

## TALKING POINTS/Myth Busting

- **I make too much money to qualify**

Many individuals and families believe the qualifying income limits for SNAP are much lower than they are. Below are monthly gross (before taxes) income limits and maximum SNAP amounts by household size.

Household Size	Monthly Gross Income Limit	Monthly Maximum SNAP Benefit Amount*
1	\$2265	\$250
2	\$3052	\$459
3	\$3838	\$658
4	\$4625	\$835
5	\$5412	\$992
6	\$6198	\$1190
7	\$6985	\$1316
8	\$7772	\$1504
9+	+\$787 each additional member	+\$188 each additional member

- **I wouldn't get enough SNAP to help. It is not worth applying.**

Due to COVID-19, households who are eligible all get at least the maximum SNAP benefit.

Plus, getting SNAP can connect you to other types of food assistance. You can use your SNAP at farmers markets to buy fresh fruits and vegetables and get additional food benefits through the Healthy Incentive Program up to \$40 for households of 1-2, \$60 for households of 3-5 and \$80 for all other household sizes. Use DTAFinder.com to find participating locations.

**Some of the additional benefits to getting SNAP are:**

- Utility discounts
- Free childcare if participating in SNAP employment and training program
- Eligible for Head Start preschool
- Eligible for WIC for pregnant and breastfeeding people & kids under 5
- Free breakfast and lunch for school children through the National School Lunch Program
- Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) discounts on internet/computer
- Access to SNAP nutrition education classes and information
- EBT Card to Culture program for museum and theater discounts
- MBTA Youth Pass program (if between 18 and 25 and live in a participating town)
- Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) food dollars during COVID-19 public health emergency for some children
- May be eligible for:
  - DTA cash benefits (TAFDC or EAEDC)
  - The Child Tax Credit (CTC) and/or Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
  - Fuel assistance - Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

- **The application process takes too long, I don't have the time.**

It's easy to apply - we just need to check the SNAP checkbox on the MassHealth application. Then, DTA will call you to talk with you about your application and tell you about next steps.

- **Give it to someone who needs it more.**

Everyone who is eligible for SNAP can get it. This is a government-guaranteed program and you are not taking benefits away from someone else if you accept the benefits you're eligible for.

- **I am not a US Citizen, so I am not eligible for SNAP.**

If you aren't a US Citizen and you have legal status, you may be eligible for SNAP. But, if you are not a US citizen or eligible immigrant, it is safe for you to get SNAP for an eligible family member (like your US citizen child). If you aren't sure if someone is an eligible noncitizen, it is best to apply and let DTA make that determination. It is safe to apply for SNAP!

- **I am not a US Citizen and I am worried about SNAP and my immigration status and/or Public Charge**

Applying for or getting MassHealth or SNAP does not hurt your immigration status, and does not matter for public charge. It is safe to apply and get the benefits you and your family are eligible for. It's best to apply and let MassHealth and DTA assess your eligibility.

*If need additional reassurance - can point client to the [EOHHS public charge page](#) or the [USCIS/USDA public charge letter in English/Spanish](#). Reiterate Massachusetts and the federal government are clear - it is safe to apply and get these benefits.*

- **I applied before and was denied, or I was getting SNAP but became ineligible.**

SNAP eligibility depends on income and also certain costs, such as housing or child care costs. Some income doesn't count. In general, if your income for your household is less than the amount listed in the chart, we suggest you apply! It's best to apply and have DTA assess your current eligibility.

- **I had a bad experience with DTA in the past. I don't want to apply because of that.**

I am very sorry to hear this. DTA works hard to make sure everyone feels comfortable, safe, and dignified when applying for or getting SNAP. You have rights when applying for or getting SNAP - including having DTA review concerns you share, working with a supervisor or manager on your case, filing an appeal, and more. DTA also has Client Access Coordinators to work with people with disabilities, Domestic Violence specialists who can help, and other staff who can help with special circumstances, including translation! We encourage you to apply and can help you apply today!

- **I don't want to tell DTA about my roommates or other people I live with. I don't want others to know I receive SNAP.**

You only need to get SNAP with - and share income information about - people you buy and prepare most of your monthly food with, plus your spouse or your children under 22 who live with you. DTA does not need to know the income of other people who share your home or apartment.

This application just sends information about you to DTA - so DTA will talk to you more about who needs to be part of your SNAP case.