



Patricia Baker, *Senior Analyst MLRI*

Ms. Baker is a leader in the fight against hunger in Massachusetts. For over thirty-five years, she has worked tirelessly on legislative and policy matters that affect children, teen parents, seniors, persons with disabilities, immigrants and homeless families, state wide. She has operated at both the state and federal level, working extensively on welfare rights and food stamp/SNAP issues. Since 2002, Ms. Baker has been the chair of Massachusetts SNAP Coalition where she has negotiated important policy changes to restore significant federal nutrition benefits to the Commonwealth.

Ms. Baker has authored and edited numerous publications, including the Food Stamp/SNAP Advocacy Guide as well as other MLRI Advocacy Guides involving cash assistance programs, immigrant eligibility issues and homeless rights, and co-authored and contributed to several national reports for the Food Research Action Center and Center for Budget and Policy Priorities. She has been the recipient of multiple honors and awards including the Dr. Raymond Wheeler /Senator Paul Wellstone Anti-Hunger Advocacy Leadership Award, and the Kit Clark award for her advocacy which contributed to a significant reversal of the state's low food stamp participation rate. Through her advocacy and leadership, Massachusetts has adopted state policy changes and federal options that have both removed access barriers and increased the value of monthly food stamp benefits.

A graduate of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Ms. Baker worked with the Western Mass Legal Services as a Benefits Paralegal from 1977-1983 and then joined the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI) in June of 1983. MLRI is a statewide non-profit legal services organization whose mission is to advance economic, racial and social justice through legal action, education and advocacy. MLRI specializes in large-scale legal initiatives and policy reforms that address the root causes of poverty, remove barriers to opportunity, promote economic stability and create a path to self-sufficiency for low-income individuals and families.