

**FEED KIDS.
SOLVE HUNGER.**

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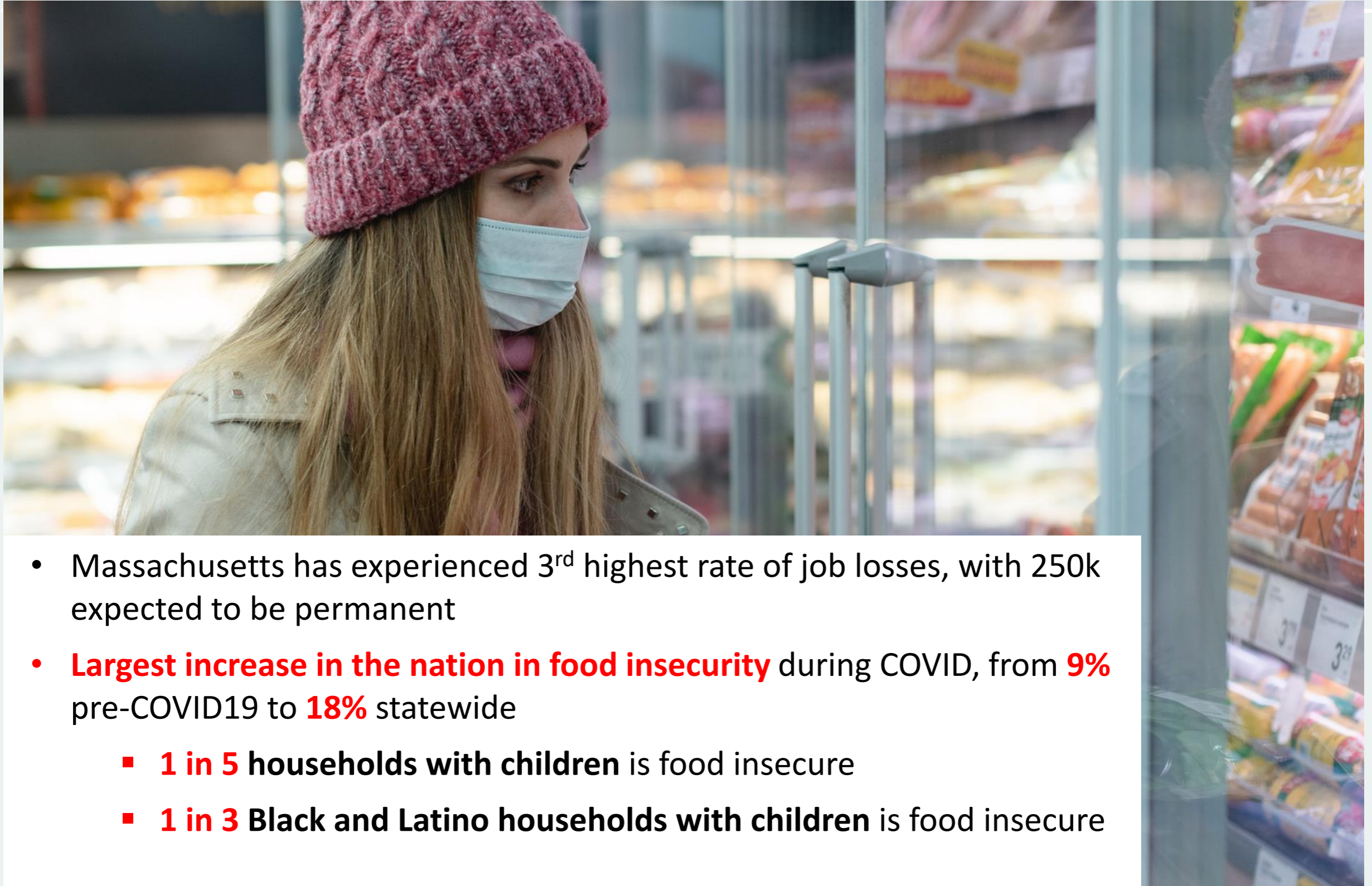
**IT'S TIME TO ENSURE
SCHOOL MEALS FOR ALL.**

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Food Insecurity in Massachusetts

