



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of
Health and Human Services

SNAP Briefing

Hybrid Meeting: November 5, 2025



Agenda



1. SNAP Changes & Federal Updates

- Federal shutdown
- OBBB Implementation
- November SNAP Benefits Update on Litigation



SNAP Changes & Federal Updates



Impact of Federal Shutdown on November Issuances

SNAP benefit issuances have been delayed due to the government shutdown.

- The Trump Administration communicated to states in October that November SNAP benefits would not be available to clients. Benefits were paused as of November 1st.
- DTA provided timely updates via text messages, banners on Mass.gov and DTA Connect, DTA Assistance Line, and social media.
- Clients are still able to use any remaining balance of benefits on their EBT cards at all retailers.
- Residents can still access WIC and school meals. State funded programs like the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP), and cash assistance programs TAFDC and EAEDC are not impacted.
- Residents in need of immediate food assistance are being directed to Project Bread's Food Source Hotline



PROJECT
BREAD

**Can't afford enough
food? Let's chat.**

CALL: 1 (800) 645-8333

Hotline Hours Mon-Fri: 8am-7pm Sat: 10am-2pm



November SNAP Benefit Updates

Following Massachusetts' major court victory Friday, USDA is required to pay at least partial November SNAP benefits to clients using existing contingency funds.

USDA issued guidance to states that defines partial November SNAP for most clients as 50% of the SNAP benefits that they are eligible for.

DTA is working through how that partial payment will apply to all households.

It will take DTA approximately 1 week to issue November SNAP to client's cards once determined.

There is still urgent need for food assistance for Massachusetts residents until all SNAP households get their full SNAP benefits – please continue to share food assistance resources.

We will share additional updates as soon as further information is confirmed.



Congressional cuts to SNAP

In July 2025, Congressional Republicans passed a bill that made the largest cut to SNAP in the program's history. These cuts will have adverse impacts on people and communities across Massachusetts.

Immediate changes to SNAP:

1. Expansion of strict work requirements to include older adults and parents of children over age 14 as well removing waiver options for geographies with high unemployment or few jobs and exceptions for people experiencing homelessness, veterans, and former foster youth, significantly increasing the number of households at risk of losing benefits.
2. Elimination of eligibility for certain immigrants including refugees and asylees
3. Eliminating eligibility for an automatic deduction in utility costs for certain households who receive third party fuel assistance
4. Elimination of \$9.1M in SNAP nutrition education grants

Future SNAP impacts, but require near-term preparations

1. Implementation of a benefit cost-share with states tied to payment accuracy measures starting in FFY28, which could result in up to \$394M in benefit costs for MA.
2. Increase in administrative cost share for states for 50% administrative costs to 75% administrative costs starting in FFY27 resulting in \$53M in additional costs to MA.
3. Limitation on increases in the Thrifty Food Plan calculation, the cost basis for SNAP, which will erode the value of SNAP benefits over time



Harmful impact of cuts from federal law change to SNAP

Populations, communities, and sectors facing highest potential impacts from cuts to SNAP:

- Households newly subject to strict work requirements:
 - Adults 55-65
 - Adults with children over 14
- Communities that lost geographic waivers exempting households from strict work requirements, including but not limited to:
 - Western MA
 - Central MA
 - Southeastern MA
 - Cape Cod & Islands
 - Merrimack Valley - Lowell, Lawrence
 - North Shore – Revere, Saugus, Lynn, Salem, Gloucester
- Immigrants, their families, and communities
- Local food economies – farmers, producers, retailers
- Emergency food systems (food banks & pantries, grassroots food access organizations, congregate meal sites)

Quantifying the impacts:

~99,000

People newly subject to strict work requirements over the next year

~9,500

Immigrants losing eligibility over the next year

~ 45,000

Households at risk of having benefits reduced due to changes in utility allowance over the next year

\$447M

Potential costs shifted to Massachusetts for SNAP benefits and administrative costs



Implementation of Required SNAP Changes

The Trump Administration is requiring states to implement SNAP eligibility and benefit changes by November 1st or assume additional risk to the payment error rate.

