



# BOSTON FOOD ACCESS COUNCIL

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday June 3, 2020  
Zoom Webinar

## Agenda

- 6:00pm Webinar Rules & Best Practices [GBFB]
- 6:05pm Updates from the Office of Food Access
- 6:20pm Organizational Updates
  - Project Bread: Sarah Cluggish
  - Greater Boston Food Bank: Catherine Drennan
  - Mass Law Reform Institute: Pat Baker
  - City of Boston Census Liaison: Sebastian Zapata
  - Mass Food Trust Program: Rebecca Lin
  - CommonWealth Kitchen: Ismail Samad
- 6:45pm Breakout Groups for Community Discussions
- 7:05pm Report Out from Breakout Groups
- 7:25pm Communications Updates
- 7:30pm Updates from the Working Groups
  - Advocacy & Policy
  - Community Outreach, Engagement & Education
  - Fundraising
  - Mayor's Food Access Agenda
- 7:40pm Breakout into Working Groups
- 8:00pm Meeting Concludes



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# Update to Boston Food Access Council

Sarah Cluggish, VP of Programs & Policy  
June 3, 2020



# School Meal Sites - Transition to Summer

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- Currently in Boston, there are 74 meal sites.
  - How do I find a site? -  
[www.boston.gov/departments/food-access/map-covid19-food-resources](http://www.boston.gov/departments/food-access/map-covid19-food-resources)
  - What will summer look like?
    - GOOD NEWS! USDA has waived the congregate and meal time standard requirements through August. Parents may also continue to pick up meals.
    - To date, the Y and OFA have recruited 30 community-based organizations to serve as sites. This is in addition to Y branches, BHA and BCYF sites.
    - Last year BPS had 120 sites, but there was programming at these locations. More to come soon.
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# FoodSource Hotline – 800-645-8333

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- Monday–Friday: 8am – 7pm & Saturday: 10am – 2pm
- Bilingual staff & Language Line (160 languages)
- Services -
  - SNAP screening & application assistance
  - Referrals to local food resources, including school/summer meals sites, WIC, food pantries, home delivered meals, etc.
  - Coordinating with OFA on delivery for Boston residents
  - State's information hub for P-EBT & HIP
- Our daily call volume is 6x higher – we have brought on new staff and created a separate P-EBT line

# Massachusetts P-EBT – 800-645-8333

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- P-EBT is a cash benefit for all MA school age students who are enrolled in free or reduced-price (f/r) school meals.
  - All Boston Public School students are receiving P-EBT. METCO students will receive P-EBT if they receive f/r meals at the school they attend.
  - The benefit was either uploaded to a family's EBT card (if they are a DTA client) or families will receive individual P-EBT cards for each eligible student last week and this week.
  - Two issuances of \$199.50 per eligible student.
  - To set the pin # - go to [www.map-ebt.org/uyb/#ayc](http://www.map-ebt.org/uyb/#ayc)
  - ??s about P-EBT – [Sarah\\_Cluggish@projectbread.org](mailto:Sarah_Cluggish@projectbread.org)
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# Video Introducing P-EBT

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# The Greater Boston Food Bank – Emergency Food Distribution Partners in Boston

**PRESENTED BY**

Catherine Drennan,  
Director of Communications and Public Affairs



[GBFB.org](http://GBFB.org)

# How We Work



- Friends of GBFB donate time, money and resources.
- Team GBFB and volunteers acquire, sort, and deliver 60+ million pounds of healthy food, enough for 50+ million healthy meals.

- 500+ partner agencies get the majority of their food from GBFB.
- 70+ direct distribution Programs (Brown Bags, Mobile Markets, School-based Pantries)

- More than 140,000 individuals receive healthy food from GBFB each month.

# COVID-19 FOOD INSECURITY

Food Insecure  
Neighbors in  
Eastern  
Massachusetts



**PRE-COVID**

**415,380**

1 in 13 residents

**91,830**

1 in 11 children



**COVID-19**

**658,920**

1 in 8 residents

**177,010**

1 in 6 children

# Food Distribution

WHERE THE FOOD GOES



## Food Distribution Partners:

- 141 partners

## New COVID-19 Partners

- YMCA Boston (11)
- Boston Housing Authority Drop Ship (60 locations)

