

# SNAP Overview

## What is SNAP?

SNAP is a federally-funded program that provides a monthly benefit to buy nutritious food. The average SNAP benefit is \$215 a month in Massachusetts. Eligibility is based on household size, income, expenses and other nonfinancial criteria.



# Questions or Concerns?

Call the **DTA Assistance Line** at  
**1-877-382-2363**

You can reach a case worker  
Monday—Friday, 8:15am to 4:45pm.  
Self-service options are available through  
the assistance line 24/7.



# Food Assistance (SNAP) for College and University Students

## How Do I Use SNAP?

SNAP benefits are loaded onto an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card each month. EBT cards work like debit cards and can be used at any store that accepts SNAP. You can buy any food with SNAP, except meals that are sold hot and ready to eat. For more information, visit [Mass.gov/guides/using-your-ebt-card](http://Mass.gov/guides/using-your-ebt-card).

You can also use your EBT card at Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) retailers (e.g. farmers' market, mobile market, CSA programs). You will receive \$1 for each dollar you spend on eligible fruits and vegetables, up to a monthly limit, on a seasonal basis. For more information, visit [Mass.gov/HIP](http://Mass.gov/HIP).

## DTA Connect Mobile App & Website

DTA Connect makes it faster and easier to check on the status of your application and will help you stay up to date once it has been approved. Download the app or visit [DTAConnect.com](http://DTAConnect.com).

At any time, you can:

- See your case status and SNAP amount
- Upload and submit documents
- Find out if documents you have sent to DTA have been processed
- Get alerts for appointments
- Read and print notices and letters



[Mass.gov/DTA](http://Mass.gov/DTA)



[@DTA\\_Listens](https://twitter.com/DTA_Listens)



Department of  
Transitional  
Assistance



# Applying for SNAP

## Am I Eligible for SNAP?

To see if you might qualify, use DTA's confidential screener at [DTAConnect.com/screening](http://DTAConnect.com/screening).



## How do I Apply?

**Online** at [DTAConnect.com](http://DTAConnect.com) (mobile friendly!), or

**Print** a paper application from [Mass.gov/DTA](http://Mass.gov/DTA) and

### Mail to:

DTA Document Processing Center,  
P.O. Box 4406, Taunton, MA 02780

**Fax** to: 617-887-8765, or

**Visit** a DTA office near you. To find an office visit [www.Mass.gov/DTA](http://www.Mass.gov/DTA)



### Submit an Application

This should take about 20 minutes.

### Phone Call

We will call you within the next five (5) days to conduct an interview.

### Send in Verifications

We'll give you a list of documents to send in so we can verify your eligibility.

### Get SNAP Benefits

We'll make a decision within 30 days.

# Special SNAP Rules for Students

All SNAP applicants need to meet the income and other basic eligibility rules.

If you are a college student, attending school at least half-time and between the ages of 18 and 49 years, you also need to meet one of the following rules to get SNAP benefits:

- Get federal Work Study and be working, or you expect to work, during the semester; or
- Receive financial aid from MassGrant; or
- Attend a community college where your certificate or Associate's degree will help you get a job; or
- Are in school through a DTA approved education or training program; or
- Work for pay an average of 20 hours or more a week (80 hours/month); or
- Have an illness or disability (short or long term) or be a Mass Rehab Commission participant; or
- Care for a child under age 12; or
- Get TAFDC; or
- Or meet other rules

A case worker will discuss eligibility requirements during your interview.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What if I live with roommates?

If you live with roommates, but buy and cook most of your food separately, you may be eligible for your own SNAP benefits.

## What if I live with my parents?

If you are under the age of 22 and you live with your natural, adoptive or step-parent(s), you cannot apply for your own SNAP benefits. You and your parents must be included in the same SNAP household.

## What if I have a meal plan?

If you live on campus and receive the majority of your meals from a meal plan, you are not eligible for SNAP benefits.

## Will my financial aid affect my SNAP benefit amount?

Most times DTA will not need to count your financial aid as income for your SNAP benefits. A DTA case worker will tell you which types of financial aid may count, and what proof you need to provide.

