



MASSACHUSETTS FOOD TRUST PROGRAM

Investor Fact Sheet

The Massachusetts Food Trust Program (MFTP) is seeking investments to support high impact healthy food access projects throughout the Commonwealth. Potential projects will be vetted from both a financial and a social framework by a team of organizations with decades of experience in healthy food financing and community economic development. There is built-in flexibility to accommodate footprints for CRA, community benefits, or other service areas.

Background

The MFTP is a statewide healthy food financing initiative aiming to increase access to healthy, affordable food in low-income urban, suburban, and rural communities with an emphasis on entrepreneurs producing, promoting, and selling healthy food grown, caught, or harvested in Massachusetts. The MFTP offers critical financing tools and business resources to launch and expand businesses, create jobs, increase economic opportunities, and stimulate the local economy.

The MFTP is co-administered by two Massachusetts-based community development organizations—The Local Enterprise Assistance Fund (LEAF) and The Franklin County Community Development Corporation (FCCDC)—and primarily offers loans for the financing of eligible healthy food retail projects. Grants and technical assistance are also available. The MFTP was signed into law by the Baker-Polito Administration on July 1st, 2018 and was seeded with \$1 million in state funds.

Project Types

The types of projects supported by the MFTP include, but are not limited to:

- Grocery stores & food co-ops
- Indoor & outdoor greenhouses
- Corner stores
- Urban agriculture
- Farmers markets
- Food distribution hubs
- Mobile markets
- Community kitchens





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Key Partners

LEAF is the lead administrator and has been serving the retail grocery sector for several decades, including the financing of over 20 community-owned grocery stores in the past five years through the federal Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI). LEAF has also been a technical assistance and capital provider for small business owners in Eastern Massachusetts as part of its recent local initiative.

FCCDC is a capital and technical assistance provider for small businesses, serving Western Massachusetts for almost 40 years. In addition to supporting local farmers and growers, FCCDC also operates a full service commercial kitchen and food-processing center to support local food entrepreneurs.

The Food Trust is a nonprofit organization that has been instrumental in organizing, launching, and reporting on state healthy food financing initiatives throughout the country, including Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Jersey, and California. They will serve as the MFTP's Food Access Organization, evaluating the food access landscape of proposed projects and ensuring applicants meet program guidelines.

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) is the state agency overseeing and evaluating the MFTP. They will be a key partner in ensuring that the Commonwealth's goals are being met in improving food access and supporting local farmers and local food.

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