

It's Time to Close the **SNAP**Gap

Reduce Hunger. Improve Health. Support the Economy.

Close the SNAP Gap through the FY21 Budget

Expand the SNAP Gap Pilot Program and Support the Commonwealth's Integrated Eligibility & Enrollment Project

The Problem:

- The SNAP Gap refers to the nearly 700,000 people in Massachusetts who are enrolled in MassHealth and likely eligible for SNAP (food assistance), but who are not receiving these important hunger-alleviating benefits.
- MassHealth and SNAP, as well as many other safety-net programs separate application processes that ask for similar information. This duplicates efforts and creates more work for both the state and low income consumers.

The Solution:

- This year's proposed budget language directs the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to expand a pilot to allow residents to apply for SNAP automatically when applying for or renewing MassHealth or Medicare Savings Program benefits. It adds an additional \$500,000 to expand the FY20 SNAP Gap common application pilot and specifically authorizes the appropriation of unspent funds from the \$1M included in the FY20 budget.
- Include a new line item in the Governor's H2 budget to provide \$1M for the operation and development of an integrated eligibility and enrollment system.

The Benefits:

- Streamline and improve the efficiency of the application process for core food, health, housing and other safety-net programs for Massachusetts residents.
- Increase access to 100% federally-funded nutrition dollars for low income households.
- **Help more low income residents meet their basic needs and lower healthcare costs.**
- Boost automatic certification for children for free school meals.
- **Generate \$1.5 billion in economic stimulus to the state and local economy.**
- **Increase food access for over 100,000 Massachusetts elders.**

How big is the **SNAP**Gap?

