

MassHealth Updates

MTF Winter 2024

Updated 2/13/24

MassHealth

Agenda

- Update: MassHealth 2023-2024 Redetermination Outreach Campaign
- NEW MassHealth Continuous Eligibility Coverage
- MassHealth Health Plans (ACOs/MCOs)
- MassHealth Perinatal and Maternal Health Updates
- 2024 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)
- New E-submission and Adobe Sign Forms to Report Changes
- Medicare Savings Program (MSP): QMB Balance Billing
- Apply for SNAP through MassHealth Check Box



UPDATE: MASSHEALTH 2023-2024 REDETERMINATION OUTREACH CAMPAIGN



Outreach Campaign

- Mid-December, MassHealth began robocalls in six languages (English, Spanish, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, Vietnamese, and Chinese-Mandarin and Cantonese)
- This effort is to inform members:
 - to complete their renewal
 - they will receive a Request for Information (RFI) or VC (verification request)
 - they may lose coverage because they have not returned their renewal package or RFI/VC
 - their mail was returned, and they need to contact MassHealth to update their address
- Depending on phone carrier, the incoming call should appear as MassHealth on the caller ID, or it may not display as MassHealth
 - MassHealth is working to ensure caller ID will display MassHealth for all carriers



MASSHEALTH CONTINUOUS ELIGIBILITY COVERAGE

Benefits of Continuous Eligibility (CE)



- Continuous eligibility (CE) means that members retain coverage for the appointed period even if they experience changes in their circumstances that would otherwise affect eligibility
- Continuous Eligibility (CE) is a valuable tool that helps states ensure that certain populations stay enrolled in the health coverage for which they are eligible and have consistent access to needed health care services
- CE promotes health equity by limiting gaps in coverage for low-income children and adults
- We are excited to extend CE to three important populations
 - Members released from jail or prison
 - Individuals verified chronically homeless
 - Children under the age of 19

Benefits of Continuous Eligibility

- Drives more efficient health care spending
- Improves health status and wellbeing in the short and longer term
- Mitigates the impact of income volatility on families
- Promotes health equity
- Reduces administrative burden and costs
- Enhances the ability to fully measure the quality of care
- Provides states with better tools to hold health plans accountable for quality and improved health outcomes

Continuous Eligibility Populations



- Members released from jail or prison (April 2023)
 - Provides 12-months continuous eligibility to adults under age 65 upon release from public institution for the first year they return to the community

Verified Chronically Homeless Adults (December 2023)

- Provides 24-months continuous eligibility to adults who are verified homeless under age 65
- Children (January 2024)
 - Provides 12-months continuous eligibility to children under age 19
- Reasons for possible ineligibility for CE:
 - Ages out
 - Moves out of state
 - Voluntarily withdraws
 - Deceased
 - Erroneous initial eligibility

