

# REPLACE STOLEN BENEFITS FOR VICTIMS OF **SNAP THEFT**



Every month, thieves steal about \$1 million SNAP food dollars from low-income Massachusetts children, working parents, older adults, and people with disabilities. Thieves take advantage of SNAP EBT cards without chips and skim card information.

Until December 2024, families had stolen SNAP replaced - but Congress ended federal replacement. Since then, over **7,800 families** have had their SNAP stolen and not replaced. More are stolen from every day.

We strongly support Governor Healey's proposed funding in the recent FY25 [supplemental budget](#) (H.4003) for DTA to issue chip EBT cards - a systemic solution that will drastically reduce theft - but issuing new cards to 670,000 SNAP families will take months.

**In the meantime, victims of SNAP theft desperately need replacement.** [Victims of theft are left scrambling](#) to pay for groceries - skipping meals, incurring debt, using rent funds, or missing bill payments to buy food.

Massachusetts must step up to replace stolen SNAP until families have chip EBT cards.

**FY25 SUPP. BUDGET ASK:**  
PLEASE PROVIDE \$6M  
IN H.4003 TO REPLACE  
STOLEN SNAP

**FY26 BUDGET ASK:**  
COSPONSOR AMDT #390  
TO PROVIDE \$10M TO  
REPLACE STOLEN SNAP

Victims of theft should not be left footing the bill when SNAP food benefits are stolen through no fault of their own.

# When SNAP Food Benefits Are Stolen

Congress ended federal replacement of stolen SNAP in December 2024. Families stolen from since then told MLRI:

## Harms Kids & Parents



Literally within 5 maybe 10 minutes of packing the groceries into the carriage and unloading it in the car, I got in and go to lock the card and my eyes filled up with tears and my heart sunk. They took everything, everything we had they left us with .56 cents. We have been struggling so much that I am literally counting change just for a gallon of milk.

I have a 9 year old son who needs to bring a snack to school everyday and it's been very hard getting us a hot meal.

Skipping my own meals to ensure my child has enough to eat.

I learned my SNAP was stolen when trying to purchase a full cart of groceries at Market Basket. We are hungry. We have no food. We did not eat yesterday.

## Prevents Families From Buying Healthy Foods

I have no meat. I have to rely on others to pay for food items.

This impacts my ability to purchase perishable/fresh fruits and veggies.



## Harms People With Disabilities



I have disabled children so it makes it harder for us to go to the food pantry since I'm also disabled myself.

I have physical and mental health issues and this stress has caused me a major flare up leaving me in constant pain, anxious and increased depression.

I'm diabetic and on disability so I can't eat things from a lot of food pantries and I'm on a fixed income so I haven't really been eating.

## Pushes Families Into Debt



I have been going to food pantries and borrowed money.

It has affected us because I cannot pay my gas bill that is overdue. I have to pay out of pocket to pay for food which we cannot do because my partner is out of work.

Didn't have enough money for groceries and had to borrow money from family to get by.

Missed paying bills and am behind on portion of my rent, so I can properly feed my child.

## What Would You Tell Lawmakers?

The people that make the decisions not to reimburse the victims are not the ones who utilize these benefits. If they had no money, no job, health issues, I believe they would have not chosen to deny reimbursements.

If I had my money scammed, I'd get it replaced because it wasn't me. But [because it was my EBT card] I'm essentially screwed till next month. All the while hoping it doesn't happen again.

