



Public Policy Priorities for Fiscal Year 2019

At The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, we lead the community in advocating for change, bringing issues of hunger to the forefront and empowering people to develop solutions to fight the underlying causes of hunger in our community. The public policies we advocate for help meet these goals, as well as serve our mission to *Feed, Lead, and Strengthen*.

Federal

Tier 1—We will actively work on these priorities.

Protect and strengthen federal nutrition programs

- SNAP
- Child Nutrition Reauthorization
- TEFAP—The Emergency Food Assistance Program

Tier 2—We will work on these priorities in coalition with other organizations who are taking the lead.

- Protect and strengthen anti-poverty programs
 - Budget, tax proposals, welfare reform, and regulatory rule changes
 - Earned Income Tax Credit
- Oppose the inclusion of a citizenship question on the 2020 Census
- Oppose changes to the Public Charge and other rules that put vulnerable populations at risk

State

Tier 1—We will actively work on these priorities.

- Breakfast After the Bell
- HIP—the Healthy Incentives Program
- MEFAP—the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program
- Workforce development: Cliff Effect, Earned Income Tax Credit, Learn to Earn Workforce Competitive Trust Fund

Tier 2—We will work on these priorities in coalition with other organizations who are taking the lead.

- SNAP Gap/Common Application
- MA Food Trust
- School Meal Debt

Tier 3—We will support efforts of other organizations by adding our name to sign-on letters, etc.

- Transportation
- Safe Communities Act
- Affordable housing
- Access to affordable services/education, such as childcare, higher education, behavioral health services, substance abuse treatment, and services for seniors and disabled people.