

Homeward Bound: A NABB Special Series on Homelessness

Fast Fact:

Food Insecurity Has Exponentially Increased by Some Estimates by 50% During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Not surprisingly, the Greater Boston Food Bank, Feeding America and Boston Indicators (a local data analysis research center), among others, all report that food insecurity has increased exponentially since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Multiple news sources cited to Feeding America's October 2020 report which singled out Massachusetts as having the [highest projected percentage increase](#) of food insecurity in the United States, at 59 percent from 2018 to 2020. Most alarming in Feeding America's report is that food insecurity among Massachusetts children increased by 102 percent during that same period, with one in five children now struggling with food insecurity. Consistent with these findings is the Greater Boston Food Bank's report, by its president and CEO, Catherine D'Amato, that throughout the pandemic it has distributed an average of 10 million pounds of food per month, which is over 60 percent more than the Food Bank distributed last year during the same period of time.

What You Can Do:

Donations to the following organizations to assist with food distribution can be made to:

- The City of Boston has an Office of Food Access sponsored by the Mayor's Office. They have a special COVID-19 food resources page with lists of organizations and phone numbers to call. The website is FOOD@BOSTON.gov. The annual **CANShare** fundraiser sponsored by the City of Boston's Office of Food Access will begin on December 15, 2020, and will run until February 15, 2021. Contact bostoncanshare@boston.gov or 617-635-3717. Monetary donations can be sent by check to: Treasury Department, City of Boston, P.O. Box 9715, Boston, MA 02114, or visit the online donation center: [Donate to CANShare](#)
- The YMCA operates a Hunger Prevention Program, including at its "Families in Transition" at the Huntington YMCA at 316 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA, 02115, HuntingtonY@ymcaboston.org
- **Greater Boston Food Bank** distributes food to people, ultimately aiming for a goal of three meals a day for everyone who needs it. The Greater Boston Food Bank accepts one-time, as well as repeating monetary [donations](#) and more. The organization still welcomes individual [volunteers](#) to help with some its most critical current projects, typically involving sorting food and packing boxes.
- [Project Bread](#) is well-known for its annual fundraising walk for over 50 years, the Walk for Hunger. The organization aims to prevent and end hunger in Massachusetts by increasing food access to those currently in need while also trying to break the cycle of hunger via advocacy, education, and community action. There are many ways to [donate](#).

You also can donate food items such as boxes of pasta, canned beans, rice, and other items to help feed those in need. Local organizations currently accepting food donations include:

- [Pine Street Inn](#) provides housing, emergency services, and workforce development, and serves more than 1,000 meals each day for its guests. [Food donations](#) are accepted between 6 a.m. and 5 p.m. daily. Items such as oatmeal packets, granola bars, cans of diced tomatoes, black beans, and bottled salad dressing can be donated. *(444 Harrison Ave., Boston)*
- [Rosie's Place](#) advocates for women in need, helping them find stability during times of poverty or homelessness. There are three ways to help stock the organization's food pantry from your own home: [Shop from](#) a list of much-needed pantry staples, [sponsor your own](#) virtual food drive, or [make a cash donation](#). *(889 Harrison Ave., Boston)*
- [Boston Rescue Mission](#) is a shelter for guests who are experiencing or are on the brink of homelessness. The Rescue Mission provides basic necessities to those in need, including shelter and healthy meals (last year, the organization served more than 143,000 meals). To donate perishable and non-perishable items, contact Dennis Gaskell, food service manager, at 617-290-2693. *(39 Kingston St., Boston)*
- [Community fridges](#) can be stocked with canned goods, fresh fruit, and more at one of the Boston area's community fridges, which have grown in numbers over the past few months. Find fridges in [Allston](#), [Jamaica Plain](#), [Dorchester](#), [Roslindale](#) and [Fenway](#); some are organizing their [own holiday food drives](#). *(Various locations)*
- [Haley House Food Pantry](#) has a [wish list](#), which indicates high and low priority items. The pantry is in need of cooking oils, baking supplies, vinegars, and shelf-stable fruit juice. Canned soup, canned vegetables, and individual shelf-stable items are not accepted. *(23 Dartmouth St., Boston)*

**Let us know if you are interested in joining the Homelessness Task Force:
info@nabbonline.org**

**For additional information on homelessness:
<https://www.nabbonline.org/committees/homelessness-task-force/>**