

# Department of Transitional Assistance Program Summary

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FOOD ASSISTANCE • JOB ASSISTANCE • CASH ASSISTANCE

October 2016

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE



# Agenda

## ➤ **Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT)**

### ➤ **SNAP**

- What is SNAP?
- Who is eligible?
- How are SNAP benefits accessed?

### ➤ **TAFDC**

- What is TAFDC?
- Who is eligible?
- How are TAFDC benefits accessed?

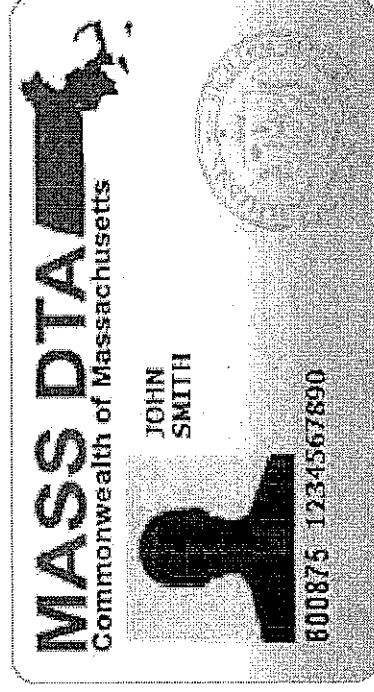
### ➤ **EAEDC**

- What is EAEDC?
- Who is eligible?
- How are EAEDC benefits accessed?



# Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT)

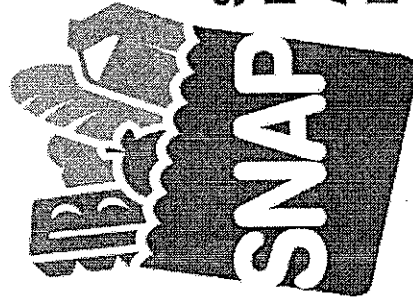
**Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT)** is an electronic system that allows the Department of Transitional Assistance to issue benefits via a magnetically encoded payment card. The EBT card provides benefits that can be used to purchase food and disperse cash.



# Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

SNAP

An Overview



Supplemental  
Nutrition  
Assistance  
Program

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# What is SNAP?

SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) is a Federal program administered by the State that provides monthly benefits to supplement the household's budget to purchase nutritious food.



# Massachusetts SNAP

- SNAP Recipients **772,553**
  - SNAP Households **447,078**
  - SNAP Enrollment | 1 in 9 MA Residents
- 
- Recipients Age 60+ **146,630**
  - Recipients With a Disability **272,752**
  - Recipients Age 18 or under **279,508**

**The average SNAP benefit for a household in Massachusetts is \$218.78. That means the average SNAP household has \$7.19 a day to supplement food purchases.**

**72.5% of SNAP households in Massachusetts have gross countable income of less than 100% of the Federal Poverty Level – that's \$24,300 for a household of four.**



- **31% of SNAP households have at least one child.**
- **Elderly individuals are nearly 19% of Massachusetts SNAP recipients.**
- **SNAP clients live in every city & town across the Commonwealth.**



# Who is Eligible?

- To receive SNAP benefits, applicants must meet income requirements, be a US citizen or a legal non-citizen (restrictions apply), meet residency requirements, and in certain households, either be employed or participating in an employment activity.
- Also, certain households are subject to asset limits. SNAP benefit amounts are calculated based upon the number of people in the household, the household's total income, and expenses such as shelter cost, utilities, child care expenses, and under certain circumstances out of pocket medical expenses.
- The maximum SNAP benefit for a household of one is \$194 per month; for a family of three it is \$511 per month.

# How are SNAP Benefits Accessed?

Through the use of an EBT card, a client accesses his/her SNAP benefits to make purchases at participating retailers to buy food items authorized by the USDA's SNAP program.

Households **CAN** use SNAP benefits to buy:

- Food for the household to eat, such as:
  - Breads and cereals
  - Fruits and vegetables
  - Meats, fish, poultry
  - Dairy products
- Seeds and plants which produce food for the household to eat



# How are SNAP Benefits Accessed?

Households **CANNOT** use SNAP benefits to buy:

