



The Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP): Advocacy Request & Templates

For use through June 2025.

In partnership with the Food Bank Coalition of Massachusetts, the Merrimack Valley Food Bank is advocating funding for the [Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program \(MEFAP\)](#) at \$55.5 million in the FY26 state budget. We are asking you to join us in advocating with your State Senator, State Representative, and the Healey-Driscoll administration to protect and strengthen funding for MEFAP. MEFAP is a critical source of food for MVFB and the agencies we partner with.

Below you will find templates with suggested language to use when advocating for MEFAP via email or phone calls with your legislators and Governor Healey. You can use our suggested messaging or customize it to reflect your own voice and experience. For help finding your State Senator and State Representative, you can [click here](#).

Email Templates

To Legislators:

To: Your State Senator or State Representative's email address – we suggest a separate email to each.

Subject: \$55.5M for MEFAP in FY26 State Budget

Dear **[Senator/Representative _____]**,

My name is **[your name]** and I am a resident of **[town or city name]**. I am writing to ask you to include \$55.5M for the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP) in your FY26 budget priorities.

Adequate funding for MEFAP is essential to allow our food banks to continue providing food to those in need, and I urge you to ensure this funding is available. [In September of 2024, 18.4% of all households in MA reported food insecurity, and among households with children, food insecurity levels are closer to 21.5%.](#) Statewide, food pantry usage increased by nearly 79% between 2020 and 2023, while MEFAP funding grew by 38% during the same period. Additionally, more than half of MEFAP funding supports food producers and farmers in Massachusetts, making it a critical economic stimulus. **[Optional: Add a sentence here about why MEFAP matters to you personally, and to your community.]**

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

[Your Name]

To the Healey-Driscoll Administration:

To: Kate.R.Cook@mass.gov; Gabe.Viator@mass.gov (these are two senior staffers in the Administration)

Subject: Your Support of MEFAP Funding

Dear Governor Healey and Lt. Governor Driscoll,

My name is [your name] and I am a resident of [town or city name]. I am writing to thank you for including strong funding for the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP) in your House 1 budget.

Adequate funding for MEFAP is essential to allow our food banks to continue providing food to those in need. [In September of 2024, 18.4% of all households in MA reported food insecurity, and among households with children, food insecurity levels are closer to 21.5%.](#) As you know, more than half of MEFAP funding supports food producers and farmers in Massachusetts, making it a critical economic stimulus. **[Optional: Add a sentence here about why MEFAP matters to you personally, and to your community.]**

As demand for services across the state's network of food assistance providers remains high, the Merrimack Valley Food Bank and its sister food banks will be advocating for increased MEFAP funding of \$55.5M in the legislature this spring.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to fighting food insecurity for Massachusetts residents.

[Your Name]

Phone Call Scripts

To Legislators:

My name is [your name] and I'm from [organization and/or city]. I'm calling to ask **[Senator/Representative _____]** to include \$55.5M for the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP) in their FY26 budget priorities. Adequate funding for MEFAP is essential to allow our food banks to continue providing food to those in need, and I urge you to ensure this funding is available. Statewide, food pantry usage increased by nearly 79% between 2020 and 2023, while MEFAP funding grew by 38% during the same period. Additionally, more than half of MEFAP funding supports food producers and farmers in Massachusetts, making it a critical economic stimulus. Thank you for your time.

To the Healey-Driscoll Administration:

My name is **[your name]** and I am a resident of **[town or city name]**. I am calling to thank Governor Healey and Lieutenant Governor Driscoll for including strong funding for the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP) in the House 1 budget.

Adequate funding for MEFAP is essential to allow our food banks to continue providing food to those in need. In September of 2024, 18.4% of all households in MA reported food insecurity, and among households with children, food insecurity levels are closer to 21.5%. As you know, more than half of MEFAP funding supports food producers and farmers in Massachusetts, making it a critical economic stimulus. As demand for services across the state's network of food assistance providers remains high, the Merrimack Valley Food Bank and its sister food banks will be advocating for increased MEFAP funding of \$55.5M in the legislature this spring. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to fighting food insecurity for Massachusetts residents.