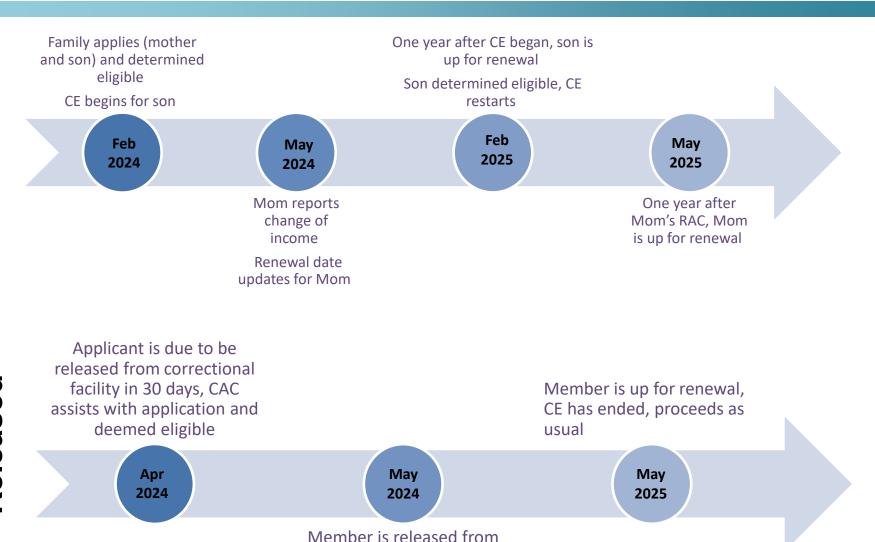
Continuous Eligibility: How it Applies



- The CE period for new applicants begins on the effective date of eligibility
 - Note: Chronically homeless needs to be verified from the state system,
 therefore the CE date will happen post eligibility
- Renewal and Redetermination: MassHealth will apply continuous eligibility for the appropriate time periods when a member is renewed
- Regardless of change(s) in circumstance, members with CE will not lose coverage during the designation time period
- CE is unique to the individual within the household and does not apply to the entire household
- Household members without CE still need to report changes, respond to RFIs, and complete renewals or they will risk losing coverage
- Continuous Eligibility for children under the age of 19
 - As of January 1, 2024, all children have had CE applied to their eligibility
 - Start date of their CE aligns with their last redetermination



CE Scenarios (slide 1 of 2)

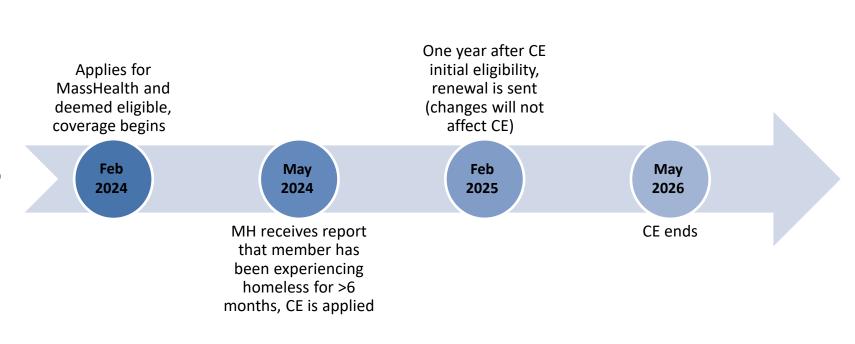


CF, coverage with CE

begins



CE Scenarios (slide 2 of 2)





UPDATES: MASSHEALTH HEALTH PLAN (ACO PLANS)



Who's Eligible to Enroll?

MassHealth members eligible to enroll in a MassHealth ACO, MCO, or the PCC Plan:

- Under 65, no Third-Party Liability (TPL) (including Medicare)
- Live in the community (for example, not in a nursing facility)
- In the following MassHealth coverage types:
 - MassHealth Standard
 - MassHealth CommonHealth
 - MassHealth CarePlus
 - MassHealth Family Assistance

Note: For additional details see 130 CMR 508.001-002

MassHealth Health Plan (ACOs) Updates for 1/1/24



Hospital Changes

 Fallon 365 Care will no longer include Harrington Hospital in its provider network as of January 1, 2024

Provider Changes

- As of January 1, 2024, nine providers joined or moved in the MassHealth ACO program
- The provider moves affected approximately 5,000 members
- Changes to MassHealth's Accountable Care Organizations on January 1, 2024



Service Area Update on 1/1/24

The following new service areas will be offered by MassHealth starting on January 1, 2024

WellSense Health Plan	Will be in the following service area
WellSense Community Alliance	Oak Bluffs
Boston Children's ACO	Athol, Gloucester, Greenfield, and Pittsfield
East Boston Neighborhood Health WellSense Alliance	Lynn

The following health plan will no longer be offered by MassHealth in the following service area starting on January 1, 2024

WellSense Health Plan	Will no longer be in the following service area
WellSense Care Alliance	Wareham



