



Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children Program



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The Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children (EAEDC) Program gives cash assistance to eligible people and certain families. This brochure along with the *Your Right to Know* brochure tells you about your rights and responsibilities, as well as those of the Department. Be sure you get a copy of the *Your Right to Know* brochure.

If you do not understand information, we give you, talk to DTA staff. If you don't follow the rules for EAEDC, you may lose benefits. Save this brochure, because it is referred to in many of the letters you will get from the Department.

Be sure to read all notices carefully and ask us to explain them if you do not understand them.

When you get EAEDC, you may also be able to get MassHealth. You may also be able to get Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

Your EAEDC application will serve as an application for MassHealth. You may also apply for SNAP benefits at the same time.

When you get EAEDC, you cannot get:

- Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC),
- Unemployment Benefits,
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or
- state Veterans' Services Benefits (VSB) at the same time.

EAEDC for one person

To get EAEDC, at least **one** of these must apply to you:

- 1) You cannot work because of a disability. The disability must have lasted or will last at least 60 days and meet DTA's medical standards for disability.
- 2) You care for a disabled person living in your household who needs constant care and who would be in an institution without someone to provide the care.
- 3) You are participating in a Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) program.
- 4) You are over 65.
- 5) You are ineligible for SSI and you meet all other EAEDC eligibility requirements.

You must apply for SSI if you appear to be eligible because of your age or disability.

You must be a citizen or eligible immigrant to get EAEDC and must live in Massachusetts. You must provide verification of citizenship or immigration status, and residency.

EAEDC for a family

To get EAEDC for a family, you must be a caretaker for a child who is not related to you but is living with you. You must provide proof of legal custody or guardianship for the child. If you do not have legal custody or guardianship, you must provide proof of legal custody or guardianship by 6 months following your application date or proof of good cause for not getting legal custody or guardianship. Good cause means that DTA agrees you have a good reason for not getting what is required. If you want to know more about the good cause reasons, talk to DTA.

Income

If your income is too high, you cannot get EAEDC.

EAEDC counts two kinds of income: *earned* and *unearned*.

- Earned income may be from a job or from self-employment.
- Unearned income may include Social Security benefits or Workers' Compensation.

DTA will explain how your income is counted.

MassHealth (Medicaid)

The EAEDC program gives you limited medical services through a program called MassHealth. MassHealth decides what health services you will get. Even if you are denied EAEDC, you may still get MassHealth.

Outstanding Warrant(s)

If you have an outstanding warrant issued by any court in Massachusetts you must clear it before you can get EAEDC for yourself.

Intentional Program Violations

An Intentional Program Violation (IPV) is knowingly giving false or misleading statements, or misrepresenting, hiding or withholding facts, either spoken or in writing, to get EAEDC. If you are found guilty of an IPV by a court or by a hearing officer or you waived your right to an IPV hearing or signed an agreement in court, you cannot get EAEDC for yourself for:

- 6 months for the first violation
- 12 months for the second violation, and
- forever for the third violation.

Court Convictions for Fraud

If you are convicted of EAEDC fraud on or after May 1, 1996 for an amount of \$1,000 or more, you will never get EAEDC for yourself.

What You Can't Buy with Cash Benefits on Your EBT Card

It is illegal for you to use cash benefits to pay for the following purchases or services with your Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card:

- alcoholic beverages
- court-ordered fees, fines, bail or bail bonds
- firearms and ammunition
- gambling
- jewelry
- televisions, stereos, video games, or consoles at rent-to-own stores
- lottery tickets
- adult-oriented materials or performances
- tattoos or body piercings
- tobacco products
- vacation services
- recreational marijuana

Where You Can't Shop with Your Cash Benefits on Your EBT Card

It is illegal to use your cash benefits at:

- adult-oriented bookstores, paraphernalia stores, or performance establishments
- firearms dealers
- casinos, gambling casinos or gaming establishments
- cruise ships
- jewelry stores
- liquor stores
- manicure shops or aesthetic shops
- cash transmittal agencies to foreign countries
- tattoo parlors
- recreational marijuana stores.

Penalties for violating this law include:

First Offense

You must pay DTA back the amount of the items or services.

Second Offense

You must pay DTA back the amount of the items or services AND you will lose your cash assistance for two months.

Third Offense

You must pay DTA back the amount of the items or services AND you will lose cash assistance permanently.

How to Access Your Cash Benefits at the Store (Point of Sale)

- Get your balance by looking at your last receipt or call 1-800-997-2555.
- Look for the Quest® or NYCE mark on the door or window of the store.
- Swipe your card at the check-out counter.
- Enter your secret PIN on the number pad, then press Enter.
- Tell the clerk how much money to enter or enter the amount yourself.
- Check to make sure the amount on the receipt is the same as the cash benefits you used for your purchase.

How to Use Your Cash Benefits at an ATM Machine

- 1) Always follow directions on the ATM screen.
- 2) Enter your secret PIN.
- 3) Press **Withdrawal**.
- 4) Press **Checking**.
- 5) Enter the dollar amount you want.
- 6) Take your cash from the machine.
- 7) Wait for your card and receipt.
 - Do NOT count your money at the machine.
 - Check the receipt to make sure it is the same as the amount you received.
 - Keep the receipt so you will know how much you have left in your account.

Remember:

If you make more than three ATM withdrawals in a month, your account will be charged **75 cents** for each additional ATM withdrawal. You may also be subject to additional ATM fees by the bank or processor. You can avoid these fees by making your withdrawals at banks and ATM locations where you see the Quest® or NYCE mark. You can also avoid fees by having your EAEDC benefits directly deposited into a checking or savings account. There is no fee for point-of-sale transactions.

Need help because of disability?

Tell us if you need help to understand or do something, we ask because of a health problem or disability. This could be mental, physical, sensory, learning, intellectual, cognitive or developmental.

We may be able to give you extra help or adjust a rule. This is called an accommodation. Talk to your case manager or a Client Assistance Coordinator.