



Local Enterprise Assistance Fund

The Program

The Massachusetts Food Trust Program (MFTP) provides loans, grants, and business assistance for increasing access to healthy, affordable food in low-income, underserved areas. Started with seed funding from the Baker-Polito Administration in 2018 and in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR), the MFTP is committed to improving food security and access throughout the Commonwealth.

The Problem, and the Solution

Despite being one of the most affluent states in the nation, Massachusetts has fewer supermarkets per capita than almost any other state, ranking third lowest nationwide (The Food Trust, 2010). In fact, the uneven distribution of supermarkets in Massachusetts leaves a disproportionate number of lower-income people without access to nutritious food. In Boston, the fallout from low access to healthy food is apparent in the disparate rates of diabetes across racial groups, where researchers found that Black and Hispanic residents are 2.89 and 1.48 times more likely to develop type II diabetes, respectively (NERI, et. al 2015). The MFTP attempts to "level the playing field" in regards to the impact of one's race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status and geography on health outcomes. We believe our program can be a model for other states facing similar inequities.

By providing customized financing for healthy food enterprises in the state's highest-need areas, the MFTP is working towards equitable access to healthy food, as well as equitable health outcomes for chronic illnesses associated with poor nutrition.

Our Impact

OVER

344

**JOBS
CREATED/RETAINED**

MORE THAN

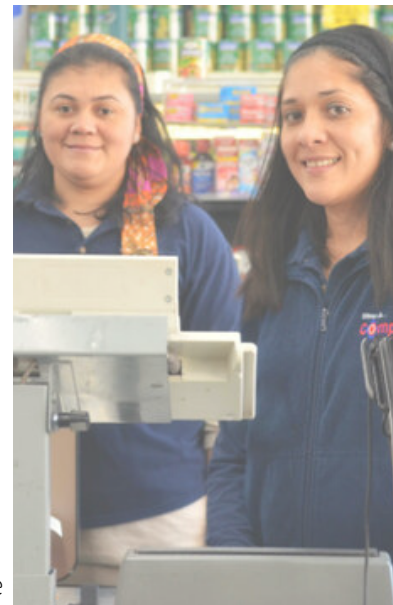
108,000

**INDIVIDUALS WITH
EXPANDED HEALTHY
FOOD ACCESS IN MA**

AVERAGE WAGE OF

\$17/hr

**ACROSS FUNDED
PROJECTS**



Learn More

www.massfoodtrustprogram.org | 617.232.1551