



Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

75 Pleasant Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-4906

Telephone: (781) 338-3000
TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-2370

October 15, 2010

Catherine D'Amato
President and CEO
The Greater Boston Food Bank, Inc.
70 South Bay Avenue
Boston, MA 02118

Dear Ms. D'Amato,

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has received reports of household members being required to show photo identification at local food pantries participating in The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). While a local agency may request identification for participation in other areas of their food distribution program, requesting photo identification as a condition to receive USDA commodities is prohibited.

As a reminder, a household is eligible to receive USDA TEFAP commodities if:

The household meets TEFAP Income Guidelines;

The household participates in any of the following means tested programs: Food Stamps/SNAP, AFDC, WIC, Welfare, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income, Head Start, Fuel Assistance or Veteran's Aid; or

There is a declaration of need.

Requirement of a Photo ID is prohibited.

Please share this letter with all agencies receiving USDA products. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Taylor at 781.338.6320 or dtaylor@doe.mass.edu. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathleen C. Millett".

Kathleen C. Millett, Executive Director
Office of Nutrition, Health and Safety

c. Patricia Baker
Mass Law Reform Institute