



# The Added Benefits of Your SNAP Benefits

## FREE SCHOOL MEALS



If you get SNAP for at least one child in your home, all of your children get free school meals automatically. This is also true if you get TAFDC cash or some kinds of MassHealth. If your family has reduced-price school meals (you pay \$0.40 co-pay), you may be eligible for SNAP and are encouraged to apply. If you get SNAP your child will get **free** school meals. If you do not get SNAP, your family can still apply for free or reduced-price school meals at any time during the school year.

See: [Benefits.gov/benefits/benefit-details/1985](https://Benefits.gov/benefits/benefit-details/1985)

## DISCOUNTS ON GAS AND ELECTRIC UTILITIES



You can get a discount on your gas and electric bills if you get an income-based benefit like SNAP, cash assistance, and some kinds of MassHealth. DTA shares client information with utility companies who give a utility discount to account holders. This means that if the utilities are in your name, and you get a DTA benefit, you should get a discount on your utilities automatically. If your income is less than 60% of the state median income (about \$66,000 for a household of four) you can also apply for a utility discount, even if you do not get an income-based benefit.

See: [Mass.gov/eohhs/consumer/basic-needs/housing/energy-and-utility-assistance.html](https://Mass.gov/eohhs/consumer/basic-needs/housing/energy-and-utility-assistance.html)

## DISCOUNTS ON TELEPHONE BILLS



Most telephone companies have low-income discounts through the Lifeline program. Any households with individuals who receive SNAP, cash, or other benefits may be eligible for a discount on their telephone bill. Individuals who receive an income-tested benefit may be eligible for a free cell phone with limited free minutes.

For more information about the Lifeline visit: [Mass.gov/service-details/lifeline-services](https://Mass.gov/service-details/lifeline-services)

## HEALTHY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (HIP)



When in operation you can use your SNAP dollars to buy farm-fresh fruits and vegetables at HIP-participating farmers markets, mobile markets, and farm stands. An equal amount of money for food - up to your monthly limit - is instantly added back to your EBT card. The amount you can get back is based on the number of people in your SNAP household. Note: the current status of the HIP program depends on additional funding from the Massachusetts legislature.

To find out if HIP is available in your community: [Mass.gov/hip](https://Mass.gov/hip)

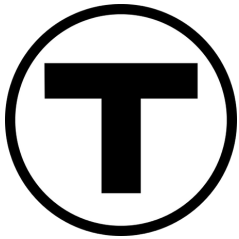
## WOMEN, INFANTS & CHILDREN (WIC)



If you get SNAP and are pregnant, breast feeding or have a child under age 5, you may be eligible for WIC nutrition benefits without extra income verification. You can also apply for WIC even if you do not get SNAP.

See: **Mass.gov/women-infants-children-wic-nutrition-program**

## MBTA YOUTH PASS\*



Low income young adults (under 26) can get a Youth Pass and pay less to ride the subway or take the bus. If you are under 26 and you get SNAP, MassHealth, or other income-based benefits you can buy a LinkPass for \$30/month. LinkPass gives you unlimited subway and local bus rides. Or, you can buy single rides at a discount. Participating communities include Boston, Cambridge, Somerville, Chelsea, Malden, Quincy, Revere, and the North Shore.

Apply for a YouthPass: **MBTA.com/YouthPass**

## SNAP CARD TO RIDE PROGRAM\*



Hubway is Metro-Boston's public bike share program. If you get SNAP and are over 16 years old you can get a monthly membership for \$5 per month or \$50 per year. The membership gives you unlimited rides for up to 60-minutes. If your ride is longer you may have to pay more.

Register online: **TheHubWay.com/SNAP**

## EBT CARD TO CULTURE\*



DTA and the Mass Cultural Council offer discounted or free admission to 140+ of the state's best museums and cultural institutions. Usually, you will need to show your EBT card at the ticket counter to get a discounted admission price.

For participating institutions: **Mass.gov/ebt-card-to-culture**

*\*NOTE: SNAP can only be used to buy food. It cannot be used for the MBTA Youth Pass, Hubway, or admission to museums.*

**SNAP is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program**, formerly called Food Stamps. SNAP recipients may also qualify for free education or training programs through SNAP Path to Work, as well as nutrition education classes. For more information visit:



**MAHealthyfoodsinasnap.org**



**SNAPPathToWork.org**