MASSHEALTH PERINATAL AND MATERNAL HEALTH UPDATES

Background on MassHealth Pregnant and Birthing Members



- MassHealth covers about 40% of births in Massachusetts (roughly 25,000 births annually)
- About 85% of pregnant MassHealth members are in either an accountable care organization (ACO) or managed care organization (MCO)
- Pregnant MassHealth members are eligible for full benefits throughout their pregnancy, labor and delivery, and through 12 months postpartum
 - Members should self-report their pregnancy status to MassHealth to ensure full coverage
 - 12-month postpartum coverage is inclusive of all pregnancy outcomes (e.g., live births, stillbirths, abortions, miscarriages)
 - Immigration or citizenship status does NOT impact eligibility for pregnant members
- MassHealth aims to improve the health outcomes of our diverse pregnant and birthing members and their infants by providing equitable access to high quality health care services and supports

Information for Pregnant MassHealth Members



 MassHealth recently launched a webpage for pregnant members available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Chinese, and

Vietnamese: <u>mass.gov/masshealthpregnancy</u>

- Find important information related to eligibility and coverage for pregnant members
- Checklist with key activities (e.g., notifying MassHealth about pregnancy, scheduling prenatal care, enrolling with WIC, contacting their health plan)
- Examples of MassHealth covered services
- Information about MassHealth coverage for infants
- Community resources and supports
 - Behavioral health (mental health and substance use disorder)
 - Home visiting programs
 - Social services





Doula Provider Enrollment

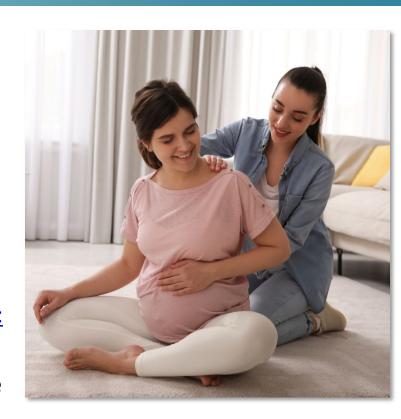
- As of December 8, 2023, MassHealth now covers dould services, subject to MassHealth coverage limitations, for MassHealth members while they are pregnant, during delivery, and up to 12 months after delivery
- In order to become a MassHealth doula provider, doulas need to meet the eligibility criteria outlined in <u>130 CMR 463.000</u> and submit a complete application package to MassHealth
- Over 200 Doula providers attended training sessions offered to introduce them to the MassHealth program
- IMPORTANT: While MassHealth doula coverage began on December 8, 2023, enrolling a network of MassHealth doula providers to meet the needs of members will take time. We anticipate that MassHealth doula providers will begin to enroll and be added to the MassHealth provider directory starting in Q1 2024 and that the network of MassHealth doula providers will continue to grow over time



MassHealth Webpage For Doulas

This webpage has important information for doulas including:

- Overview of the MassHealth doula program
- Summary of eligibility requirements for doulas
- Step-by-step instructions for enrolling as a MassHealth doula provider
- Links to important doula-related regulations
- Resources: <u>MassHealth Doula Services Program:</u> <u>Information for Doulas</u>
- The regulations have been promulgated and are publicly available:
 - 130 CMR 463.000: Doula Services
 - 101 CMR 319.00: Rates for Doula Services





2024 COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA)

Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) 2024



- The Social Security Administration announced on October 12, 2023, that beneficiaries would be receiving an 3.2% COLA increase for 2024
 - On average, Social Security benefits will increase by more than \$50 per month as of January

2024	Individual	Couple
MassHealth asset limit	\$2,000	\$3,000
Medicare Part B premium (per month)	\$174.70	

Eligibility Figures for Community Residents Age 65

Updated eligibility figures for: <u>Eligibility Figures for Community Residents Age 65 or</u>
 <u>Older, Figures Used to Determine Minimum-Monthly-Maintenance-Needs</u>
 <u>Allowance (MMMNA)</u>

