



June 2026 Conference Committee Call to Action

Context: Budget proposals for Fiscal Year 2027 have been passed by the House and Senate. The budget proposals differ in a few areas, including some food system agencies and programs. We need to advocate to ensure the higher amount of support ends up in the final budget. Please email the six member conference committee that has been appointed to work out the differences between these proposals by **Jun 22, 2026**, and share this call to action widely with your networks! Advocates are welcome to include all, or some, of the below items.

[Email template](#)

[Social Media Templates](#)

Email template

Please email the conference committee members directly:

- Aaron.M.Michlewitz@mahouse.gov
- Kip.Diggs@mahouse.gov
- Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov
- Michael.Rodrigues@masenate.gov
- Jo.Comerford@masenate.gov
- Patrick.OConnor@masenate.gov

CC your own state representative and senator: find their email address [here](#).

Subject line: Please support the local food system in the FY27 budget conference committee!

Suggested copy for email body:

Dear Conferees,

I am a resident of [town or city name] OR I work as a [farmer, farmers' market manager, role at food system organization]. I am writing to ask you to support the following amounts for the below agencies and programs in the FY27 Conference Committee budget:

- **Healthy Incentives Program (4400-1004):** We deeply appreciate the strong level of support this program enjoyed from both chambers. We request the \$29,700,000 as proposed by the Senate budget; this level will continue to support year-round operation of HIP at the restored benefit levels, and allow DTA to add new farmers for the first time since 2022.

For any questions about this template, please email rebecca@mafoodsystem.org



- **Food Literacy** (7010-1192): We support the investment of \$1,000,000, as proposed by the Senate, to allow DESE to continue the School Wellness Coaching Program, launch another round of the FRESH Grant, and develop food literacy curricula, tools, and resources.
- **MDAR administrative budget** (2511-0100): We support the \$10.2 million proposed by the House. The agency has seen increased responsibilities over the last few years, and needs increased administrative capacity. We are concerned by the real possibility that a decreased administrative budget will result in less support for farmers.
- **Local Food Policy Councils** (earmark within 2511-0100): We support the funding level of \$250,000 as proposed by the Senate for a fourth round of this grant program, which has had a transformative impact on municipal food systems around the Commonwealth.
- **DTA Caseworker funding** (4400-1100) - We support level funding of \$147 million as proposed by the Senate, and emphasize the need for additional caseworkers to deal with the increased bureaucracy and complexity from the passage of OB3. If low-income households lose access to SNAP, they lose HIP, which means less dollars for the local economy.
- **Disaster Relief and Resiliency Fund** (outside section): We appreciate the support of both chambers and request the funding level of \$20,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. State relief was an essential part of the recovery process for farmers from the disastrous 2023 growing season, as federal relief is still in limbo due to the Trump Administration's policies. We strongly support this program's development as the impacts of global warming continue to intensify.

[Add a few sentences about why these programs matter to you!]

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,

[your name]

Social Media Templates

[Please make a copy of this template graphic](#) and share it on your social media!