

MCDHH Statewide Advisory Council Meeting

SNAP Outreach Unit,
Department of Transitional Assistance
April 27, 2023



Department of
Transitional
Assistance

SNAP Emergency Allotments

The federal government (through the Congressional Consolidated Appropriations Act 2023) ended the extra COVID SNAP benefits as of February 2023.

Households received their last payment on March 2, 2023.



State Extra SNAP Benefits

- As an offramp to the federal payments, the state is funding extra SNAP benefits for 3 more months.
- The extra benefit is a separate payment from the normal monthly SNAP benefit amount. SNAP recipients will still receive their normal SNAP benefit on their normal monthly issuance date.

Monthly Benefit	Payment Date
March SNAP Benefits	April 7
April SNAP Benefits	May 2
May SNAP Benefits	June 2

How are the state-funded extra SNAP benefits calculated?

As directed by the state's supplemental budget, the state-funded extra SNAP benefits will be up to 40% of the difference between the household's normal monthly SNAP benefit amount and the maximum SNAP amount for their household size, with a minimum amount of \$38 a month

- If the household receives the maximum SNAP amount for their household size: they will get \$38 a month
- If the household does not get the maximum amount for their household size, but 40% of the difference is less than \$38 a month: they will get \$38 a month
- If the household does not get the maximum amount for their household size, but 40% of the difference is more than \$38 a month: they will get up to 40% of that difference

Examples of how the extra SNAP benefits are calculated

Example 1: Nancy lives in a SNAP household of five and gets \$914 a month in normal SNAP. The maximum monthly amount for a household of five is \$1,116.
 $\$1,116 - \$914 = \$202$. $40\% \text{ of } \$202 = \81 . Nancy's household will get \$81 in extra SNAP.

Example 2: Dan lives in a SNAP household of three and gets \$740 a month in normal SNAP. The maximum monthly amount for a household of three is \$740.
 $\$740 - \$740 = 0$. Dan's household will get \$38 in extra SNAP.

Example 3: Brenda-Lee is a household of one and gets \$195 a month in normal SNAP. The maximum monthly amount for a household of one is \$281.
 $\$281 - \$195 = \$86$. $40\% \text{ of } \$86 \text{ is } \34 . Brenda-Lee will receive \$38 a month in extra SNAP because 40% of the difference is less than \$38.

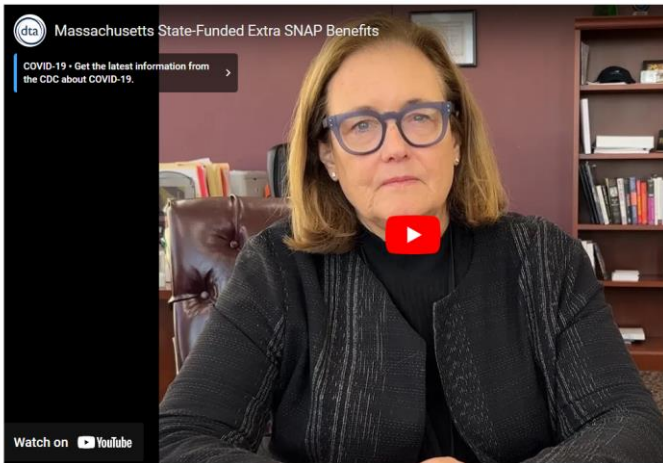
Impact to SNAP Benefits

- The last extra state-funded SNAP payment is June 2, 2023
- Starting in July, households will get only one SNAP payment. That amount is their normal monthly benefit

How to check your SNAP benefit amount:

- Go to DTAConnect.com, or
- Listen to the information about your case by calling the DTA Assistance Line:
 1. Call 877-382-2363
 2. Choose your language
 3. Press 1 and authenticate
 4. Press 1 for SNAP
- Press 1 again to hear your case summary. This information includes your normal monthly benefit amount

Mass.gov/ExtraCOVIDSNAP



Information & Resources



Get the Most SNAP →

Tell DTA about changes that may increase your SNAP!

Your SNAP may go up if you tell DTA about:

- Medical costs over \$35 a month for anyone in your SNAP household who is 60 or older or has a disability
- Increase to your housing costs (rent/mortgage)
- Child or disabled adult care costs

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) →



Learn more about the temporary state-funded extra SNAP benefits from answers to these frequently asked questions.

Get Other Help →



Find food and other resources

Outreach Materials

Download flyers, social media text/graphics and sample robo call/text/email to help spread the word.

[DOWNLOAD MATERIALS](#)

Get the Most of SNAP

Your clients should tell DTA about changes that may increase their SNAP, for example:

- Medical costs over \$35/month for anyone in their household over age 60 or who has a disability
- Increase to their housing costs (rent/mortgage)
- Child or disabled adult care costs

Tell DTA about these changes that may increase SNAP by:

- Writing down the information and sending it to DTA through DTA Connect
- Calling the DTA Assistance Line at 877-382-2363
- Visiting a local DTA office
- Mailing the written information to DTA Document Processing Center, PO Box 4406, Taunton, MA 02780
- Faxing the written information to DTA Document Processing Center, 617-887-8765
- Working with one of DTA's over 100 SNAP outreach community partners

Medical Expense Deduction



- The **Medical Expense Deduction** is the most underutilized SNAP deduction
- **Elderly** (age 60 or older) or **disabled** individuals are eligible to claim the Medical Expense Deduction
- Medical Expense Vlog: <https://youtu.be/rYR5JVAR4Ao>
- For more information, go to the medical expense flyer (available in 6 languages): mass.gov/lists/snap-medical-expense-flyer
- **Important:** For elders or disabled individuals who claim and verify medical expenses, the monthly SNAP benefit amount can significantly increase

Medical Expense Deduction

Verified Medical Expense Amount	Amount of Medical Expense Deduction
\$35.00 per month or under	\$0.00
\$35.01 to \$190.00 per month (can self declare)	\$155.00
\$190.01 a month or more (provide receipts)	Excess over \$35.00

Don't forget about HIP!

- Massachusetts households who get SNAP benefits automatically can participate in the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP). HIP puts money back on your EBT card when you use SNAP to buy local fruits and vegetables from HIP farm vendors, up to \$40, \$60 or \$80 a month depending on your household size.
- Find a HIP vendor at [DTAFinder.com](https://www.dtafinder.com). Learn more about HIP at [Mass.gov/HIP](https://www.mass.gov/HIP).

Earn More SNAP Dollars with the Healthy Incentives Program!

Spending your SNAP dollars on farm-fresh fruits and vegetables at participating Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) retailers and have the amount of your purchase instantly added back to your EBT card!



Farmers Markets
Look for participating farmers at regularly scheduled markets in your town or nearby, selling fresh fruits and vegetables.



Farm Stands
On-farm stores where you can buy fresh fruits and vegetables, right from the hands that picked them.



Mobile Markets
Markets that bring farm-fresh produce right to your community.



CSA Farm Shares
Membership-based service that provides your family with fresh fruits and vegetables every week.



Look at what you can earn each month! (based on household size)

\$40 1-2 PEOPLE | **\$60** 3-5 PEOPLE | **\$80** 6+ PEOPLE

For More Help

- If you have children/are pregnant and have no income or low income, you may be able to get TAFDC cash benefits.
- If you are 65 or older or disabled with no or very low income, you may be able to get EAEDC cash benefits. Learn more and apply: [DTAConnect.com](https://www.dtaconnect.com)
- Community Food Resources: call or text Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline 1-800-645-8333
- If you have children under age 5/are pregnant or breastfeeding, you may be eligible for the WIC nutrition program: [Mass.gov/WIC](https://www.mass.gov/wic) or call 800-942-1007
- All K-12 students can get free school meals this school year

For More Help

- Get help with 2022 taxes and any COVID stimulus or Child Tax Credit money you are owed:
[FindYourFunds.org](https://www.findyourfunds.org)
- Rent or mortgage help: **[Mass.gov/covidhousinghelp](https://www.mass.gov/covidhousinghelp)** or call 2-1-1
- Fuel Assistance help paying for heat:
[Toapply.org/MassLIHEAP](https://www.toapply.org/MassLIHEAP) or call 800-632-8175
- Money to help pay for the internet or a computer:
[GetInternet.gov](https://www.getinternet.gov), [AccedeAInternet.gov](https://www.accedeinternet.gov)

Information on Food Banks

There are 4 Food Banks in MA:



Greater Boston Food Bank

gbfb.org



Merrimack Valley Food Bank

mvfb.org



Worcester County Food Bank

foodbank.org



The Food Bank of Western MA foodbankwma.org



Video Remote Interpreter (VRI)

- DTA recently procured a new language line vendor, Lionbridge.
- Through this new vendor, DTA has expanded on demand, Video Remote Interpreter (VRI) access from 5 to all 20 local DTA offices.
- VRI is an auxiliary aid that provides video remote American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter services.



Stay Connected



Call your case manager (cash benefits) or DTA Assistance Line at **1-877-382-2363** (SNAP)



From your Smart phone
DTA Connect



Online at DTAConnect.com



Mail to DTA Document Processing Center



Fax (617) 887-8765



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