

Program Name: EAEDC

Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children

Agency: Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA)

Description: State program that provides monthly cash payments to very low income individuals via Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards.

Website: www.mass.gov/dta/assistance & www.masslegalhelp.org/income-benefits/eaedc-rights

Eligibility:

An individual is eligible for EAEDC if they meet income/asset limits (\$2,500 per family), are a U.S. citizen or lawful immigrant, and meet one or more of the following: unable to work due to DTA recognized physical or mental incapacity; over 65 & waiting for SSI to begin; caring for a child at home not related to him/her; required to stay at home to care for a person who would otherwise be institutionalized; and/or participating in a Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission program.

Availability/Limitations:

One cannot get EAEDC based on a substance abuse disability alone. However, if the individual has a mental or physical health problem related to the substance abuse, he/she may be able to get benefits. EAEDC is available when qualified applicants are awaiting an SSI application decision, but overall EAEDC is a very low-paying benefit.

Immigrants: Legal immigrants can receive EAEDC. Applicants will need to show DTA proof of immigration status.

Amount:

\$303/month on average in 2017, but varies with income, family size, and living arrangement.

How to Apply:

Call the Application Information Unit, DTA: 1-800-249-2007

Or contact local DTA office, find via: eohhs.ehs.state.ma.us/DTAOffices/default.aspx

DTA Recipient Services Unit: 1-800-445-6604 (very useful: will give recipient details on their EAEDC account)

DTA "Field Offices" in Boston:

Newmarket Square: 1010 Mass Ave., 02118, Phone: 1-617-989-2200

Dudley Square: 2201 Washington Street, 02119, Phone: 1-617-989-6000

Linked Services? EAEDC recipients also qualify for MassHealth and SNAP benefits.

Right to appeal? Similar to TAFDC, person has right to appeal denial of benefits up to 90 days of notice. If current benefits are terminated or reduced, an appeal filed within 10 days of written notice keeps benefits at full level until appeal is heard.

Retroactive? Yes, benefits go back to date of application.

Program Name: SSI

Supplementary Security Income

Agency: United States Social Security Administration

Description: Federally funded program to provide monthly cash payments via direct deposit or paper checks to very low-income individuals who are elderly, blind, or disabled. Massachusetts supplements the federal SSI monthly amount to make it higher.

Website: www.ssa.gov/ssi & www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-understanding-ssi.htm

Eligibility:

An individual is eligible if he/she is low income with few resources and is also over 65, or blind, or disabled (often must meet complex eligibility requirements to establish disability, generally involving much documentation and/or a medical exam). Disabled or blind children whose parents have little income may be eligible as well. Cash and assets above \$2000 for individuals or \$3000 per couple count against applicant, but not car or property that is “essential to self-support.”

Availability/Limitations:

Agency may be able to do one emergency advance payment for applicants facing financial crisis, no higher than \$999. Applicant should apply for/receive EAEDC while waiting for SSI determination.

Homeless individuals can receive full SSI benefits for 6 out of 9 months living in a shelter, see www.ssa.gov/ssi/spotlights/spot-homeless.htm for more information.

Immigrants: Those who fall into one of the seven “qualified aliens” categories are eligible, see www.ssa.gov/ssi/spotlights/spot-non-citizens.htm for more information.

Amount:

Maximum benefits for elderly: \$735 from federal + \$128 from state; For disabled: \$733 from federal + \$114 from state; For blind: \$733 from federal + \$149 from state.

How to Apply:

Visit local Social Security Office, find via secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp

Boston Social Security Office: Room 148, 10 Causeway Street, Boston, MA 02222

Apply via phone: 1-800-772-1213 or TDD: 1-800-325-0778

Linked Services? Application for SSI is also an application for Social Security. Recipients are automatically eligible for MassHealth and SNAP benefits.

Right to appeal? If denied, must appeal within 60 days of initial decision to have case reconsidered. If appeal within 10 days of benefit being cut back or terminated, applicant will continue receiving full benefit until appeal is heard.

Retroactive? Yes, benefits go back to date of application, but state will first take out the amount of EAEDC benefits it paid during the time period that the applicant was waiting for SSI acceptance.

Developed by Action for Boston Community Development, Inc.