



***Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Transitional Assistance***


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Commissioner

**Online Guide Transmittal 2022-13
March 3, 2022**

To: Department of Transitional Assistance Staff
From:  Sarah Stuart, Associate Commissioner for Change Management
Re: SNAP: Early Adjustment of the Standard Utility Allowance

Overview

Due to the high increase in fuel prices that has occurred during the current winter season, the Department is making an adjustment to the Standard Utility Allowance (SUA).

Effective March 1, 2022, the new SUA amounts will be as follows:

Heating/Cooling	\$714
Non-Heating	\$437
Telephone	\$50
Bay State CAP Heating/Cooling	\$714

Purpose

The purpose of this Online Guide Transmittal is to advise staff of:

- changes to the SUA amounts for SNAP;
 - communication of the SUA change to clients; and
 - the corresponding updates to the Online Guide.
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Communication Households that experience a change in SNAP benefit amount, based on the application of the increased SUAs, will be sent a text message advising them of the change in benefit amount. The text message reads: “Due to increases in state heating costs, your SNAP benefits are going up. You do not need to do anything. Check your balance on DTA Connect or call the number on the back of your EBT card.”

Each impacted household will receive this text message on their respective regular SNAP issuance date.

Based on the household’s language preference indicated in BEACON, the text message will be sent in one of six languages: English, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, Simplified Chinese, Spanish, or Vietnamese.

**Revised Online
Guide Pages**

Topic:	Cross Programs
Page:	Helpful Charts and Figures
Topic:	Scheduled Mailing/Projects
Book:	SNAP COLA
Page:	SNAP Annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)

Questions

If you have any policy or procedural questions, after conferring with the appropriate TAO personnel, please have your Systems Information Specialists or TAO management email them to DTA.Procedural Issues.

Systems issues should be directed to the Systems Support Help Desk.
