



WINTER 2026

METROWEST FOOD COLLABORATIVE NEWSLETTER

Dear MetroWest Community,

As we begin 2026, I'm reflecting on the sustaining force that keeps me going, keeps the work to build an equitable food system strong, and will serve as a light in the uncertain and challenging times ahead: COMMUNITY. It's thanks to you all—providers, advocates, volunteers, community leaders, academic leaders, legislative champions, and funders—that together, we continue to move the needle on food access even when the landscape appears impossible.

It's hard to know exactly what this year will bring, but one thing is clear: you all are helping make a brighter future possible, every day. I'm looking forward to doing this work side by side in the year to come, and hope to see you at our 4th Annual Food Access Summit in March to share our collective wisdom and build some momentum for change together.

Wishing you the best in the new year,

Kali Coughlan

MetroWest Food Collaborative Manager



In the News

- **Save the date** for the MetroWest Food Collaborative's 4th Annual Food Access Summit: March 17th, 2026 at Framingham State University from 9-10:30am.
- **The Anti-Hunger Task Force** advises the Massachusetts Governor on solutions to hunger and food insecurity, and now is a great time to add your voice!
[Learn more here.](#)

MWFC UPDATES

COMMUNITY EVENTS & RESOURCES

In October, we were invited to table at Senate President Karen Spilka's 55+ Health & Wellness Fair at Keefe Regional Technical School in Framingham, MA. We had a wonderful time talking with older adult community members about food equity and access as a public health issue, and inviting people to share advocacy messages on paper plates, which we will pass on to legislators.



Kali has also given several presentations throughout the MetroWest region over the past months, which has served as an opportunity to distribute our print resources more widely—including new food resource postcards available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese. If you'd like some postcards, let us know and we'll drop some off!

Do you need help with food resources? Here's where to find them in MetroWest.



Scan the QR code with your phone camera to access food resource flyers and calendars in English, Spanish, Portuguese & Haitian Creole, or visit the URL below.

MetroWestFoodCollaborative.org/Find-Food



Learn about food access programs, SNAP & WIC. Support available in English, Portuguese & Spanish.



Giuliana Bacoccini,
SNAP & WIC Outreach Coordinator

Scan the QR Code, email, call or text.



Contact:
gbacoccini@townofhudson.org
(978) 875 1487

Follow us on social media!



MWFC UPDATES

GRATITUDE FOR OUR FUNDERS



In addition to a second year of funding that the Collaborative received from **the MetroWest Health Foundation** to continue our SNAP & WIC outreach pilot, several other organizations and foundations have recently granted us funds to sustain and expand our efforts. We would like to take the opportunity to thank them here:

- **Project Bread, Community Power Grant, \$20,000:** this funding will enable us to create space for and support the leadership development of older adults with lived experience of food insecurity to share their voices, grow as advocates, and influence priorities—both for MWFC and state policy.
- **Community Foundation for MetroWest, \$15,000:** this grant will provide general operating support for the Collaborative's efforts to support hunger relief in the MetroWest region.
- **Sudbury Foundation, \$10,000:** this capacity funding will will make more time and resources available for the Collaborative to fill its roles as advocate, convener and connector in service of a more equitable food system.
- **Christine Gallery Community Benefit Grant Program, through Emerson Health, \$5,000:** this funding will provide capacity support for the continuation of the Hudson Mobile Food Pantry program, ongoing outreach to raise awareness of food access resources, and community engagement and community responsiveness efforts.

EMERGENCY FOOD RESOURCE GROUP

The MetroWest Emergency Food Resource group, convened by the Collaborative, has met twice now. We will meet quarterly on an ongoing basis to encourage collaboration across the region.

The January meeting will focus on **Summer Eats planning** for the 2026 season.

Reach out to Kali to get involved.



Interested in joining a working group?