^{*} Note, federal poverty guidelines (FPL) changes in March



NEW E-SUBMISSION AND ADOBE SIGN FORMS TO REPORT CHANGES

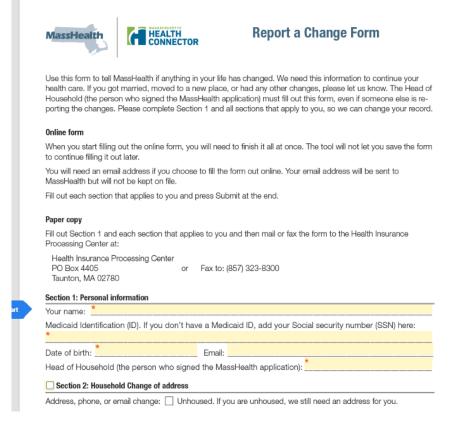


How to Report Changes

Members must notify of certain changes within 10 days of the changes or as soon as possible to MassHealth. These include: changes in income, household size, employment, disability status, health insurance, and address

Ways to submit a Report a Change

- NEW Online form using Adobe Sign
 - The form is available at <u>Report</u> <u>changes to MassHealth</u>
 - Note: A valid email address is required to complete the form and verify your submission
- Online system at
 <u>MAhealthconnector.org</u> for members younger than 64, or
- Forms available at <u>MassHealth</u>
 Member Forms





MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAM: QUALIFIED MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES (QMB)

Medicare Savings Program (MSP)



The **Medicare Savings Program** (also known as MassHealth Buy-In) helps pay some of the out-of-pocket costs of Medicare. The MSP programs can also help get Medicare Part B for members who only have Medicare Part A. If members are in an MSP program, they will also be automatically enrolled in the Medicare Part D Extra Help program, which can help with pharmacy costs

Programs:

Qualified Medicare
Beneficiaries (QMB) (formerly
MassHealth Senior Buy-In)

May pay for Part B Medicare premiums (and for Part A premiums for those who have one) and for the deductibles and coinsurance under Part A and Part B

Specified Low Income Medicare Beneficiaries (SLMB)

Helps pay for Part B premiums (must have both Part A and B to qualify)

Qualifying Individuals (QI-1)

Helps pay for Part B premiums (must have both Part A and B to qualify)

MSP Renewal



- MSP members who applied with a Medicare Savings Programs Application (MHBI) will be renewed starting January 29, 2024
 - Members selected will receive a newly created renewal form, Renewal Application for the Medicare Savings Programs (MHBI-R), and cover letter
 - Option to submit renewal via Esubmission
 - Cover letter will have the Esubmission URL and reference number

Renewal for Assistance with Medicare Costs Medicare Savings Programs

This renewal application is to see if you are still eligible for help paying your Medicare Part B premiums, Medicare Part A premiums or Part A or B copays or deductibles.

What may be covered depends on your and your spouse's (if you are married) income and assets.

If you are still eligil Program, you will a Part D Extra Help. I prescription drug o

You can use this renew. Supplemental Nutritio SNAP is a federal prog each month. If you are page 1 of the applicatio responsibilities on page 2. Your application will the Department of Tra You do not have to app considered for the Mee

How much can I have in income and assets?

Asset limits change each year on January 1.

There are some types of assets that MassHealth will count and some types we will not count. Examples of countable assets are bank accounts, securities, investments, a second car, and cash. Countable and noncountable assets are described in 130 CMR 520.007

IMPORTANT—ACTION NEEDED

A Notice about Your Medicare Savings Program (MSP) Eligibility

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS | Executive Office of Health and Human Services | www.mass.gov/massheal

[FIRST NAME] [LAST NAME]
[STREET ADDRESS 1] [STREET ADDRESS 2]
[CITY], [STATE] [ZIPCODE]

Date: [DATE]

SSN: [XXXXXXXXX]
Prifd: [XXXXXXXX]
NUM: [XXXXXXXXX] Type: MSP ANNUAL
Medicaid ID: [XXXXXXXXXX]
Reference number: [XXXXXXXXX]

