SPRING/SUMMER 2026

METROWEST FOOD COLLABORATIVE NEWSLETTER

Dear MetroWest Community,

We are excited to share the Spring/Summer 2026 MetroWest Food Collaborative Newsletter. This edition highlights important updates from across our region, including the 4th Annual Food Access Summit, the launch of the MetroWest Food Access Assessment Survey, new partner programs, advocacy opportunities, and helpful food access resources.

As food access, equity, and sustainability remain critical priorities across MetroWest, we are grateful for the continued collaboration of community members, partners, advocates, and local organizations working together to strengthen support for residents. We hope this newsletter keeps you informed, connected, and inspired to get involved in the work ahead.

With gratitude,

Kali Coughlan
MetroWest Food Collaborative Manager

In the News

- This powerful NEPM/WBUR piece from Project Bread and SEIU 509 **highlights the SNAP access crisis.** See page 5 for ways to join us in advocating for additional staffing.
- HIP reached **$100 million in incentives** earned since 2017 last month! See page 5 for advocacy updates on ideas to celebrate this amazing milestone.
- SUN Bucks **provides $120 in extra grocery benefits for each eligible child in our community.** See page 4 for more information.

MWFC UPDATES

METROWEST FOOD ACCESS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

We are excited to announce that the MetroWest Food Access Assessment Survey has officially launched! We want to **hear directly from community members about their experiences accessing food and resources in the MetroWest region.** This feedback will help us continue to understand what is working well, where challenges exist, and **how we can work together to improve food access and strengthen support systems in our communities.**

Survey Link: Click Here (open through at least the end of June)
Flyers are available in English, Spanish and Portuguese- please help us post these throughout MetroWest and share on social media.

Additionally, we are looking for community members who may be interested in participating in a focus group or key informant interview. If you are interested or know someone who might be good, **please reach out to Karina Scott, Coordinator of Shared Public Health Services: kscott@townofhudson.org.**

WE'RE HIRING!

We are excited to announce that we are hiring for three stipended positions:

- Bilingual Community Food Advocate (English & Spanish)
- Bilingual Community Food Advocate (English & Portuguese)
- Communications Contractor

Please check out the job postings on our website and help us spread the word!

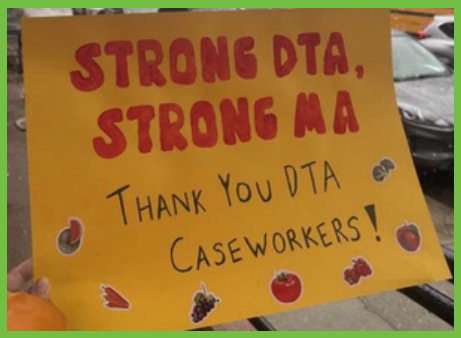
SHARE YOUR VOICE

The MetroWest Food Collaborative is inviting older adults to share their experiences accessing DTA and SNAP benefits. Your voice can help identify barriers, improve communication, and support advocacy efforts to make food assistance programs easier to reach across MetroWest. Click here **to complete our interest form and get involved.**

Interested in joining a working group?
Email us at: **MetroWestFoodCollaborative@gmail.com**

ADVOCACY UPDATES

1. There is currently a crisis facing the SNAP program. In MA, **over 80% of calls going into the state agency that administers SNAP** (Department of Transitional Assistance, DTA) **are getting dropped.** Nearly 50,000 children have lost access to the SNAP program since the passage of One Big Beautiful Bill last July.



Check out these photos from our DTA Caseworker Appreciation Day and Rally 2026.

We know how to fix this - **DTA needs more caseworkers** to adequately manage the SNAP caseload, reduce the number of people falling off of SNAP, and expand participation to all households who are eligible.

Please join Make Hunger History on Tuesday, June 23rd between 11:30am-1pm for a call-in day to the Governor's office, urging her to increase funding for DTA caseworkers. **Fill out this form to join us!**

2. **HIP has reached a major milestone: $100 million in fresh, local food purchased by Massachusetts families using their EBT cards!** This first-in-the-nation achievement is the result of nine years of hard work from farmers, advocates, community partners, and state leaders.

To celebrate, we encourage partners to invite legislators to local farm stands, farmers' markets, and CSA sites to recognize this milestone and highlight the impact HIP has had on food access and local agriculture across Massachusetts. **Click here** to view the toolkit and learn how to help celebrate $100 million of HIP.

We especially want to thank Senate President Spilka for being a champion of HIP and celebrating this milestone at the opening of the Ashland Farmer's Market.

Questions about Advocacy?

Contact us: MetroWestFoodCollaborative@gmail.com

MWFC UPDATES

4TH ANNUAL FOOD ACCESS SUMMIT

We gathered at Framingham State University to share our collective wisdom and build momentum for change. We are at a critical juncture for food access, equity, and sustainability in MetroWest and all across Massachusetts. As the summit highlighted, we need to collaborate with one another and continue to advocate to protect foundational state and local food programs to ensure residents have enough food on their tables.

We are grateful to all who came out and shared this learning and visioning space with us, and to all who are leading this work forward in our region.

If you missed the summit, we encourage you to watch this video.

Follow us on social media! ⟶

PARTNER UPDATES

Summer Eats is a **free program that provides nutritious meals for youth ages 18 and under during the summer months. From June 29–August 21, 2026**, the MetroWest YMCA and community partners **will offer meals and enrichment activities** at locations throughout the MetroWest area. You can visit the **MetroWest YMCA website** to find a Summer Eats location near you.

SUN Bucks is a **summer food benefit that helps eligible families with school-aged children buy groceries when school meals are not available**. Eligible children may receive **$120 in benefits for the summer**, and many families are automatically enrolled. **Families who are not automatically enrolled can apply online through DTA Connect**. **Click here** to learn more about eligibility, benefits, and how to apply.

MW NONPROFIT NETWORK CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The MWNN certificate program **helps participants grow their leadership skills, build professional connections, and learn from experienced nonprofit leaders**. This 12-week hybrid program runs from S**eptember through December** and includes expert-led sessions, group learning, networking, mentorship, and peer support. **Learn more at Metrowestnonprofit.org**

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

UPDATED RESOURCE!

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