

## Blue Cross Blue Shield Of Massachusetts Responds To Rising Food Insecurity Company supports local food relief organizations as part of \$9.75M community support

BOSTON, June 1, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- In response to the growing rate of food insecurity across the Commonwealth, [Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts](#) ("Blue Cross") is partnering with local food relief nonprofits to provide nutritious meals to families in need.

Pre-COVID-19, one in 11 Massachusetts households faced hunger, which amounted to 9% of residents. As of March, data showed that 38% of people in the state were food insecure and the rate continues to rise.

"Access to nutritious food is essential for maintaining a healthy life," said Jeff Bellows, vice president of corporate citizenship and public affairs at Blue Cross. "To help address this growing health issue, Blue Cross has made significant local investments and developed new community partnerships to ensure families have access to healthy food during this difficult time."



To date, Blue Cross' financial, pro-bono and in-kind COVID-19 community support totals \$9.75M. In addition to the company's \$460,000 contribution to regional COVID-19 response funds including the *Boston Resiliency Fund*, *The Community Foundation of Western Mass*, the *Greater Worcester Community Foundation*, *The Community Foundation of Southeast Massachusetts* among others, Blue Cross has committed nearly \$600,000 directly to nonprofits addressing the rising rate of food insecurity in communities across the state.

This support includes:

- A new partnership with **Lovin' Spoonfuls** and FLIK, Blue Cross' food service vendor, engaging cafeteria employees from our Hingham and Quincy offices to prepare 1,000 meals per day to donate to local communities in need. Lovin' Spoonfuls, which focuses on bridging the gap between food abundance and need, picks up the prepared meals each morning and distributes the meals to more than a dozen organizations in Chelsea, East Boston, Greater Boston, Quincy and Waltham.
- Increasing support for **Project Bread** and their COVID-19 response efforts working with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and many schools and community partners to provide families with access to school meals while schools are closed.
- Funding of **World Central Kitchen's** Frontline Foods South Shore and Off Their Plate initiatives, which provide hospital clinicians with food from local restaurants that have been impacted by the COVID crisis.
- Partnering with food pantries such as **Lorraine's Soup Kitchen and Pantry**, which serves Greater Chicopee, and the **One Chelsea Fund**, which is providing critical support for community members who have been hardest hit by the pandemic.
- Launching an **employee food assistance program** where Blue Cross associates can pick-up free meal kits once a week to feed a family of four.

See the full list of organizations Blue Cross is partnering with and the communities they serve below.

City	Organization
State-wide	Ellie Fund
State-wide	Lovin' Spoonfuls
State-wide	Project Bread
Allston	West End House Boys & Girls Clubs
Amesbury & the North Shore	Our Neighbors Table
Amherst	Amherst Survival Center
Attleboro	Hebron Food Pantry
Boston	Pine Street Inn
Brockton & the South Shore	Father Bill's & Mainspring
Brockton	The Charity Guild
Cambridge	Cambridge Community Center
Cape Cod & the Islands	Family Pantry of Cape Cod
Chelsea	One Chelsea Fund
Chelsea	Salvation Army Chelsea
Chicopee	Lorraine's Soup Kitchen & Pantry
Dorchester	Daily Table
East Boston	Crossroads Family Center
East Boston	Salesian Boys & Girls Club of East Boston
East Boston	YMCA of East Boston & Boston Center for Youth & Families, Paris St.
Eastern Massachusetts	Greater Boston Food Bank

Greater Boston	Community Servings
Greater Boston	Epiphany School Pantry
Greater Boston	Fresh Truck
Greater Boston	Lifeboat Food Pantry
Greater Boston	Metro Boston Alive
Greater Boston	Off Their Plates
Greater Boston	Saint Francis House
Greater Boston	Violence in Boston
Lowell	Open Pantry of Greater Lowell
Lynn	Lynn Community Care Fund
Malden	Bread of Life Food Pantry
Needham	Ellie Fund
New Bedford	Help United
Quincy & the South Shore	Interfaith Social Services
Quincy	Quincy Fund
Quincy	Southwest Community Food Center
Salem	Salem Pantry
South Shore	Frontline Foods South Shore
Springfield	Food Bank of Western Massachusetts
Waltham	Healthy Waltham
Waltham	Waltham Community Day Center
Western Massachusetts	Food Bank of Western Massachusetts
Weymouth	Weymouth Food Pantry

**About Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts**

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts ([bluecrossma.com](http://bluecrossma.com)) is a community-focused, tax-paying, not-for-profit health plan headquartered in Boston. We are committed to the relentless pursuit of quality, affordable health care *with* an unparalleled consumer experience. Consistent with our promise to always put our members first, we are rated among the nation's best health plans for member satisfaction and quality. Connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

SOURCE Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts

For further information: Katie Hamilton, [Katie.Hamilton@bcbsma.com](mailto:Katie.Hamilton@bcbsma.com), 617-246-4338



Additional assets available online: [Photos \(1\)](#)