

PRESS RELEASE

Baker-Polito Administration Announces \$27 Million in Federal Funding to Address Food Insecurity for Families and Individuals Affected by COVID-19

Funding awarded to 13 community foundations and MASSCAP to distribute to local programs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

8/30/2021

Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Office of Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito

MEDIA CONTACT

Michael Verseckes, Director of Media and Public Relations

Online

Michael.W.Verseckes@mass.gov (mailto:Michael.W.Verseckes@mass.gov)

BOSTON — Today, the Baker-Polito Administration awarded \$27.1 million in federal CDBG-CV Food Security Program funding to 13 community foundations and the Massachusetts Association for Community Action (MASSCAP), which will be allocated to local programs within their respective service areas to address food insecurity for families and individuals impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic fallout.

"This funding is another way Massachusetts can ensure healthy food is on the tables of our most vulnerable and that residents, families and children remain food secure," **said Governor Charlie Baker**. "Our Administration remains committed to the partnerships and investments that will build a resilient food system that is better able to serve residents of the Commonwealth for years to come."

"Massachusetts municipalities and communities have shown great resiliency in the face of unprecedented challenges throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and we are proud to put another \$27 million to work for those who need it most," **said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito**. "We applaud the work of these community foundations, MASSCAP and so many other organizations helping people across Massachusetts."

“To continue to help families across the Commonwealth meet the challenges around food security created by the COVID-19 pandemic, these grants deliver funds to the local organizations that can efficiently get them into the refrigerators and pantries of our most vulnerable residents,” **said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy**. “This funding builds on the \$15 million in state funding awarded to community foundations for vital services such as housing and utilities support, emergency childcare and transportation, and other unmet needs of the community.”

These food security grants complement other work by the Baker-Polito Administration to support families in need:

- Earlier this month, the Administration [announced a grant program](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://mass.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d76848d6925ee08d7a5fe3097&id=ef469bbb27&e=83a1c1fa34_!!) [\(https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://mass.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d76848d6925ee08d7a5fe3097&id=ef469bbb27&e=83a1c1fa34_!!\)](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://mass.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d76848d6925ee08d7a5fe3097&id=ef469bbb27&e=83a1c1fa34_!!) support farmers and farmers’ markets and expand local food access points for low-income residents across the Commonwealth.
- In partnership with the Legislature, and through the Community Foundations Grant Program for COVID-19 Relief, the Administration [has delivered \\$15 million](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://mass.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d76848d6925ee08d7a5fe3097&id=6702fcd795&e=83a1c1fa34_!!) [\(https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://mass.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d76848d6925ee08d7a5fe3097&id=6702fcd795&e=83a1c1fa34_!!\)](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://mass.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d76848d6925ee08d7a5fe3097&id=6702fcd795&e=83a1c1fa34_!!) vital services such as food security, housing and utilities support, emergency childcare and transportation, and other unmet needs of the community.
- The Administration has also invested \$5 million in the [Healthy Incentives Program](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://mass.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d76848d6925ee08d7a5fe3097&id=4c4273d70f&e=83a1c1fa34_!!) [\(https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://mass.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d76848d6925ee08d7a5fe3097&id=4c4273d70f&e=83a1c1fa34_!!\)](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://mass.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d76848d6925ee08d7a5fe3097&id=4c4273d70f&e=83a1c1fa34_!!) to bring on 39 new retailers, and established a \$36 million [Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://mass.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d76848d6925ee08d7a5fe3097&id=6be8106e1b&e=83a1c1fa34_!!) [\(https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://mass.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d76848d6925ee08d7a5fe3097&id=6be8106e1b&e=83a1c1fa34_!!\)](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://mass.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d76848d6925ee08d7a5fe3097&id=6be8106e1b&e=83a1c1fa34_!!) \$15 million in additional funds included in the [FY22 Capital Plan](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://mass.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d76848d6925ee08d7a5fe3097&id=5353d2c464&e=83a1c1fa34_!!) [\(https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://mass.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d76848d6925ee08d7a5fe3097&id=5353d2c464&e=83a1c1fa34_!!\)](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://mass.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d76848d6925ee08d7a5fe3097&id=5353d2c464&e=83a1c1fa34_!!)