All changes will apply to **new** applicants and existing applicants at their **next recertification**

Expanded Work Requirements

- Adults ages 18 to <65 without dependents <14 years required to work 80 hours per month unless they meet an exception
- Removes exceptions for homeless individuals, veterans, and <24yrs who aged out of foster care
- Adds new exceptions for “Indian”, “Urban Indian”, and “California Indian”

Non-Citizen Eligibility

- Non-citizen eligibility limited to:
 - Legal Permanent Residents
 - Cuban-Haitian Entrants
 - COFA citizens
- Households without an eligible member will have SNAP cases closed at recertification and ineligible members will be removed from mixed-status households.

Standard Utility Allowance

- SNAP households receiving energy assistance (H-EAT/LIHEAP) that include an elderly or disabled member will continue to automatically qualify for the Standard Utility Allowance
- Households without elderly or disabled members must verify utility expenses to qualify for the Standard Utility Allowance



Appendix

ABAWDs are subject to strict work requirements and will lose benefits after 3 months if they are unable to comply



How do ABAWD time limits impact clients receiving SNAP?

Non-exempt clients are limited to receiving SNAP for only 3 months in any 36-month period and must meet the ABAWD Work Rules to keep SNAP more than 3 months by:

- Working 20 hours per week, averaged monthly (80 hours per month), this can be paid or unpaid work or
- Participating in a qualifying Employment and Training (E&T) component 20 hours per week/80 hours per month. Qualifying E&T activity can include basic education, vocational or technical training, and/or on-the-job training or
- Volunteering at a public or nonprofit organization/community service site such as a public library or a food pantry.

Clients with three months without compliance, known as 'strike months', are ineligible for SNAP for the rest of the ABAWD Clock, unless they regain eligibility. The current ABAWD Clock runs from January 1, 2024, until December 31, 2026. MA has what is called a 36-month clock.

Clients can also receive good cause for not meeting these requirements due to lack of childcare, transportation or crisis/emergency situations



The OBBBA expanded ABAWD work requirements

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) legislation signed into law on July 4th had several provisions that impacted ABAWD rules. These changes will go into effect for new and existing clients on November 1st.

Policy Change	Impact in MA
Expanded who is subject to the ABAWD work requirements by: Increasing the age threshold for ABAWD work requirements from 54-64. Changed the definition of dependent child from under 18 to under 14. Exemptions for veterans, people experiencing homelessness and young adults under 24 exiting foster care were eliminated	Increase the number of individuals in MA in all communities subject to work rules, including families with children for the first time (99k total). ABAWD rules are very complicated, and the complexity of these rules increases the burden on clients to comply and staff to administer. New clients will be screened at application to determine if they are subject to the work rules. Existing clients will be re-screened at their next recertification
Limits states' ability to obtain geographic waivers by removing the option to exempt areas that do not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals (this is the basis for availability of currently allowed geographic waivers at the Secretary's discretion). Retains ability to allow geographic exemptions for areas with unemployment over 10%.	MA does not have any geographic areas with unemployment over 10%, making MA currently ineligible to apply for a geographic waiver under the legislation.



DTA supports for clients subject to work requirements

DTA works with clients to connect to resources for workforce training and job connection to ultimately support economic mobility, while also enabling clients to meet SNAP work rules.

These programs include, but are not limited to:

- SNAP Path to Work program, which assist clients with the skills, training, experience, and supports needed to find and keep good paying jobs. More information at: SNAPPathToWork.org.
- MassHire Career Centers, which supports clients with free resources, expert guidance, and personalized support to help people succeed in the workforce. More information at: Mass.gov/how-to/find-a-masshire-career-center

SNAP Path to Work Services include:

- Training Components
 - Education Programs
 - Job Search Programs
 - Job Search Training
 - Work Readiness Training
 - Vocational Skills Training
 - Work Based Learning Programs
 - Job Retention Services

Participant Supports:

- Transportation Support
- SNAP Child Care Referrals: Once enrolled, you may qualify for child care with no parent fee for one year while you train and transition to work.