



# Massachusetts

**State Performance Measure #5:** Percent of families who have had difficulty since their child was born, covering basics, like food or housing, on their income

**Priority:** Work to improve health tackling challenges rooted in social, economic, and environmental factors

**Population Domain:** Cross-Cutting/Systems Building



## OBJECTIVE

By 2025, decrease to 9.5% baseline (12%, 2018-2019 NSCH) the percent of families who have had difficulty since their child was born covering basics, like food or housing, on their income.



## STRATEGIES

- **Sustaining** universal access to **free school meals** by maintaining state budget appropriations that support breakfast and lunch programs for all students.
- Strengthening understanding of food security needs by requiring Medicaid providers to **conduct routine patient screenings** and **report consistent data**.
- Increase families' access to and assess the impact of public benefits and programs that promote economic stability, including **Paid Family and Medical leave, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and Supplemental Security Income benefits**.
- Promote access to safe and affordable housing and reduce environmental exposures through initiatives such as the **Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program**.
- Using a family and community engagement approach, support families in accessing concrete supports such as housing, childcare, education & job training, public benefits, financial resources through programs including **home visiting programs** for pregnant women and families and the **Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund**.