FALL 2026

METROWEST FOOD COLLABORATIVE NEWSLETTER

Dear MetroWest Community,

We are excited to share the Fall 2026 newsletter as we celebrate five years of collaboration, partnership, and collective action! This milestone is an opportunity to reflect on how far we have come and, most importantly, to express our gratitude to the community partners, advocates, legislators, and organizations who have helped make this work possible.

Over the past five years, we have seen the power of coming together to address food access and equity across MetroWest. We are especially grateful for the continued support and engagement of our legislative partners, whose collaboration helps advance policies and initiatives that move us closer to a more equitable, accessible, and sustainable food system for all. As we look ahead, we remain committed to strengthening these partnerships, elevating community voices, and working together toward meaningful change.

Thank you for being part of this journey and for helping make the MetroWest Food Collaborative what it is today. We look forward to all that we will continue to accomplish together!

With gratitude,

Kali Coughlan
MetroWest Food Collaborative Manager



In the News

- Our Thanksgiving Food Resource list was recently posted on our website, Facebook and Instagram, please share with your networks!
- Massachusetts is reopening applications for new farm vendors/farmers markets to participate in the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) for the first time since 2022.
- The MA closeout supplemental budget passed in both chambers (House and Senate), with additional funding to hire caseworkers at the Department of Transitional Assistance — the state agency that administers SNAP benefits! Join us in encouraging the Gov. to sign the budget into law by doing this action alert.

MWFC UPDATES

Welcome to Our New Staff Members at the MWFC:



Marcie Appiah-Opoku
Communications Intern



Wanessa Campelo and Luciana Duarte
Bilingual Community Food Advocates

Supported through a MetroWest Health Foundation grant, our new Bilingual Community Food Advocates engage community members as trusted partners in outreach, education, and program development. Our relationship-based outreach model centers the voices and experiences of impacted communities, recognizing residents as essential partners in identifying needs and shaping solutions to food insecurity. A huge thanks to the food pantries, meal programs and other partners who have welcomed them. They are also working to expand awareness of SNAP & WIC in the Brazilian community. Please reach out with any opportunities to collaborate!









Check out our Gallery to see more pictures that show what we've been up to!



MWFC UPDATES

On October 1st we became a DTA SNAP Outreach Partner

What does this mean?

Two members of the Hudson Health Department (where the MWFC sits) that can access DTA Connect to provide better case management for people applying for SNAP or navagating the benefits.

Giuliana, MWFC SNAP & WIC Outreach Coordinator, will be supporting people in Framingham, Hudson or Milford.

Lane, MW Shared Public Health Services Community Health Worker, will be supporting people in Ashland, Hopkinton, Maynard, Medway, Millis and Natick.

We encourage you to refer clients to both of them.

Resident Advocacy Group



We recently brought residents together for our new Resident Advocacy Group, comprised of older adults ages 55+, to participate in a focus group for the MetroWest Regional Food Access Assessment with residents in Framingham. Residents shared their experiences with food access, talked about the challenges they face, and discussed what could make it easier to access the food they need.

Hearing directly from residents is an important part of understanding what our community needs and making sure their voices are heard as we work toward improving food access across MetroWest!

