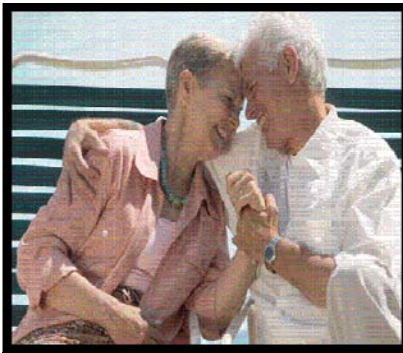


## What Kind of Property Can I Own?

You can own your own home, personal belongings, car and have money in the bank.

Low-income seniors will not be asked for proofs of money in the bank or retirement accounts. If you live alone and your gross monthly income is \$1,734 or less, you will not be required to provide asset information and proofs. If you live with your spouse and your gross monthly income is \$2,334 or less, you will not be required to provide asset information and proofs.

If your gross income is higher than the amounts listed above, you will be subject to a \$3,000 asset limit. This means you will be asked to provide asset information and proofs.



## What Proofs Will I Need?

- **Identification showing your name and address:**  
*If you have no address, you must tell us where you are staying.*
- **Proof of Income:**  
An award letter or direct deposit statement of unearned income amounts and frequency of payments. If you are working, submit your last four paystubs, direct deposit statements or copies of checks.
- **Social Security Numbers for all Members Applying**
- **Proof of your expenses:**  
Receipts for housing costs: rent or mortgage, heating and utilities.  
Medical bills - if you are age 60 or older, or if you are disabled.
- If you are not a citizen, bring proof of legal noncitizen status.

If you have trouble gathering needed documents, call your Food Stamp case manager and ask for help.

## Can I appoint someone to help me apply for Food Stamp Benefits?

You can ask someone you trust to apply for you or go food shopping for you. That person is called your **Authorized Representative**.

## How Can I Apply for Food Stamp Benefits?

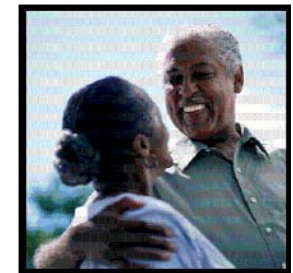
To get a food stamp application, call the Food Stamp Hotline at 1-866-950-FOOD. Be sure to tell the representative that you would like the two page application for seniors.

For more information about how you can get food stamp benefits, contact the Food Stamp Hotline at 1-866-950-FOOD. You may also visit our website at [www.mass.gov/dta](http://www.mass.gov/dta) or visit Project Bread's website at [www.gettingfoodstamps.org](http://www.gettingfoodstamps.org)

## Ensuring your Privacy

Food stamp benefits are issued electronically through the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system. You will receive your own EBT card and Personal Identification Number (PIN) to shop for food in supermarkets, convenience stores and pharmacies. Your EBT card works just like a debit card. This ensures your privacy when food shopping.

# How to Apply for Food Stamp Benefits: Information for Seniors



Commonwealth of Massachusetts



FSP-INFO - Seniors (9/2008)  
09-450-0908-05

Believing you can.

[www.mass.gov/dta](http://www.mass.gov/dta)



## Who Can Get Food Stamp Benefits?

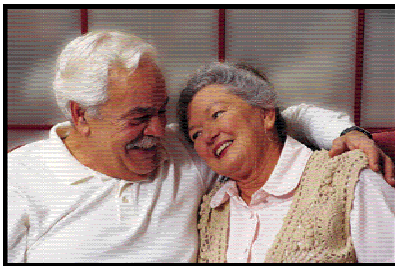
If the people in your household are low income U.S. citizens or legal noncitizens you may be able to get food stamp benefits.

## Who is Counted As Part of My Household?

In most cases, a household includes all people who buy, prepare and eat meals together.

## What If I Have Little or No Money At All?

In an emergency, some people can get food stamp benefits *within seven days* of applying. If you have less than \$150.00 income in one month and less than \$100.00 in assets, or if your combined income and assets are less than your combined monthly rent or mortgage and utility expenses, ask your Food Stamp case manager about expedited service.



## Can I Have Income And Still Get Food Stamp Benefits?

Yes, you may have income and get food stamp benefits. Eligibility for food stamp benefits while collecting or earning money depends on the number of people in your household and how much income you have. A Food Stamp case manager will determine whether your net income makes you eligible for food stamp benefits. Net income is what remains after certain deductions are applied to your gross income, such as a standard deduction, medical expenses and some shelter costs.

To get food stamp benefits, your net household monthly income after all deductions must be less than the amounts listed in the following table:

Net Income Standards	
If your household size is:	Maximum net monthly income is:
1 person.....	\$851
2.....	\$1,141
3.....	\$1,431
4.....	\$1,721
5.....	\$2,011
6.....	\$2,301
7.....	\$2,591
8.....	\$2,881
for each extra person.....	+\$290

**Note:** If you get SSI benefits, you are eligible for a minimum food stamp benefit even if your net income is higher than the amounts listed above.

## Streamlined Application Process for Seniors

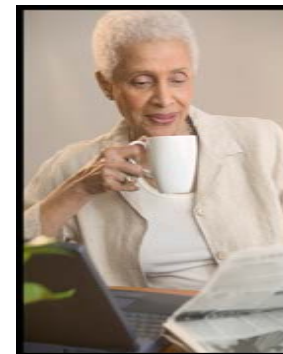
Seniors (*age 60 or over*) can apply for food stamp benefits using a two page form. The Elder Food Stamp Application has fewer questions and is easier to read.

You do not need to visit the Food Stamp Office to apply. You can mail, fax or drop off your completed application at the Department of Transitional Office that serves your city or town.

You will be eligible for a telephone interview. A Food Stamp case manager will call you to talk to you about your application. Please be sure to enter your telephone number on the food stamp application.

Any necessary proofs can be mailed to your Food Stamp case manager after your interview.

**Important:** Staff at Councils on Aging, Senior Housing Developments, health centers and other community organizations can help you apply for Food Stamp benefits!



## What Can I Expect After Submitting a Food Stamp Application?

You will get a package in the mail with Food Stamp information.

The Food Stamp case manager assigned to process your application will call you.

If you both are available, the application interview can occur right away. If you do not have time, you will schedule a mutually convenient time for your telephone interview.

During your telephone interview, your Food Stamp case manager will review the information on your application. Some additional questions will be asked.

At the end of your telephone interview, your Food Stamp case manager will tell you what you need to submit to complete your application. Be sure to send your proofs right away.

You will receive a decision on your application within 30 days.

