DTA’s Mission and Primary Goals

The Department’s mission is to assist low-income individuals and families to meet their basic needs, increase their incomes, and improve their quality of life.
DTA Programs

- **SNAP** – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- **TAFDC** – Transitional Aid for Families with Dependent Children
- **EAEDC** – Emergency Assistance for the Elderly, Disabled and Children
- **ESP** – Employment Services Program
Eligibility Standards for All Programs

- Categorical (non-financial)
- Financial
  - Income (earned and unearned)
  - Assets
DTA Applicant Information

- All applicants are asked if there is someone who will be an Assisting Person for their case.

- All applicants are asked if a Domestic Violence situation exists.
  - If so, referrals can be given to DV Specialist
  - Heightened level of security can be requested

- All applicants, if denied, are given the right to appeal.
What Is:

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
What is SNAP?

- New name of the Federal Food Stamp Program – effective 10/1/08
- Reflects focus on nutrition & improvements to accessibility
Who Participates?

Residents of the Commonwealth who participate in SNAP are single individuals, families with children, elders and disabled. Many are the working poor with limited income or those who are temporarily unemployed.
What are Eligible Food Items for SNAP?

- Foods for the household to eat, such as: breads and cereals; fruits and vegetables; meats, fish and poultry; and dairy products.
- Seeds and plants which produce food for the household to eat.
Households CANNOT use SNAP benefits to buy...

- Beer, wine, liquor, cigarettes or tobacco
- Any nonfood items, such as: pet foods; soaps, paper products; and household supplies
- Prepared hot foods
- Vitamins and medicines

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
Categorical Eligibility Criteria

- Residency
- Citizen/Noncitizen Status
- Social Security Number
- Identity
- Student Status
- Purchase and Prepare Status

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
Financial Eligibility Criteria

- Earned or Unearned
- Actual and Anticipated "Reasonably Certain" income used to determine eligibility and benefit level
Income Limits

- TANF/Elderly/Disabled need to meet the 200% standards of eligibility to be categorically eligible
- Elderly/Disabled need to meet the Net income standards of eligibility
- Families with only adults 19-59 yrs. of age must meet the regular Gross Monthly standards of eligibility

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
“7” Possible Deductions from Income

- 20% earned income
- Standard Deduction (HH size)
- Excess Medical Deduction (disabled/elderly only)
- Dependent Care Deduction
- Legally Obligated Child Support
- Shelter Deduction
- Standard Utility Allowance (SUA)
Assets

- Most SNAP only applicants will not have assets used in the determination.
- Federal rule known as “categorical eligibility”
- Categorical eligibility = certain nonfinancial factors:
  - TANF eligible households which consist of adults between the ages of birth and 59 years of age
  - Other households with SSI and non SSI elders age 60 and older
What Is:

Transitional Aid for Dependent Children

TAFDC
What is TAFDC?

- A state and federally funded Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) program which provides cash assistance to families with children and pregnant women in the last 120 days of pregnancy, with little or no assets or income.
TAFDC Benefits

- Monthly cash benefits
- Medical coverage
- Crib and Layette payment
- Maximum $50 of Child Support payment monthly
- Burial Expenses
- Emergency Assistance (Homeless Families)
- Possibly SNAP benefits
- Employment Services Program (ESP)
Categorical Eligibility Criteria

- Individual(s) with children under the age of 18 or in some cases 19
- Pregnant women with no children (the child is expected to be born within 120 days of the date of application)
- Teen Parents
Financial Eligibility Criteria

- Income is earned and unearned
  - Unearned income is countable in full with no allowable deductions
  - Earned income has certain allowable deductions

- Combined assets of the household applying cannot exceed $2,500.00

- Eligibility is based and determined by two tests of financial eligibility and both tests must be met to be potentially eligible

Transitional Aid for Dependent Children
What Is:

Employment Services Program

ESP
Employment Services Program

- A component of the TAFDC program
  - Self-directed Job Search
  - Community Service
- Must work 20, 24, or 30 hours weekly
- A joint federal and state whose primary goal is to assist recipients in finding jobs, resolving barriers to employment and providing a way to self-sufficiency
What Is:
Emergency Assistance to the Elderly, Disabled and Children
What is EAEDC?