Follow us on social media! ⟶

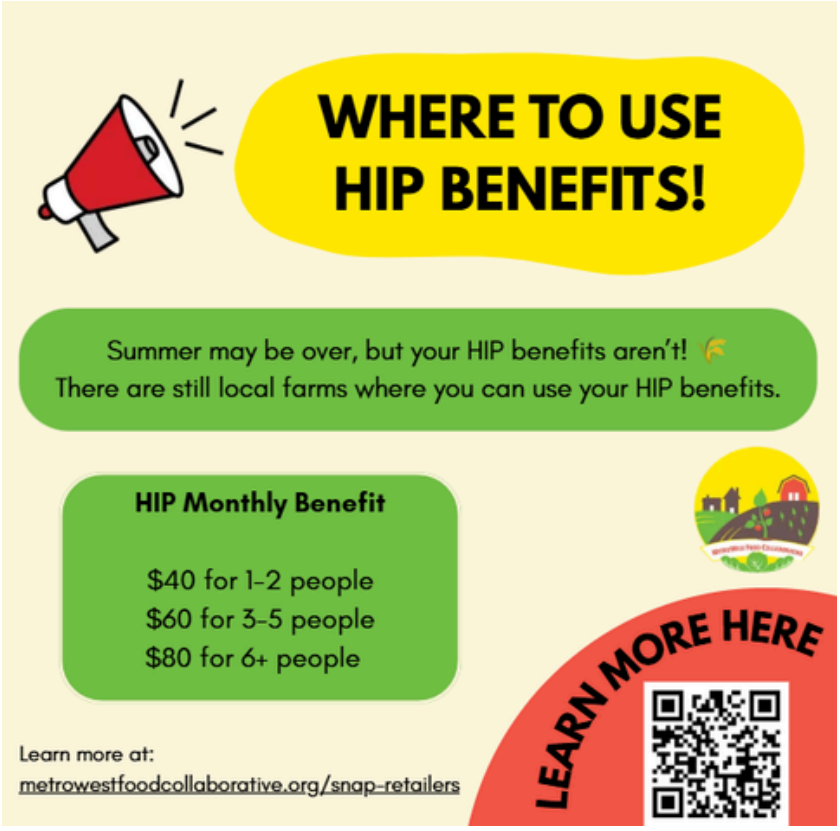
ADVOCACY UPDATES

Urge Gov. Healy to Fund More DTA Caseworkers



We are thrilled to share that after tireless advocacy for nearly a year, the MA House and Senate put in additional funding for DTA caseworkers who help families access SNAP, which will ultimately mean people will get the help they need when they call DTA! This is incredible - and a testament to the tireless advocacy from members of the Make Hunger History coalition (including the two residents pictured with Kali who joined her at the state house in October!!). Next up, we need to urge Governor Healey to sign this funding into law! Please join us in doing so, but completing this action alert and sharing it with your networks because every email makes a difference!

Did You Know That HIP is a Year Round Program?



Check out our Facebook and Instagram posts about the three farms in MetroWest and the Natick Farmers Market that are still open and accept HIP.

Massachusetts is reopening applications for new farm vendors to participate in the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) for the first time since 2022. The expansion will help more families access fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables while supporting Massachusetts farmers and strengthening local food systems.

Interested applicants can find more information and application materials at Mass.gov/HIPNOO.

Questions about Advocacy?

Contact us: MetroWestFoodCollaborative@gmail.com

PARTNER UPDATES

DTA Announces Chip/Tap EBT card important information

All SNAP Households should have received the new Chip/Tap EBT Card.

New chip/tap cards must be activated by November 29, 2026!



If a client has not yet received a chip/tap EBT card in the mail, they should request one by:

- Visiting their nearest DTA office
- Using the "Request EBT card" function on DTA Connect
- Calling the DTA Assistance Line at 877-382-2363 and following the automated prompts
- (this option only exists for households who call, provide identifying information, and are sorted by the system into priority level 3)
- Calling the EBT Customer Service Line on the back of the EBTcard at 800-997-2555

Requesting a new card online or over the phone will automatically deactivate the client's magnetic stripe card. This means the client will not be able to spend SNAP from when they request the new chip card until it arrives in the mail, which can take around 5-10 days. So, to avoid experiencing a gap in having a working EBT card, clients can request replacement after they have spent their SNAP for the month and/or go to local offices to get a chip card in person. See this Mass.gov FAQ webpage for more information.



Join the MWFC Steering Committee member Jeanne Sherlock and other parterns to reflect on what we can learn from the past, consider what we hope to build for the future, and explore the everyday actions that help create communities where people feel connected, valued, and able to participate.

Register now

Use code: MWNNFRIEND for complimentary registration

Want an update shared with our network?

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

PARTNER UPDATES



A Place to Turn is hiring for a Community Food Program & Pantry Assistant and a Food Pantry Coordinator.
Learn more here: https://www.aplacetoturn-natick.org/job-opportunities

Want an update shared with our network?
Email us at: **MetroWestFoodCollaborative@gmail.com**

RESOURCES FOR YOU

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)

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