Email us at: **MetroWestFoodCollaborative@gmail.com**

PARTNER UPDATES

JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN METROWEST

Framingham State University is hiring a [Case Manager and Coordinator of Student Support Resources](#) to manage tasks related to the operations and services of the Office. This position coordinates programs directly related to food and housing insecurities through collaboration with campus and community partners, including the MWFC. They'll oversee the Rams Resource Center (RRC)- Food and Amenity Pantry.



Natick Service Council is hiring two roles:

The [Director of Case Management](#) will provide leadership and oversight for NSC's Case Management Department. This role supervises case management staff, maintains an individual caseload, and ensures high-quality, client-centered services for NSC clients.

The [Sr. Director of Advancement](#) serves as a key member of NSC's leadership team, responsible for developing and executing a comprehensive fundraising strategy that sustains and grows the organization's impact.



Additionally, we'd like to congratulate **Rachel Vingsness** for being appointed as the **new Executive Director** in December.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Please save the date for the HIP Lobby Day; Thursday, March 26, 2026! Learn more about the [Campaign for HIP Funding](#) and join us in efforts to ensure adequate funding to continue this awesome program!

The [Make Hunger History Coalition](#), meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 12pm - 1pm.

Join the Coalition list [here](#) to receive future invites.

If you'd like to get involved with a working group, you can sign up to join a working group. They are taking submissions [through this form](#).

MA SNAP Coalition: 4th Tuesday of the month, 10am - 11:30am.

To join, contact: Pat Baker at pbaker@mlri.org or Vicky Negus at vnegus@mlri.org.



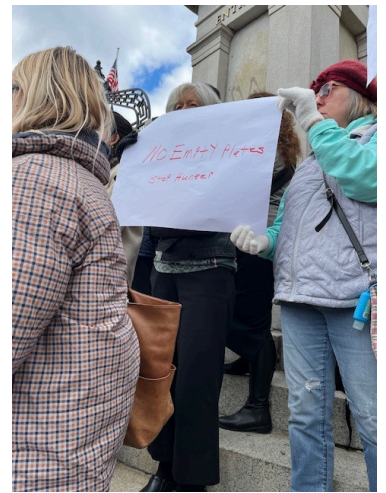
Want an update shared with our network?

Email us at: MetroWestFoodCollaborative@gmail.com

ADVOCACY UPDATES

1 SNAP & THE FEDERAL SHUTDOWN

In October and November, a great deal of our advocacy focused on addressing the harms caused to SNAP households by the federal government shutdown and Massachusetts' decision not to cover delayed November benefits. As part of this, we rallied at the Statehouse with many partners and community members, urging our government to act.



2 NEW SNAP WORK RULES: WHAT TO KNOW

Under the federal 2025 Budget Reconciliation Law (otherwise known as the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act”, there have been several harmful changes to SNAP work rules.

While SNAP historically requires that certain “able bodied” adults work 80 hours a month, engage in a training program, or do community service to receive SNAP beyond a 3-month time period, the new law vastly expands who is included in this requirement, to: older adults until age 65, caregivers of children 14+, veterans, people experiencing homelessness (including homeless families), and former foster youth.

It also eliminates the state option to waive this requirement in certain geographies in times of high unemployment or lack of job opportunities.

Questions about Advocacy?

Contact us: MetroWestFoodCollaborative@gmail.com

RESOURCES FOR YOU

UPDATED
RESOURCE!

Food Access Calendars & Resource Guides

(In English, Spanish, Portuguese)

[Click here](#)

Connect with Giuliana for SNAP/WIC help

[Click here](#)

Local Farmers' Markets Info & HIP Flyers

*(In English, Spanish, Portuguese,
and Haitian Creole)*

[Click here](#)

Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline: 1-800-645-8333

Monday-Friday: 8am-7pm
Saturday: 10am - 2pm

Assistance in 180 languages.

Trouble with SNAP? Get Help When you Can't Reach DTA

[Click here](#)

What to Do If You've Experienced Benefit Theft

[Click here](#)