

HOW DOES WORKING FOR THE CENSUS AFFECT MY PUBLIC BENEFITS?

You can work for the U.S. Census AND keep certain needs-based benefits you may receive!

HOUSING & SHELTER PROGRAMS

Census earnings do not count as income for:

- The major federal and state housing programs including public housing, vouchers & subsidized housing
- Fuel assistance (LIHEAP) benefits
- The Emergency Assistance (EA) shelter program for homeless families



NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Census earnings do not count as income for:

- SNAP (food stamps) benefits
- Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) – available to SNAP recipients



Census earnings may count for the following programs (*unless* you also receive SNAP):

- National school lunch and breakfast programs
- Women, Infant & Children's (WIC) benefits

For more information on cash assistance and health programs, see the back of this page.

CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Census earnings **do not count** as income for DTA cash assistance programs:

- TAFDC for families with children
- EAEDC for persons with disabilities or age 65+



Census earnings **do count** for persons who receive **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)**, a program for persons with disabilities or age 65+.

Census earnings may count for **Social Security Disability Insurance** or **Early Retirement** benefits.

Contact SSA for more information.

HEALTH PROGRAMS

Census earnings **do not count** as income for MassHealth for:

- Persons age 65+ or
- Persons who receive TAFDC, EAEDC or SSI cash benefits



For most other MassHealth members, Census earnings **do count**, but may not affect your MassHealth coverage.

For more information:

- See **Mass.gov** webpage: **Important Information About the Treatment of Census Bureau Worker Earnings**. This webpage is updated regularly.
- If you get **SNAP** or cash benefits, DTA wants to know about your earnings even though Census income does not count.
- For more information on MassHealth, call the **MassHealth Customer Service Center** at **800-841-2900**. See flier on masslegalservices.org on **MassHealth and Census Earnings**.
- If your benefits are cut because of your Census income and you think this is wrong, contact an advocate. Go to MassLegalHelp.org