MassHealth

Attn: [FIRST NAME]

Re: Notice sent to [LAST NAME, FIRST NAME] (review form not enclosed)

MassHealth needs to check whether you and your spouse (if you an overried) still qualify for a Medicare Savings Program. A Renewal Application for Medicare Saving Programs is included with this notice. Fill out the form and send it back to us rid on you with as not information as you have

Send back the filled-out, signed renewal form . (DA 1). If you do not send it back by the dudate, your Medicare Savings Program benefit: in a seno

Instructions for completing the Annewal Application for Medicare Savings Programs

- Step and date the
- Attach proof of citizenship/national status and identity for every family member who is a U.S. citizen/national. You do not have to do this if
 - you have given us this proof before; or
 - you receive Social Security or SSI income
- Fill out the MassHaalth Authorized Representative Designation (ARD) Form if you
 want someone to act on your behalf as your authorized representative. If you have an
 authorized representative, we will send all eligibility notices to them as well as to your
 head of household. To get the ARD Form, call us at (800) 841-2900, TDD/TTY: 711, or go to
 https://www.mass.gov/lists/hipaa-forms-for-masshealth-members.
- Send back the filled-out renewal form right away. We will only send you a letter if we need more information or if your current benefits change.

Illegal Billing of Qualified Medicare MassHealth Beneficiary Members (slide 1 of 2)

- Formerly known as MassHealth Senior Buy-In, the Medicare Savings QMB program
 pays Medicare Part A and B premiums, deductibles, copays, and coinsurance. This
 protects individuals in the QMB program from cost sharing for Medicare covered
 services or items
- Under federal law, it is illegal for Medicare providers and suppliers—even those that do not accept Medicaid (MassHealth)—to bill Qualified Medicare
 Beneficiary (QMB) beneficiaries for Medicare cost sharing for any Medicare Part A and B covered services
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) advises providers and suppliers to establish processes to routinely identify the QMB status of their patients before billing, including those enrolled in Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans. See cms.gov/outreach-and-education/outreach/npc/downloads/2018-06-06-qmb-call-faqs.pdf

Illegal Billing of Qualified MedicaressHealth Beneficiary Members (slide 2 of 2)

- CMS also says that providers and suppliers that have mistakenly billed a person who
 is enrolled in the QMB program must recall the charges (including referrals to
 collection agencies) and refund the charges paid
- Providers who violate these requirements may be subject to state or federal prosecution, including by the Massachusetts Attorney General and the U.S. Attorney
- QMB program billing protections apply regardless of whether a person is enrolled in Medicare fee-for-service or a Medicare Advantage Plan

Billing MassHealth

- Providers who serve QMB beneficiaries are responsible for billing the state MassHealth for any Medicare cost sharing amounts the state is responsible for covering
- Providers should check the eligibility verification system (EVS), the Medicare Provider Remittance Advice, and other sources for MSP eligibility, to determine whether a patient had MSP on the date a service was provided
- For more information, go to the <u>All Provider Bulletin 386: MassHealth Medicare</u>
 Savings Program



APPLY FOR SNAP THROUGH MASSHEALTH CHECK BOX

SNAP Outreach Unit, Department of Transitional Assistance

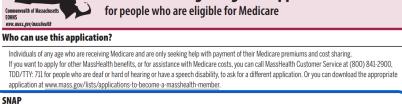
How to Apply for SNAP Benefits through MassHealth Application



- Applicants and members can begin their apply for SNAP benefit by checking the SNAP check box on either their application
- If the box is checked, MassHealth will send the application to the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA)

Massachusetts Application for Health and Dental Coverage and Help Paying Costs Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a federal program that helps you buy healthy food each month. Check this box if you want this application to be sent to the Department of Transitional Assistance to serve as an application for SNAP benefits. You must read the rights and responsibilities on pages 23-25 and sign on page 26 to proceed with the are in a nursing home or chronic hospital, please select which program. We will need more information and will contact you for additional processing Long-Term Care and/or Home- and Community-Based Services Waiver