“The Baker-Polito Administration has prioritized addressing the increase of food insecurity across the Commonwealth resulting from economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic,” **said Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders**. “This addition of \$27 million in food security funding builds off the many tools the Administration has employed, alongside national leadership in Pandemic EBT and maximizing all federal food assistance resources, to strengthen equitable access to healthy and culturally relevant food.”

“The Baker-Polito Administration continues to prioritize the urgent needs of residents across the Commonwealth that are struggling with food insecurity, and is building on its significant investments in Massachusetts’ local food system,” **said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides**. “Through the Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program and other critical efforts, the Administration is working with local fishermen, farmers, food banks, and food processors to enhance their operations and expand access to fresh, local food in vulnerable communities across the Commonwealth.

Each awardee of CDBG-CV Food Security Program funding will form partnerships with community action agencies, community development corporations, and other non-profit or for-profit organizations within their geographic areas that administer existing food security programs in areas identified as having a high prevalence of food insecurity. In addition, awardees will evaluate the potential to partner with other existing or new service delivery programs and models.

“We are pleased to award these grants to these trusted organizations and their partners to provide nourishing food to those families and individuals still struggling with the impacts of COVID-19,” **said Undersecretary of Housing and**

Community Development Jennifer Maddox. “These additional resources complement the Eviction Diversion Initiative and other administration programs that boost the critical safety nets for our most disadvantaged and at-risk communities.”

According to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, CDBG-CV funds to address food security needs related to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic can be used for food, labor, supplies, materials, and other costs required to run a food provision program. Food security activities can also extend to assistance for food banks, food delivery or pick up, and other food-access programs such as Meals on Wheels, or other services.

CDBG-CV Food Security Program Grantees	Grantee Award
Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation	\$1,241,049
Cambridge Community Foundation	\$1,100,000
The Cape Cod Foundation	\$1,362,895
Essex County Community Foundation	\$3,167,843
Greater Lowell Community Foundation	\$1,652,859
Greater Worcester Community Foundation	\$2,531,259
Permanent Endowment for Martha’s Vineyard	\$1,188,374
MASSCAP	\$4,129,887
Foundation for MetroWest	\$1,150,000
Community Foundation for Nantucket	\$1,849,416

Community Foundation of North Central MA	\$1,716,314
South Coast Community Foundation	\$2,986,186
Watertown Community Foundation	\$450,000
Community Foundation of Western MA	\$2,628,433

###

Media Contact

Michael Verseckes, Director of Media and Public Relations

Online

Michael.W.Verseckes@mass.gov (mailto:Michael.W.Verseckes@mass.gov)

Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development

(/orgs/executive-office-of-housing-and-economic-development)

The Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development promotes vibrant communities, growing businesses, and a strong middle class.

More (/orgs/executive-office-of-housing-and-economic-development)

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

(/orgs/executive-office-of-energy-and-environmental-affairs)

EEA seeks to protect, preserve, and enhance the Commonwealth's environmental resources while ensuring a clean energy future for the state's residents. Through the stewardship of open space, protection of environmental resources, and enhancement of clean energy, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs works tirelessly to make Massachusetts a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family.

[More](#) (/orgs/executive-office-of-energy-and-environmental-affairs)

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

(/orgs/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services)

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services is the largest secretariat in state government and is comprised of 12 agencies, in addition to 2 soldiers' homes and the MassHealth program. Our efforts are focused on the health, resilience, and independence of the one in four residents of the Commonwealth we serve. Our public health programs touch every community in the Commonwealth.

[More](#) (/orgs/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services)

Office of Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito