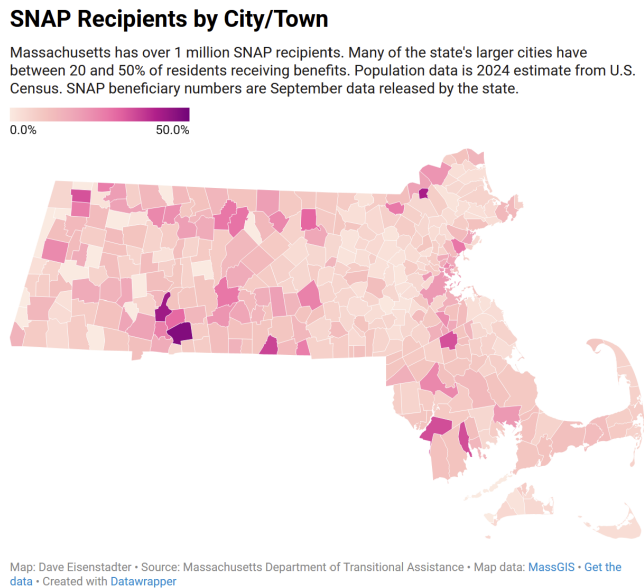


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Hunger *is* a Policy Choice: Here’s How to Combat Food Insecurity During the GOP Shutdown*!

On October 1, 2025 Congress failed to pass an appropriations bill leading to a shutdown of the federal government. The Trump Administration has told all states that, if a federal funding deal is not reached before November 1, the federal government will not pay Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for the month of November, proving that **hunger *IS* a policy choice**.

**and if we find ourselves here at other times.*



Breaking: [Town by town Mass. map shows where SNAP cuts will hit hardest: Find your city](#) (MassLive 5:55AM 10/30/25) scroll down in the article to use the live map.

- [Action Summary](#)
- [Why We Think This is Important](#)
- [Sources](#)
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Action Summary	Estimated time: Varies depending on whether you take a one time action or become involved in ongoing food insecurity related mutual aid during the government shutdown. The background information will take approx 45 minutes to review if you read all linked articles and watch linked videos. • Read the background information and related links • Contact Governor Healey/State Legislators AND the USDA to fund SNAP
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	● Contact State Legislators to support bills S.1043/H.3154 ● Donate if you are able ● Share resources ● Take bonus actions
Why We Think This is Important	We don't think we need to tell <i>you</i>. Here are the numbers: The top 10 Massachusetts communities with the highest percentage of its population who receive SNAP benefits are as follows: 1. Springfield: 47.4% 2. Holyoke: 43.3% 3. Lawrence: 41.7% 4. Southbridge: 35.6% 5. Fall River: 34.3% 6. New Bedford: 34.2% 7. Brockton: 33.6% 8. North Adams: 33.5% 9. Fitchburg: 30.3% 10. Chicopee: 29.6% (MassLive)
Sources	Multiple Sources including: Cape Cod Hunger Network, Feeding America, The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, Greater Boston Food Bank (a member org of <i>Feeding America</i>), Holyoke Food Access, Make Hunger History Coalition, Mass.Gov, MA Food System Collaborative, Merrimack Valley Food Bank, No Kid Hungry, Project Bread, Worcester County Food Bank, and so many, many more.
Action Details	Action 1: Contact Governor Healey/State Legislators AND the USDA and urge them to do everything in their power to protect Massachusetts residents from hunger, if federal SNAP funding is delayed, by using emergency dollars to fill this gap. You can send both messages using this tool from Project Bread. First, enter your contact information and the tool will find your State Rep/Senator and prepopulate the message with a script which you can edit if you like. The script for "Healey/Legislators" is preselected (in the white bar menu near the top) and the subject line reads "Protect Massachusetts Residents from Federal Harm". Read the prepopulated message and edit as you like. Then hit submit at the bottom of the form. Then go back to the form again (your contact information should still be there) and select "USDA" from the white bar menu. The subject line will now read "Prevent a Hunger Crisis: Release SNAP Contingency Funds Now". Read the prepopulated message and edit as you like. Then hit submit at the bottom of the form.

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Action 2: Call (highest impact)/write your Massachusetts state legislators and urge adoption of [S.1043/H.3154](#) “ An Act encouraging the donation of food to persons in need” (Sen. Jo Comerford S.1043 / Rep. Hannah Kane H.3154)

Thousands of tons of edible food are sent to landfills each year because of donors’ concerns about liability, and because diverting it to those who need it can be costly. These bills will provide civil liability protection for individuals and food establishments who donate food directly to consumers, and a tax credit to Massachusetts farmers in the amount of the fair market value of the donated food, with a \$25,000 annual cap per farmer. The Joint Committee on Judiciary held a hearing on this bill on April 8, 2025. The House bill was moved out favorably and sent to House Ways and Means.

Contact your state legislators and ask them to support and urge the adoption of these bills.

- Get your MA legislators’ contact information [HERE](#).
- Remember, if your representative or senator are *supporting* a bill, their name will be under the Petitioners tab at the bill’s website. If you see their name, don’t stop there; make your call a THANK YOU!
- IF LEAVING A VOICEMAIL: Please leave your full street address to ensure your call is tallied.
- Please personalize all the words in the script below in [blue](#).

“Hi, my name is [\[NAME\]](#) and I live at [\[Street, City, State\]](#).

I'm calling to ask [\[REP/SEN NAME\]](#) to ask for your support of S.1043/H.3154, An Act Encouraging the Donation of Food to Persons in Need, which would make it easier for farms, restaurants and food businesses to donate surplus food to those who need it most.

This bill is especially urgent right now: because of the federal government shutdown, and the administration’s refusal to release contingency funding, SNAP benefits are set to end in November, putting many Massachusetts families at serious risk of hunger.

Thank you for giving this matter the urgency it requires!”

Short on time? Shy on the phone? Send this quick note: [Take Action: No One Should Go Hungry!](#) (The ARC)

Action 3: Donate to these aid organizations

[United Response Fund](#) - The 13 United Ways across Massachusetts, **serving all 351 communities**, are joining forces to support Governor Healey’s efforts to respond to this crisis. People looking to help can donate to their local United Way or to the [United](#)

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[Response Fund](#), which will rapidly provide resources in communities to mitigate impacts from federal delays in SNAP benefits.

[Project Bread's Resilience Fund](#) - In response to these new and urgent threats, Project Bread has launched the Resilience Fund. Project Bread's Resilience Fund is a dedicated, strategic initiative created in response to unprecedented attacks to federal nutrition programs. It is a vehicle for both immediate hunger relief, giving us the flexibility and capacity to support our communities as the full impact of this crisis unfolds. This fund enables us to meet the moment—not only to respond to this crisis, but to build durable solutions in real time. [Click here to donate](#).

Foodbank Donation Links -

[Greater Boston Food Bank - ways to give](#)

[Worcester County Food Bank - donate](#)

[Food Bank of Western Mass - ways to give](#)

[Merrimack Valley - how to help](#)

Action 4: Share these resources so they reach those in need!

[Findhelp.org](#) Find free or reduced-cost resources like food, housing, financial assistance, health care, and more - just enter your zip code, then click on "Food" in the resources menu. Works nationwide.

[Mass.Gov: Find a local foodbank](#) - Need food? A local food bank can help you put food on your table so you don't go hungry.

- Eastern Massachusetts - [Greater Boston Food Bank](#)
- Central Massachusetts - [Worcester County Food Bank](#)
- Western Massachusetts - [The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts; Amherst Survival Center; and so many more at local colleges for students and often non-students.](#)
- Northeastern Massachusetts - [Merrimack Valley Food Bank](#)
- Cape Cod Massachusetts - [Cape Cod Hunger Network](#)

[Massachusetts Healthy Incentives Program \(HIP\)](#)

What is HIP? - The Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) is a Massachusetts program that applies state funds to your purchase when you use your EBT card to buy fruits and vegetables at participating farms. There is no special sign-up for HIP. If you live in Massachusetts and receive SNAP benefits, your household is automatically able to participate in HIP. Watch and share [this explainer video](#).

Action 5: Organize a food drive

Although cash donations are generally the most helpful and efficient way to support foodbanks (read: [Why Cash Donations Help Food Banks More](#)), food drives are also a fantastic way to provide nutritious food to food banks and pantries. They also raise

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	awareness about food insecurity and build a stronger community through collective action. Click here to learn how to organize one that will be successful and effective and in partnership with established food banks/pantries. But helping with food is not “wrong.” What is "gleaning"? An example.
Background Information	<u>How did we get here?</u> Mass.Gov On July 4, 2025, President Trump signed the One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025, which made significant changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) that all states must implement. The effective date of these changes in Massachusetts is November 1. SNAP clients will not all be impacted at once. SNAP benefit changes will happen on a rolling basis at each client’s annual recertification. Clients will be notified by DTA when they need to recertify, and if any of these changes apply to them. Also, on October 1, 2025 Congress failed to pass an appropriations bill leading to a shutdown of the federal government. The Trump Administration has told all states that, if a federal funding deal is not reached before November 1, the federal government will not pay SNAP benefits for the month of November. CNN: The US Department of Agriculture has said it does not have the money to pay \$8 billion in food stamp benefits for November amid the funding impasse on Capitol Hill that led the government to shut down on October 1. The agency argues it cannot tap into its roughly \$6 billion contingency fund to cover next month’s benefits, though Democratic lawmakers and advocates claim the USDA should, or is even obligated, to use the money. Without help from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, the formal name for food stamps, many recipients are going to have to decide whether to use their limited budgets to buy groceries, pay rent, fill prescriptions or turn on the heat, said Ed Bolen, director of state SNAP strategies for the left-leaning Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. • USDA Quietly Deletes Its Contingency Plan for Funding SNAP as of 4:33 PM EST, the 55-page “lapse of funding” document for USDA is no longer available online (<i>NOTUS</i>, late 10/29/25) • MA SNAP explainer (Lindsay Sabadosa, State Representative, 1st Hampshire District on Facebook late 10/29/25) • Here’s why the shutdown has put food stamp benefits at risk (CNN 10/28/25) • Mass. food pantries, cities scramble to prevent hunger as SNAP benefits set to expire (MassLive 10/28/25) • Trump administration posts notice that no federal food aid will go out Nov. 1 (MassLive 10/26/25)

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- [11 things to know about SNAP \(the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program\)](#) (Senator Jo Comerford on Facebook 10/25/25)
 - [Closer Look: How SNAP Cuts Will Impact Critical Food Access](#) (Teachers College, Columbia University 10/24/25)
 - [MA SNAP Recipients by City/Town](#) (MassLive 10/30/25)
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Hunger IS a policy choice

[Project Bread](#) - Right now, we are quickly approaching November 1. Normally, that might mean embracing the second half of fall or welcoming the holiday season. But this year, it means SNAP benefits are running out for millions of Americans, stripping them of their ability to put food on the table.

An October 27 message on the USDA's website reads, "Bottom line, the well has run dry. At this time, there will be no benefits issued November 01." The USDA egregiously states they are unable to use the contingency fund for SNAP, despite that being the purpose of the fund.

"This is policy violence. It is violent and, this is the part that gets me, a hundred percent preventable," [Ayanna] Pressley said. "Our families are now staring down a November 1st cliff, when for the first time in history, an administration could fail to fund the SNAP program."

- [Ending SNAP is a choice - Jess Craven video](#) (Jess Craven 101 on Facebook)
- [SNAP's Contingency Reserve Is Available for Regular SNAP Benefits, as USDA and OMB Have Ruled in Past](#) (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities)
- [Hunger as a political football](#) (Jeff Jackson NC AG on Facebook)
- [Should we feed the poor?](#) (Politics Girl on Facebook)

The Pushback

[Mass.Gov](#): "President Trump is currently choosing to not issue November SNAP benefits that help you and many families put food on the table" - Statement on official Mass.Gov SNAP webpage

- [Attorneys General Sue Trump for Using Shutdown to Disrupt Food Assistance for Millions](#) (Truthout)
- [AG Campbell Demands Answers From Trump Administration On SNAP Funding Due To Lapse At End Of Month](#) (Mass.gov)
- ['Feed people, Mr. President': Mass. Gov Healey demands with SNAP benefits set to run out](#) (MassLive)
- [Democratic-led states sue Trump administration to keep SNAP food assistance funds flowing](#) (CNN)
- [Senate Republicans Block Democratic Effort to Fund SNAP During the Shutdown](#) (NOTUS)

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	● 10 GOP senators co-sponsor Hawley’s SNAP funding bill (<i>The Hill</i>) ● Democrats launch alternative bill to save SNAP funding (<i>Politico</i>)
Bonus Actions	● March for the Food Bank - Join the annual march which embarks on its 43-mile journey from Springfield to Greenfield on Monday, November 24th and Tuesday, November 25th. There is also a 3-mile Berkshire Mini-March in Pittsfield on Saturday, November 22nd, after which marchers can volunteer at Pittsfield Community Pantry preparing bags of food for Thanksgiving Angels. All information can be found here. <i>The IMC-CAD</i> will add more of these events if you send links to us at coordinatedactiondispatch@gmail.com. CADs are “live” documents that continue to update past publishing time. ● Add your name to this petition from Women’s March. ● Host a “CAD party” and make calls, complete postcards, or perform other actions together. It’s motivating and there is empowerment both in numbers and being with others! ● Share this link to SUBSCRIBE TO THE IMC-CAD with everyone you can (we are keeping this subscription free—it’s ok to skip the “Pledge” button that appears).