**The “Heat and Eat” Fuel Assistance Program**

DTA and the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) have a special “Heat and Eat” Fuel Assistance program, or H-EAT. This program helps has helped thousands of elderly and disabled households qualify for higher SNAP benefits.

**How does Heat and Heat work? Under current DTA procedures:**

1. DTA sends DHCD a list of households not getting the full “heating/cooling standard utility allowance” (SUA), not on Bay State CAP, not homeless, and not already getting maximum SNAP.

Beginning in February 2017, DTA sends this list to DHCD twice a month- on the 1st and 15th of each month (previous to February the list was sent only on the 1st of the month). This means households who will benefit from Heat and Eat will have a lower SNAP amount for 1 to 2 months.

2. DHCD gets back to DTA with which households on the list have already gotten regular Fuel Assistance in the prior 12 months.

3. For households who haven't already received regular fuel assistance, DTA puts a $21 H-EAT Fuel Assistance payment on the EBT card and sends a recalculation notice. Due to the Heat and Eat payment, the household’s SNAP will increase the following month.

For households who continue to need Heat and Eat, DTA should "renew" (reissue) this $21 payment every 12 months. Households do not need to ask to be issued the H-EAT payment. It is an automated process.

**For example:**

1. Maureen applies for SNAP on February 5. She receives $1,100 in Social Security, lives in senior subsidized housing and does not pay separately for heat or AC. She does have $150 a month in out of pocket medical expenses. She is approved for SNAP on February 20 at $16. She will be on the March 1 list to DHCD and is issued the $21 fuel assistance payment in late March. Her SNAP will increase to **$121** in April. She was issued only $16 for March and (based on the application date) a pro-rated share of $16 for February.
2. John is disabled and receives SSI. He sends DTA his recertification paperwork on March 25. His certification period ends on April 10. He reports that he moved into a new apartment where all heat and AC is included in the $500 per month rent. On April 8 his SNAP is approved at $41. He is included in the April 15 list sent to DTA and is issued the $21 in April. His SNAP increases to **$194** in May. He receives only $41 in April.