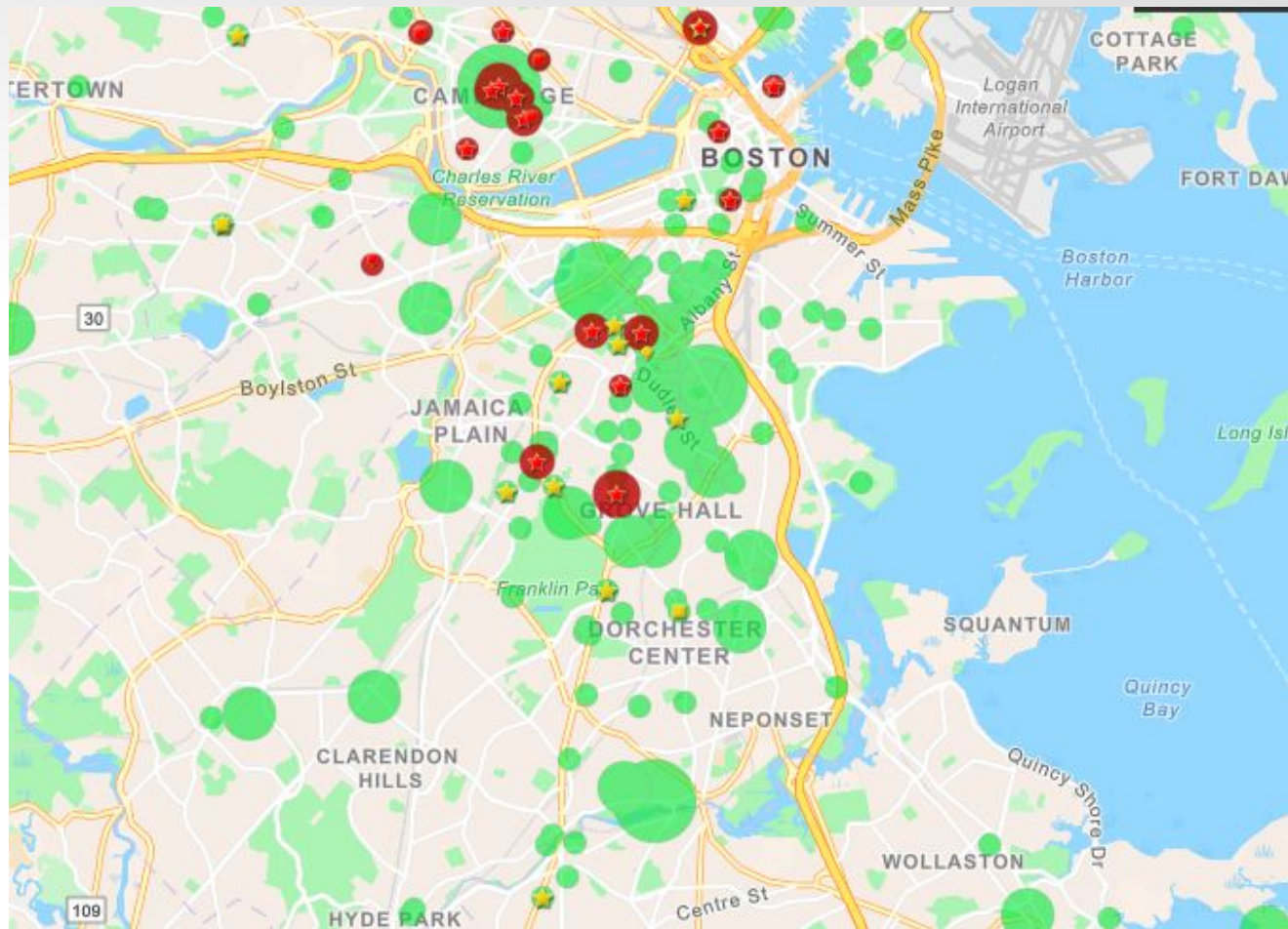
GBFB Need Food  
webpage:

[www.gbfb.org/needfood](http://www.gbfb.org/needfood)

The Greater Boston



Feeding Eastern Massachusetts



# Thank you



# The 2020 Census

*What's at Stake and Why it Matters*

**B**

Mayor Martin J. Walsh

1. **Representation:** Determines how many seats each state has in the US House of Representatives and therefore influence in the Electoral College
2. **Redistricting:** Congressional districts, state legislative districts, and local city council districts are redrawn for the next ten years
3. **Federal Funding:** \$16 Billion in Federal Funding for Massachusetts
  - a. Much of this funding helps the most vulnerable among us, providing, for instance, health care, education, food and nutrition programs, housing, and child care for low-income families
    - i. Medicaid, Medicare, SNAP, Section 8 Vouchers, Title 1 Education Grants, Head Start, CDBG
    - ii. For every resident who is not counted in MA, \$2,372 in funding is missed

- Protections from Title 13 of the U.S. Code
  - Lifetime sworn obligation to never disclose information identifying individual or business
  - **Your answers cannot be used against you by any government agency or court**
  - Violation a federal crime; federal prison sentence up to 5 years, \$250,000 fine, or both
- Census Bureau **never** asks for:
  - Social Security number
  - Bank account number
  - Credit card number
  - Money or donations