Please Print Clearly, Be sure to answer all questions. Fill out all paneed more space, attach a separate piece of paper to the application any attached paper. For each member in your household, please pethey want to apply for. Please see the Senior Guide to learn more.	on. Put Person 1's name and social security number at the top out the name(s) of the individual(s) under the program or progra about coverage under these programs.
Please list the names of everyone who is applying for health cow MassHealth or the Health Safety Net (HSN) (If living at home, or in a rest home, an assisted living facility, a continuing care retirement community, or life care community, fill out this application and any supplements that apply to you or any household member.) MassHealth will check if anyone applying for health coverage on this application is eligible for MassHealth or the HSN. You: Spouse:	Health Connector Programs Health Connector Programs Health coverage through the Massachusetts Health Connector is not MassHealth. If you have Medicare, you v not be eligible for any coats if avoid not perfectly and you cannot purchase a plan through the Heal Connector, unless you were enrolled in a Health Connector plan when you became eligible for Medicare. The only tirr you should apply for Health Connector programs if you ha Medicare is if you are not enrolled in Medicare yet but we have to pay for your Medicare Part A premium. In this cas you may be eligible for a Health Connector plan.
Long-Term Care and/or Home- and Community-Based Services Waiver (If applying for or getting long-term-care services at home under an HCBS Waiver, or in a nursing home or chronic hospital, fill out this application and any supplements that apply to you or any household member, including all or part of the Long- Term-Care Supplement.) You:	You:Spouse:



Medicare Savings Programs Application

SNAP is a federal program that helps you buy healthy food each month. Check this box if you want this application to be sent to the Department of Transitional Assistance to serve as an application for SNAP benefits. You must read the rights and responsibilities on pages 3 through 7 and sign on page 2 to proceed with the application.

-	-		10	23	-		1111		FILE	n_
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Who is applying? you you and your spouse

What is SNAP?





The Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) can help clients expand their healthy food budget and explore opportunities to support their well being and education and employment goals.

SNAP benefits include:

- Monthly funds on an EBT card to buy food
- \$40, \$60 or \$80 a month put back on your EBT card when you use SNAP to buy local produce via the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP)
- SNAP Path to Work free education and training opportunities
- Free nutrition education classes and resources
- Connections to other kinds of help, like utility discounts, free school meals and discounted admissions to many Commonwealth museums and cultural institutions via EBT Card to Culture



Sample Script

- Hi, my name is Kate, I'm here to help you with your MassHealth application. To get started, I also wanted to check and see if you want to apply for SNAP, formerly known as the food stamp program
- Response: Yes, I would like to apply for SNAP
- Kate: Okay, great, I'm going to check off the box at the beginning of the MassHealth application, then we'll go over your rights and responsibilities for SNAP at the end of this application. Once I submit your application, you can expect a call from the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) within 1-2 days. DTA is the state agency that runs SNAP. DTA will call you to complete an interview. If they don't reach you with the cold call, they will schedule a time for an interview, and you will receive a notice in the mail with the date and time. You may have to submit some verifications, such as pay stubs or medical expenses. Once you have completed the phone interview and submitted any mandatory verifications, DTA will make a determination, typically within 30-60 days. DTA will send your EBT card in the mail. Do you have any questions?

SNAP Application



- The client's SNAP will start from the date DTA receives the MassHealth application
- MassHealth data that is shared with DTA*:
 - Name
 - Gender
 - DOB
 - SSN
 - **Address**
 - Phone number
 - Race & Ethnicity
 - Language
 - Household size
 - *Not a comprehensive list

