



## Food Access and Security

One in ten people in Massachusetts is food insecure, meaning they regularly struggle to feed themselves and their families. Food insecurity is driven by poverty and linked with poor health and developmental delays in children, maternal depression, and numerous other health issues. In Greater Boston, food insecurity is most prevalent in the inner core, but the issue affects communities far and wide, from Randolph and Framingham to several North Shore communities.

The Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) is an evidence-based state policy aimed at improving food security. Launched in April 2017, HIP provides

participants with a dollar-for-dollar match for SNAP (the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) when vegetables and fruits are purchased at participating farmers' markets, community-supported agriculture (CSA) programs, farm stands, and mobile markets across the state. Since its launch, SNAP recipients—over 39,000 households—have purchased more than \$4 million of produce from local farmers, marking nearly a 600% increase in fresh, healthy, local food sales to low-income families compared to 2016. HIP substantially increases food security—continued support is necessary to improving healthy food access for all.