- **4 ways to be counted:**

- Online, Phone, Paper Form (Today-October 31)
- In-person canvasser visit (August 11-October 31)

- **Service-Based Enumeration**

- People without conventional housing and people who may be experiencing homelessness (emergency and transitional shelters, soup kitchens, pre-identified outdoor locations)
- Date TBA:
  - July 30, July 31, August 1- with Temporary Non Shelter Outdoor Living (TNSOL) happening August 1
  - September 29, September 30, October 1 with TNSOL happening October 1

# Language Access

*You can respond to the Census online or over the phone in 13 languages*



Language	Hotline	Website
English	844-330-2020	2020census.gov
Spanish	844-468-2020	2020census.gov/es
Haitian Creole	844-477-2020	2020census.gov/ht
Chinese (Mandarin)	844-391-2020	2020census.gov/zh-hans
Chinese (Cantonese)	844-398-2020	2020census.gov/zh-hans
Vietnamese	844-461-2020	2020census.gov/vi
Russian	844-417-2020	2020census.gov/ru
Arabic	844-416-2020	2020census.gov/ar
Tagalog	844-478-2020	2020census.gov/tl
Polish	844-479-2020	2020census.gov/pl
French	844-494-2020	2020census.gov/fr
Portuguese	844-474-2020	2020census.gov/pt
Japanese	844-460-2020	2020census.gov/ja
Korean	844-392-2020	2020census.gov/ko

# Questions Asked

The form should take about 10-12 minutes to complete



1. How many people were living or staying in this house, apartment, or mobile home on April 1, 2020?
2. Were there any additional people staying here on April 1, 2020 that you did not include in Question 1?
3. Is this house, apartment, or mobile home – (owned, rented, occupied without payment of rent)?
4. What is your telephone number?
5. What is Person 1's name?
6. How is this person related to Person 1 (asked of additional residents)?
7. What is this person's sex?
8. What is this person's age and what is this person's date of birth?
9. Is this person of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?
10. What is this person's race?
11. Does this person usually live or stay somewhere else?

**There is no  
question  
regarding  
citizenship!**

# THANK YOU

*"Make sure every resident of Boston is counted, because every resident of Boston counts." – Mayor Martin J. Walsh*

**Contact: Sebastian Zapata – [Sebastian.Zapata@boston.gov](mailto:Sebastian.Zapata@boston.gov),  
617-635-4478**



# MASSACHUSETTS FOOD TRUST PROGRAM

Boston Food Access Council Presentation

June 3, 2020



# What is the MFTP?

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- The Massachusetts Food Trust Program (MFTP) is a state-wide initiative that provides loans, grants, and business assistance for increasing access to healthy, affordable food in low-income, underserved areas.
- Maximum loan amount is \$300K and the maximum grant is \$25,000.
- While the loans typically have a maturity of between 3 and 5 years and an interest rate of around 4%. Longer maturities are available for real estate transactions.



# COVID-19 Adaptations

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- To respond to the current health and economic crisis, we are continuing to accept new applications, award grants and offer 0% interest loans for the first 6-12 months through July 31, 2020 for qualified candidates.
- The funds can be used towards to pay for activities related to COVID - 19, including but not limited to increasing inventory, purchase additional equipment, and serve the organization's other most immediate needs.



# How do I qualify?

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- Provide or support the availability of high-quality, affordable, and nutritious food in an area where there is limited access
- Serve a majority of customers from underserved areas
- Demonstrate strong engagement and support from local residents and a commitment to providing a positive economic and social impact to the local community\*
- Accept federal and state benefits (e.g. SNAP & WIC) to the maximum extent possible
- Include an experienced manager on the team, ideally with a minimum of three years managing a similar healthy food project
- Work with other state and local programs to the maximum extent practicable
- Be financially sustainable



# Thank you!

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For any questions, please reach out to José Luis Rojas, our program director, at [irojas@leaffund.org](mailto:irojas@leaffund.org)

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massachusetts-food-trust-program>





# CommonWealth Kitchen

We're on a mission to build a new food economy  
grounded in **racial, social** and **economic justice**.

## PRE-COVID:

- **SHARED KITCHENS:** 50+ diverse food businesses; 75% owned by women, immigrants & people of color; employing 160+
- **BUSINESS & TECHNICAL SUPPORT:** 25+ workshops and webinars annually to 100+ businesses on costing, marketing, bookkeeping, distribution, etc;
- **MARKET ACCESS:** partnerships with retailers, corporate dining and college and hospital food service, plus operate our own take-out kiosk in Kendall Sq;
- **CONTRACT MANUFACTURING:** 30+ product companies, farms, and restaurant partners contract with CWK for outsourced processing; plus CWK has its own products sold to institutional markets;
- **IMPACTS:** 60+ alumni businesses still in operation; 500+ jobs created; over \$55M+ in annual gross revenue;
- **SOCIAL ENTERPRISE MODEL:** Over 40% of CWK's annual budget is generated from earned income from kitchen operations- more than \$1.2M/year.

