

Common Apps to Close the Gaps

Reduce Hunger. Alleviate Poverty. Support the Economy.

An Act to Streamline Access to Critical Public Health and Safety-net Programs through Common Applications

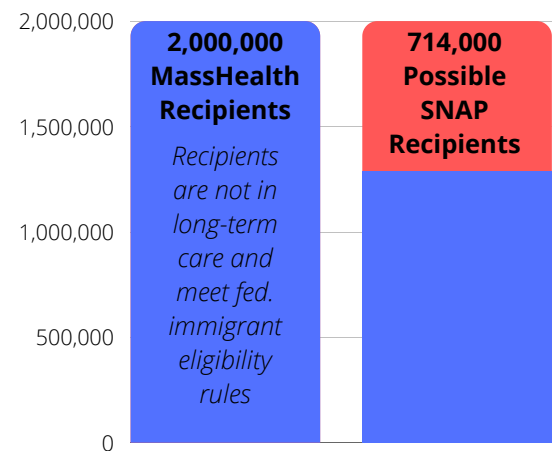
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The Problem:

- The **SNAP Gap** refers to the over **700,000 individuals** who are MassHealth recipients and likely eligible for SNAP but are not receiving the benefit.
- The **Family Income Gap** refers to about **27,000 families** with minor children in MA who receive SNAP benefits but have zero earned or unearned income.
- Many safety-net programs require separate application processes that ask for similar information. This duplicates efforts and creates more work for both the state and low-income consumers.

How Big is the SNAP Gap?



The Solution:

- Permanently amend state law to allow low-income households to apply for MassHealth/Medicare Savings Program and SNAP at the same time.
- Require DTA to allow families and individuals applying for SNAP to also apply for DTA cash benefits at the same time.
- Lay the foundation for a **common application** for other needs-based programs including childcare subsidies, housing subsidies, fuel assistance, and other needs-based health care, nutrition, and shelter benefits. **A common application would reduce duplicate data collection and increase the efficiency of state government.**

The Benefits:

- Streamline and improve the efficiency of the application process for critical public health and safety-net programs for Massachusetts residents.
- Increase access to 100% federally-funded nutrition dollars for low-income households.
- Remove barriers for income-less families to meet their basic needs and avoid homelessness.
- Reduce hunger, alleviate poverty, lower health care costs, improve public health, and boost local economies.



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