- The Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children (EAEDC) is a state funded program which provides cash assistance and MassHealth to those in need to stabilize their lives.

- Applications must be done face to face in the local Transitional Assistance Office (TAO).
EAEDC Benefits

- Monthly cash grant
- Limited medical coverage
- Burial expenses
- Transportation assistance
- Crib and layette payment
- Possibly SNAP benefits

Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children
Categorical Eligibility Criteria

- Elderly Persons (Age 65)
- Disabled Persons
- Caring for the disabled
- Caretaker families with children
- Participants of MA Rehabilitation

Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children
Financial Eligibility Criteria

- Must meet both categorical and financial requirements
- Payments are based on living arrangements
- Certain applicants must apply for SSI and follow through with the process including appeals of denials
information,

Facts &

Answers
How to Apply

- Face to face interviews can be waived in many situations (*Not for cash program applications*)
- Walk-in TAO face to face interview (Any program)
- Mail in or drop off SNAP application form
- Fax SNAP application form
- Telephone interviews/mail can be used to complete the application/recertification process.
- Internet (Virtual Gateway) Web SNAP application
Q: Who qualifies for a temporary MassHealth card? When does the MassHealth card/benefit expire?

A: When an individual has applied for DTA benefits and the case is waiting to be approved (pending approval), if an individual declares he/she needs medical assistance, DTA will issue a temporary MassHealth card. The temporary card is good for at least 30 days.

Q: What agency issues the member a temporary MassHealth card?

A: DTA issues the temporary MassHealth card.
**Q:** What medical services are covered under a temporary MassHealth card?

**A:** For benefits and options, an individual should call MassHealth Customer Service at 1-800-841-2900

**Q:** If a member has updates to their eligibility information on an EAEDC or TAFDC case, where should they call?

**A:** DTA Customer Services at 1-877-382-2363
Q: When a TAFDC recipient case closes, what happens to their MassHealth benefits?

A: A TAFDC client who goes to work, submits the required pay stubs to his or her case manager, and whose cash assistance ends as a result, the client will automatically receive an extension of MassHealth Benefits between 4-12 months depending on the circumstance. At the end of the appropriate extension period, MassHealth will generate a MassHealth Eligibility Review (ERV) form. If the ERV is not returned when due, the MassHealth extension will end as scheduled. If the form is returned, MassHealth will determine continuing eligibility for benefits.
Q: Where should a member call that has updates to report on eligibility on their SSI case?
A: The DTA SSI Centralized Office serves SSI clients who live alone and receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits through Bay State Cap.

DTA SSI Centralized Office contact information:
Telephone Number: (800) 590-4820
Fax Number: (781) 388-7341
Address: 200 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148
Office Hours: (Mon - Fri) 7:45am to 5:00pm

• SSI recipients wanting to apply for additional benefits should contact their local DTA office.
• If SSI recipients are unsure of where to call, they should call the Application Information Hotline at 1-800-249-2007.
DTA Website: www.mass.gov/dta

- Apply for Food Stamps Online
- DTA Office Locations
- DTA Regulations
- Program Eligibility Charts and Tables
DTA Automated Hotline
1-877-382-2363

- 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- Find out current case status and benefits
- Find out the date of your next recertification for SNAP/Food Stamps
- Request an Income Verification Letter
- Learn about how to report a change or replace your EBT card
- Get your case manager’s name and telephone number
My Account Page (MAP)

www.mass.gov/vg/selfservice

- 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- Sign up to view your case information online
- Find out current case status and benefits
- See the date your next benefits will be available
- View and print recent notices we sent to you
- Print your own verification of benefits
Other Helpful Telephone Numbers

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<th>DTA Website – <a href="http://www.mass.gov/dta">www.mass.gov/dta</a></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MassHealth Service Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-800-841-2900</td>
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<td>EBT Customer Service</td>
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<td>1-800-997-2555</td>
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