



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts Food Insecurity Program
in collaboration with
Greater Worcester Community Foundation and
2Gether We Eat**

MA Executive of Office Housing and Livable Communities Community Development Unit: Overview



2



Community Development Block Grant
(CDBG)



CDBG CARES ACT (CDBG-CV)



CDBG Recovery Housing Program (RHP)



Community Investment Tax Credit (CITC)

2

CDBG CV
CARES ACT =
\$75,093,148

CARES ACT 1- \$19,651,876

Focus on Microenterprises and Public Social Services

Grants awarded to 36 communities

CARES ACT 2- \$23,601,911

Focus on Microenterprises, Public Social Services, and
Emergency Rental/Mortgage Assistance

\$2,801,911 to five communities

\$10.8 M to Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation

\$10 M allocated to Emergency Rental and Mortgage
Assistance Program

CARES ACT 3- \$27,154,515

Focus on Food Insecurity

Grants awarded to 13 Community Foundations and

MASSCAP

CARES Act

Waived limit of funds to support public social services

Able to contract to Non UGLGs

To address food insecurity across the entire state, MA partnered with a network of 13 Community Foundations (CFs) and 1 Community Action Agency to provide services at the local and regional level.

Program Implementation



**CONVINCE, EDUCATE AND
TRAIN NEW PARTNERS**



DEVELOP POLICY GUIDANCE

CDBG-CV CARES ACT Funds – Food Insecurity



13 Community Foundations (and 1 CAA) allocated resources to address food insecurity for families and individuals impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic fallout.



Program Types: local food banks, mobile markets, local food growing/ distribution, backpack food for students' evening meals, & healthy food access for housing authority residents.



In response to sustained needs reported by partners, \$6,404,404 in **additional awards** were made = Total of \$33,558,919



New Partners -13 Community Foundations (+ 1 CAA)

GOALS: To ensure state-wide coverage

To provide services at regional/local level

Funds allocated on a prorated basis by:

- 1) Poverty Score
- 2) SNAP Change Score
- 3) Covid Health Impact
- 4) Economic Impact Score
- 5) Gateway Plus Score



Subgrantee Partners



2Gether We Eat's mission is to combat the food crisis and food deserts by providing food, education, workforce development, and employment opportunities year-round by growing food through indoor hydroponics systems.



Black Veteran founded 501(c)3 nonprofit organization



Educational programming for youth, teaching them how to use hydroponic farming to produce food for themselves and their families and they donate 100% of the crops to fight the food insecurities in the community.



2Gether We Eat

\$275,000 Award

- To purchase fully equipped Freight Farms from Freight Farms in Worcester, MA
- Vertical farm built entirely inside a 40-foot container.
- 500 plants germinated and be ready to put in the system upon arrival
- Grows up to 13,000 crops in 320 sf.
- Provides harvests 52 weeks a year/6 weeks yield crop.
- Worcester Community Action Council youth will assist in putting germinated plants in the system
- Community Crop distribution



Impact

- Addresses low food security
- Two to four tons' worth of crop yield annually will be donated and sold to community nonprofits
- 170 youth and adult learners educated annually
- Revenue earned from excess crop sales sustains the program
- Collaboration with other community organizations
- Delivers measurable results that will continue to grow well into the future
- Over 1,100 beneficiaries annually



Take Aways



Highlights the innovative approaches of community-based organizations



Illustrates the important role of state leadership



Innovative – new partnerships, revised (new) rules



Risk was worth it –
Almost 500,000 beneficiaries to date!



The conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic compelled us all to think about things differently

2Gether We Eat

<https://2getherweeat.com/>

<https://www.nbcboston.com/discover-black-heritage/2gether-we-eat-worcester-nonprofit-takes-innovative-approach-against-hunger/2637433/>

<https://2getherweeat.com/?playlist=9138be8&video=babb84b>

