

DON'T LET OUR NEIGHBORS GO HUNGRY

Call to action

Why this Matters

Inadequate nutrition impacts children, seniors, disabled – our entire community

- cognitive impairment / decreases in learning abilities and in attention
- physical health (related health care expenditures, such as cardiovascular disease, obesity, type 2 diabetes, hypertension, and increased risk of birth defects, are estimated to exceed \$50B annually)
- mental health – depression, anxiety
- reduced energy for work and caring for children and the elderly

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program serves 42 million Americans each month (1 in 8). Within Massachusetts it affects 1 million, including 337,000 children. SNAP doesn't just fight hunger; it keeps our local economy strong. Every month, over \$210 million in SNAP benefits flow into Massachusetts, supporting grocery stores, farmers' markets, and small businesses. Letting the program function at reduced capacity, even temporarily, would be a moral and policy failure.

Uncertainties and fluidity surrounding SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits creates a crisis! What can we do?

ADVOCACY

Write, call, visit your State Senator, Representative, and our Governor asking them to provide funding for full SNAP benefits during the government shutdown

At **TBE**, our **Ending Hunger Initiative** through RJI focuses on 4 areas of **ADVOCACY** for specific policies and legislation at the state level:

- **Retain \$55M in the state budget for MA Emergency Food Assistance Program
- **Allow SNAP recipients to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables directly from farmers – H. 222; S. 104
- **Encourage colleges to establish infrastructure to support hunger-free campuses – H. 1466; S. 939
- **Replacement of stolen food benefit documents – H.254; S.147

DONATIONS -

- 📄 *Gift cards* (Roche Bros, Shaws, Trader Joes) are being collected in our tzedakah box – cash also helps
- 📄 *Food* – canned salmon and cereal for JF&CS's Services Family Table collection box in the atrium or order via [their Amazon Wishlist](#). (Multiple food pantries need money (preferable) and food items).

RESOURCES: You can get updates on the ongoing SNAP crisis at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/november-2025-snap-updates>. The following organizations provide additional information about SNAP, including a sample message to contact your legislators:

*****Project Bread** (<https://projectbread.org/policy-work#action-center>)

*****Greater Boston Food Bank** (<https://www.gbfb.org>)

You can find your state legislators at: <https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>

To become more engaged in this essential need or for more information, contact

Eric Ruder (rudereric@gmail.com) or Susan Sidel (susanhsidel@gmail.com)