## Since March 2020:

- Over 70% of member businesses temporarily shuttered
- Over \$1.2M of projected earned revenue from operations evaporated overnight- 40% of our annual budget



In April 2020, CWK launched **CommonTable**, an effort to mobilize our diverse community of restaurants, food trucks, bakers, product companies, distributors and farmers to feed our neighbors in need.



### CORE PRINCIPLES:

- Equity at the center
- Distribute opportunity
- Prioritize local sourcing
- Leverage CWK's kitchens for BULK production
- Stay in our lane/ leverage strategic partnerships to identify needs
- Address urgent needs, with an eye toward the future

# CommonTable program elements

## BULK PREPARED MEALS

- Prepared meals produced by CWK, JMiH, & FFG; (\$7/meal)
- Ingredients sourced from local farms & fisheries whenever possible
- Approximately 45k meals through May; 26K meals/month

## MEAL KITS

- EatWell meal kits- \$3/serving
- Each kit includes protein, produce, starch, pre-measured spices, & a recipe
- 10-12K servings/month

## RESTAURANT PARTNERS

- **Off Their Plate:** CWK fiscal agent, paying restaurants to feed front-line healthcare workers (\$10/meal)
- **CommonTable:** paying minority and immigrant-owned restaurants to produce prepared meals to feed neighbors; (\$10/meal); + business TA
- **CommonTable Grocer:** Paying restaurants to produce custom grocery bags (i.e. produce, rice, beans, masa, avocados) (\$45 per 30# box- 10-12 servings)
- 10K+ meals/grocery servings distributed through May



## Delivery sites:

- City of Boston/YMCA
- Dimock Center
- Dot House Health Center
- South End Health Center
- Codman Sq Health Center
- Boston Housing Authority
- Chelsea Collaborative
- La Comunidad
- Mutual aid groups & non-profits

## EQUITY AT THE CENTER

### **Businesses participating in CommonTable:** (as of June 2020)

1. Jamaica Mi Hungry (JP- Jamaican food)
2. FreshFood Generation (Dorchester, Latin/Caribbean food)
3. Achilitos Taqueria (JP, Mexican food)
4. Tawakal Halal Cuisine (East Boston, Somalian food)
5. 50Kitchen LLC (Dorchester, Southern-Asian fusion)
6. Ascia Foods LLC (Roxbury, mediterranean/North African food)
7. Toutwel Restaurant Inc. (Mattapan, Haitian food)
8. Rhythm 'n Wraps (Allston, hearty vegan soul food)
9. Down Home Delivery & Catering (Dorchester, Southern food)
10. Pho Hoa Restaurant (Dorchester, Vietnamese food)
11. Las Palmas Restaurant, Inc. (Roslindale, Dominican food)
12. HAPI African Gourmet (Dorchester- West African food)
13. Mr. Tamole (Dorchester- Mexican food)
14. Meal Mantra (Dorchester- Indian food)
15. Lyndigo Spice (Dorchester)
16. EatWell (Dorchester- meal kits)
17. Haley House Bakery Cafe (Roxbury)
18. M&M BBQ (Dorchester)
19. Yelu's (Dorchester)
20. Soleil (Roxbury)
21. Suya Joint (Roxbury)
22. MeiMei (Allston)
23. Pagu (Cambridge)
24. Las Carolinas (Somerville)
25. City Fresh Foods (Roxbury)
26. Red's Best (South Boston)
27. Boston Area Gleaners (Waltham)
28. CommonWealth Kitchen



## CommonTable projected impacts

### Between April-August 2020:

- 200,000+ meals & grocery bags delivered to families in need at 30 sites across Greater Boston
- 40 restaurants, food trucks, and caterers engaged- 90% owned by immigrants or people of color
- 80+ people re-employed, at wages of \$15-20/hr
- 200,000+ lbs. of local produce integrated into program



**Total projected cost: \$2.25M (April-Aug)**

**Commitments to date: \$1.2M (55%)**

**Huge thanks to our generous sponsors:**



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## Next Steps

[Intern Posting](#)

[Join the Facebook Group](#)

[Join Our Slack Workspace](#)

### **Save the Date:**

Sept 16, 2020

6-8pm

Zoom Webinar

### **Save the Date:**

December 2, 2020

6-8pm

Location TBD



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# THANK YOU

BFAC

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