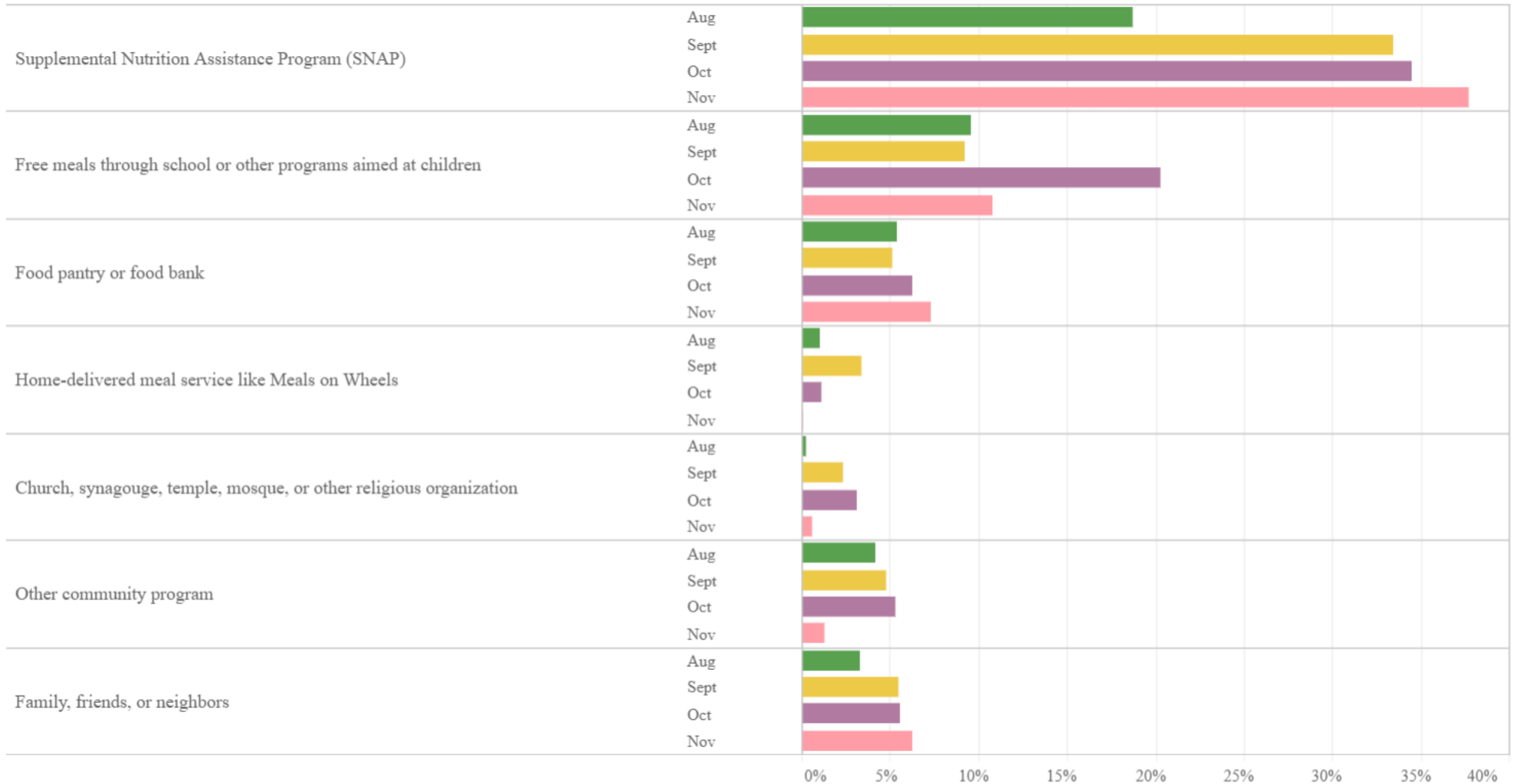


- Massachusetts has experienced 3rd highest rate of job losses, with 250k expected to be permanent
- **Largest increase in the nation in food insecurity** during COVID, from **9%** pre-COVID19 to **18%** statewide
 - **1 in 5 households with children** is food insecure
 - **1 in 3 Black and Latino households with children** is food insecure



Food Insecurity in Massachusetts

For food insecure households with children, SNAP and child nutrition programs are a critical resource



Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey



THE SOLUTION IS CLEAR.

Universal school meals — school meals available at no-cost to every student — have benefits that extend far beyond the lunch table. Research shows when a child is well fed, they perform better in school, are at lower risk for obesity, and adjust to social situations better. Additionally, by making meal access universal, we help remove stigma around economic status and family situation—creating a more equitable and just educational environment.

- **School Meals for All** is a necessary step toward ending hunger in our state and ensuring all our children can learn and thrive.
- *SD519/HD1161: An Act Relative to Universal School Meals*
 - Require all schools to make school breakfast and lunch available to all students at no charge to the student or their family.
 - Require that the cost of providing school meals be covered by a combination of federal reimbursement and state funding.
 - Encourage schools to maximize federal dollars by supporting Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) outreach.

27% of food insecure children are not eligible for free or reduced-price school meals

School Meals for All would increase participation in school meals by approximately **50,000 students**

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- Backyard Growers
- Groundwork Lawrence
- Island Grown Initiative
- Mill City Grows
- The Food Project
- FoodCorps
- Brookline Food Pantry
- Daily Table
- El Buen Samaritano (EBS)
- Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry
- The Family Pantry of Cape Cod
- The Open Door, Gloucester
- Food Bank of Western Mass
- Greater Boston Food Bank
- Worcester County Food Bank
- Food for Free
- Food Research and Action Center, DC
- Share Our Strength
- Massachusetts Healthy School Lunch Coalition
- Bay State Milling
- City Fresh Foods
- Genuine Foods
- Mei Mei
- State Street Corporation
- Cradles to Crayons, Inc.
- Strategies for Children
- Hope Church Sharon
- Temple Beth David (Westwood, MA)
- Temple Beth Shalom
- Temple Eiz Chaim
- Temple Hillel B'nai Torah
- Temple Sinai of Sharon
- Commonwealth Kitchen
- Massachusetts Farm to School
- Massachusetts Food System Collaborative
- American Heart Association
- Children's HealthWatch
- East Boston Neighborhood Health Center
- Partners in Health
- Revere on the Move
- MassGeneral Hospital for Children
- Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action
- Massachusetts Appleseed Center for Law and Justice
- Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
- Boston Public Schools
- Milford Public Schools
- Pioneer Valley Regional School District
- Sutton Public Schools
- Boston Mayor's Office of Food Access
- Provincetown Schools
- Salem Public Schools Food Salem, MA Public Schools
- School Nutrition Association
- East Boston Social Centers
- Friendly House, Inc.
- Jewish Family & Children's Services
- Mutual Aid Brookline
- National Association of Social Workers Massachusetts Chapter
- United South End Settlements
- United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley
- Alliance of Massachusetts YMCAs
- Massachusetts Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs Inc

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THANK YOU
