is providing these basic food benefits to **4,000+ Massachusetts families**. Many of these legally present immigrant are long time residents and essential workers struggling with low paid jobs, as well as immigrants with humanitarian statuses.

**No family should go hungry in Massachusetts**

**Please co-sponsor House Budget Amendment #247 authorizing \$30 million for DTA to extend state-funded SNAP in FY25.**

These are critical and often short-term food benefits for Massachusetts families including:

- Battered immigrants and Legal Permanent Residents barred from federal SNAP for 5 years
- Victims of violence working with law enforcement, granted “U visas”
- Humanitarian parolees from Venezuela, Nicaragua and Ukraine (also barred for 5 years)
- “Dreamers” (Deferred Action) or younger immigrants with Special Immigrant Juvenile status
- Immigrants with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) or pending political asylum.

All of these legal immigrants are caught in the crosshairs of inconsistent and cruel federal policies that bar them from federal nutrition SNAP benefits.

### Why extending State SNAP makes sense

Every dollar of SNAP spent brings between \$1.50 to \$1.70 in economic stimulus to local communities.

National research confirms that getting SNAP benefits reduces both health care and prescription costs by 16-21%.

SNAP helps relieve the impossible choice families make between housing and food & helps families staying with host families meet their food needs.

State SNAP is efficient & cost effective. Ending the program undermines the hard work of the Legislature to fund it (Dec 2023), and DTA’s work launching the benefits (Feb 2024).

## Endorsing Member Organizations

Allston Brighton Health Collaborative  
Ascentria Care Alliance  
Boston Children's Hospital  
Boston Missionary Baptist Community Center  
Boston Public Health Commission, Healthy Baby Healthy Child  
Brazilian Worker Center  
Building Audacity  
Bunker Hill Community College  
Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee (CEOC)  
Cambridge Health Alliance  
Caring Health Center  
Catholic Charities Boston and Southbridge  
Central West Justice Center  
Child Health Equity Center, UMass Chan / UMass Memorial Health  
Children's HealthWatch  
Citizens Inn  
City of Chelsea Dept of Housing + Community Development  
Clarendon Early Education Services, Inc.  
Coalition for a Healthy Greater Worcester  
Community Action Agency of Somerville, Inc.  
Community Teamwork  
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute  
Economic Mobility Pathways (EMPath)  
El Buen Samaritano Food Program Inc  
Fall River WIC - HealthFirst Family Care Center  
Food Bank of Western Massachusetts  
The Greater Boston Food Bank  
Greater Boston Legal Services  
Groundwork Lawrence  
Hardwick Food Pantry  
Health Leads  
Housing Families  
Interfaith Social Services  
International Institute of New England  
Jane Doe Inc.  
Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action  
Jewish Family & Children's Service  
Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts  
Justice Center of Southeast MA  
Justice Resource Institute (JRI)  
Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)  
La Colaborativa  
Latinos Unidos en Massachusetts (LUMA)  
League of Women Voters of Massachusetts  
Lowell Alliance  
Lowell General Hospital  
Lynn Rapid Response Network  
The Marion Institute's Southcoast Food Policy Council  
Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center  
Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless  
Massachusetts Councils on Aging (MCOA)  
Massachusetts Food Systems Collaborative  
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition  
Massachusetts Immigrant Collaborative  
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute  
Mass General Brigham  
Merrimack Valley Food Bank  
MetroWest Food Collaborative  
Metrowest Legal Services  
MLPB  
National Association of Social Workers, MA Chapter  
The Neighborhood Developers  
Nourishing the North Shore  
Office Of Food Access & Healthy Communities, City of Somerville  
Our Neighbors' Table  
Project Bread  
REACH Beyond Domestic Violence  
Regional Environmental Council Inc  
Rescuing Leftover Cuisine  
Rian Immigrant Center  
Rosie's Place  
Roxbury Community College  
SEIU Local 509  
Somerville Food Security Coalition  
Source Hub  
Springfield Food Policy Council  
Three Sisters  
UMass Chan Medical  
United South End Settlements  
Veteran's Transition House  
Worcester County Food Bank, Inc.  
Worcester Refugee Assistance Project  
Worcester Food Policy Council  
YWCA Cambridge, Southcoast  
YMCA of Greater Boston