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance	Program (SNAP) is a federal pr	ogram that	helps you bu	y healthy	food each month.	
Check this box if you want this application to be sent to the Department of Transitional Assistance to serve as an application for SNAP benefits. You must read the rights and responsibilities on pages 23-25 and sign on page 26 to proceed with the application.						
If you are applying for or getting for are in a nursing home or chrome had additional processing						
Long-Term Care and/or						
☐ Home- and Community-Based	Services Waiver					
STEP Person 1. Tell u	ıs about yourself. Plea	co print	clearly			
	,		,			
We need one adult in the househol appears on the application, not a th Representative Designation (ARD) F	aird party who wishes to serve	s a contact	for the applic	cant(s). P	lease see the Authorized	
First name, middle name, last name, and suffix 2. Date of birth					of birth	
3. What is your email address?						
No home address. Note: if you	check this box, you must provid	e a mailing	address.			
4. Street address					5. Apartment or unit numb	
6. City		7. State	8. ZIP code		9. County	
10. Mailing address Check if sai	me as home address.				11. Apartment or unit num	
10. Huming doctress Creck it su	inc as nonc address.				11. Apartment of unit han	
12. City 13. St		13. State	14. ZIP code		15. County	
16. Phone number	17. Other phone number	r		18. # of	people listed on the applica	
	19. What is your preferred language, if not English? Spoken Written					
19. What is your preferred language						
Preferred written language ma	y be used by MassHealth and ti	e Health Co	onnector to c			
	y be used by MassHealth and these in English. prison or jail? Yes No)	onnector to co			

COMPLETE STEP 2 FOR YOURSELF and ALL ADDITIONAL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS who live with you, or anyone on your same federal income tax return if you file one. If you do not file a tax return, remember to still add household members who live with you

This information helps us make sure everyone gets the coverage they may be eligible for.



SNAP Check Box

To avoid submitting a duplicate SNAP application:

- Ask your client "do you receive SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) formerly known as Food Stamps?"
- If they are not sure:
 - Ask if they have an EBT card, they can call the number on the back of the card to see if it is active, and if there is a balance
 - They may need to re-pin the card, to assist: mass.gov/info-details/steps-to-re-pin-your-ebt-card
- Applications submitted online should show up in our Beacon system next day
- Paper applications may take 1-2 days to show up in Beacon



SNAP Application: Next Steps



DTA worker receives MH SNAP application



Worker will make 3 cold calls to client to complete interview



If client is unavailable, worker will schedule an interview and send out interview request notice



Once interview is completed, a request for verifications (VC-1) is sent to the client



Client submits verifications either through DTA Connect, fax, mail or in person



DTA worker reviews verifications, wraps up case, issues Approval or Denial Notice to client

Frequently requested verifications:

- Pay stubs
- Medical expenses (if 60+ or disabled)
- Proof of child support payment
- Noncitizen status
 - Permanent Resident Card,
 - **Employment Authorization** Card,
 - Temporary Resident Card,
 - Arrival-Departure Record
 - or other written documentation from **USCIS**.₂₅



SNAP Income Guidelines

SNAP Gross Income Limits/Benefit Amount

Gross Monthly Categorical Eligibility Income Standards as referenced at: 106 CMR 364.976 – Effective 2/1/2024

Assistance Unit Size	200% of Federal Poverty Level	Maximum SNAP Allotment Effective 10/1/23-9/30/24
1	\$2510	\$291
2	\$3407	\$535
3	\$4303	\$766
4	\$5200	\$973
5	\$6097	\$1155
6	\$6993	\$1386
7	\$7890	\$1532
8	\$8787	\$1751
For each additional member add:	\$897	\$219





Additional Support: SNAP

Submitting Verifications:

Clients can submit their verifications:

Via Fax:

DTA Document Processing Center (617) 887-8765

Mail:

 DTA Document Processing Center PO Box 4406 Taunton, MA 02780

Online:

Upload in DTA Connect:

mass.gov/info-details/help-using-dta-connect

For Help with their Case:

- Go to: mass.gov/infodetails/snap-outreachpartners for a list of outreach partners
- Call the DTA assistance line: 877-382-2363
- Go in person to their local office:

mass.gov/orgs/departmentof-transitionalassistance/locations



Thank You!