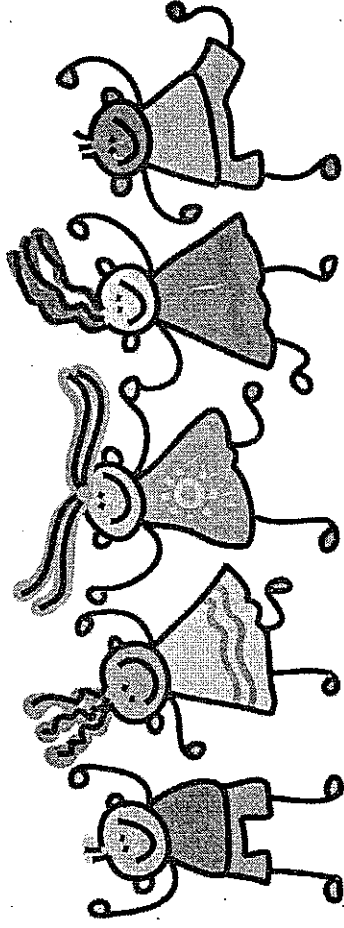
- Beer, wine, liquor, cigarettes or tobacco
- Any non-food items such as:
  - Pet foods
  - Soaps, paper products
  - Household supplies
  - Vitamins and medicines
- Prepared food that will be eaten in the store
- Hot foods such as rotisserie chicken



# Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children

TAFDC

*An Overview*



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# What is TAFDC?

TAFDC is a transitional cash assistance program for families with children 18 years or younger or over 18 who will graduate high school before their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday, and certain pregnant women.



# **TAFDC Caseloads**

- TAFDC Recipients **63,225**
- TAFDC Households **31,935**
- Recipients Age 60+ **120**
- Recipients With a Disability **5,917**
- Recipients Age 18 or under **42,703**



# Who is Eligible?

- To be eligible for TAFDC an applicant must meet income and asset requirements, be a US citizen or a legal non-citizen (restrictions apply), meet relationship and residency requirements, and in certain households, either be employed or participating in an employment activity.
- The maximum grant for a family of three living in private housing is \$633.00 per month

# How are TAFDC Benefits Accessed?

- TAFDC is a cash benefit that a client accesses through either an ATM or POS device.
- This cash benefit is used to pay for living expenses such as rent/mortgage, utilities and/or is used to purchase personal items such as clothing, toiletries and other household items.\*

*\* Purchases made with cash benefits received from the TAFDC program restrict clients from purchasing certain products as well as restricting them from making purchases from certain vendors and locations.*





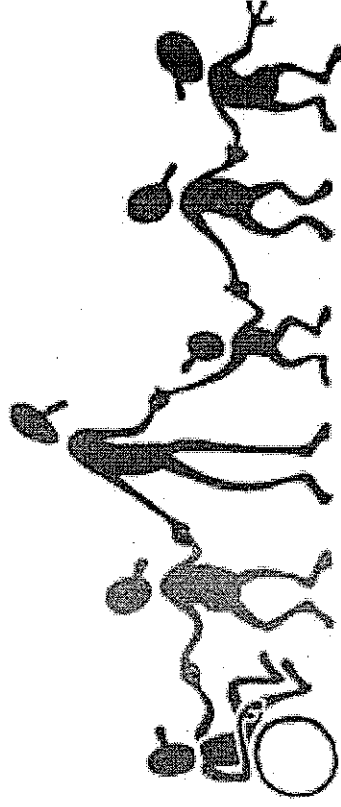
# TAFDC Time Limited Benefits?

- Certain clients are limited to receive 24 months of benefits within a 60 month period of time.
- Clients subject to this limited benefit are also required to participate in the DTA Work Program known as Pathways to Self Sufficiency. This program offers training, education and employment assistance to move clients towards economic self sufficiency.
- Unless exempted, clients who's youngest child is over 2 years of age are subject to this work requirement.
- Support services such as transportation and child care are provided.

# Emergency Aid to the Elderly Disabled and Children

EAEDC

An Overview



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# What is EAEDC?

EAEDC is a state-funded cash assistance program for Massachusetts residents.



# **EAEDC Caseloads**

- EAEDC Recipients **21,039**
- EAEDC Households **20,802**
- Recipients Age 60+ **10,521**
- Recipients With a Disability **11,304**
- Recipients Age 18 or under **550**

# Who is Eligible?

- To be eligible for EAEDC one must have minimal or no income or assets, be a US citizen or legal noncitizen (restrictions apply) and meet one of the following conditions:
  - ✓ Unable to work due to a physical or mental incapacity that has lasted or will last at least 60 days; or
  - ✓ Over 65 years old and waiting for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments to begin; or
  - ✓ Caring for a child (under 18) living in the home who does not meet the relationship requirement for the TAFDC program; or
  - ✓ Participating in a Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission program; or
  - ✓ Required to be in the home to care for an incapacitated individual who would otherwise have to be institutionalized
- The maximum EAEDC grant is \$303.70 per month



# How are EAEDC Benefits Accessed?

- EAEDC is a cash benefit that a client accesses through either an ATM or POS device.
- This cash benefit is used to pay for living expenses such as rent/mortgage, utilities and/or is used to purchase personal items such as clothing, toiletries and other household items.\*

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# Questions?

