

Intentional Program Violations (IPV)

An Intentional Program Violation (IPV) is knowingly giving false or misleading statements, or misrepresenting, hiding or withholding facts, either spoken or in writing, to get EAEDC. If you are found guilty of an IPV by a court or by a hearing officer or you waived your right to an IPV hearing or signed an agreement in court, you cannot get EAEDC for yourself for

- 6 months for the first violation
- 12 months for the second violation, and
- forever for the third violation.

Court Convictions for Fraud

If you are convicted of EAEDC fraud for an amount of \$1,000 or more, you will never get EAEDC for yourself, if the fraud was committed on or after May 1, 1996.

Outstanding Warrant(s)

You cannot get EAEDC for yourself if you have an outstanding warrant issued by any court in Massachusetts.

What You Can't Buy with Cash Benefits on Your EBT Card

Effective July 27, 2012, it is illegal for you to use cash benefits to pay for the following purchases or services with your Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card: alcoholic beverages, court-ordered fees, fines, bail or bail bonds, firearms and ammunition, gambling, jewelry, lottery tickets, pornographic material or performances, tattoos or body piercings, tobacco products, or vacation services.

Penalties for knowingly violating this law include:

First Offense: The first time you use your EBT card to buy any of these items or services with your cash benefits, you must pay DTA back the amount of the items or services.

Second Offense: The second time you use your EBT card to buy any of these items or services with your cash benefits, you must pay DTA back the amount of the items or services AND you will lose your cash assistance for two months.

Third Offense: The third time you use your EBT card to buy any of these items or services with your cash benefits, you must pay DTA back the amount of the items or services AND you will lose cash assistance permanently.

Where You Can't Shop with Your Cash Benefits on Your EBT Card

The law also makes it illegal for these stores to accept cash benefits on a DTA EBT card: adult bookstores, or adult paraphernalia stores, or pornographic performance establishments, ammunitions dealers, casinos, gambling casinos or gaming establishments, cruise ships, firearms dealers, jewelry stores, liquor stores, manicure shops or aesthetic shops, rent-to-own stores, or tattoo parlors.

To report a prohibited purchase or sale, call 1-800-FRAUD-99.

Important Information About EBT Card Replacements

DTA must charge EAEDC clients a minimum \$5 fee to replace any EBT card that has been lost, damaged, stolen or destroyed. This is because of Massachusetts law. The \$5 fee will be taken from your cash benefits on your EBT card when you ask for a replacement card. If you do not have \$5 in your account, we will take the \$5 when the money is in your account.

Any DTA client who receives a total of 4 or more EBT cards within 12 months must talk with their case manager before getting a new card. Based on this discussion, DTA may investigate to ensure that no fraudulent activities have occurred.

Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children Program



The Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children (EAEDC) Program gives cash assistance to eligible people and certain families.

This brochure along with the *Your Right to Know* brochure tells you about your rights and responsibilities, as well as those of the Department. If you do not understand information we give you, talk to your case manager. If you don't follow the rules for EAEDC, you may lose benefits.

Save this brochure, because it is referred to in many of the letters you will receive from the Department. Be sure you get a copy of the *Your Right to Know* brochure.

You may receive other written materials later. Be sure to read them carefully and ask your case manager to explain them if you do not understand them.

When you get EAEDC, you may also be able to get:

- MassHealth, and
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits

at the same time. Your EAEDC application will serve as an application for these programs.

When you get EAEDC, you cannot get:

- Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC),
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or

- state Veterans' Services Benefits (VSB) at the same time.

If you do not understand information we give you, talk to your case manager to explain it.

EAEDC for one person

To get EAEDC, at least **one** of these items must apply to you.

- (1) You cannot work due to a disability. The disability must have lasted or will last at least 60 days and meet DTA's medical standards for disability. If you are disabled, you must have a competent medical authority (usually a doctor) fill out a Medical Report. You must also fill out a Disability Supplement. Your case manager will give you the Medical Report and help you with the Disability Supplement. The Department will then send your completed Medical Report and Disability Supplement to an independent agency that will make the final decision on your disability.
- (2) You must care for a disabled person living in your household who needs constant care and who would be in an institution without someone to provide the care.
- (3) You are participating in a Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) program.

(4) You are over 65 and waiting for SSI payments to begin.

(5) You are ineligible for SSI and you meet all other EAEDC eligibility requirements.

You must apply for SSI if you appear to be eligible because of your age or disability.

You must be a citizen or eligible noncitizen to receive EAEDC and must reside in

Massachusetts. You must provide verification of citizenship or immigration status, and residency.

EAEDC for a family

To get EAEDC for a family, you must be a caretaker for a child who is not related to you but is living with you. You must provide proof of legal custody or guardianship for the child. If you do not have legal custody or guardianship, you must provide verification of legal custody or guardianship by 6 months following your application date or proof of good cause for not getting legal custody or guardianship. Good cause means that DTA agrees you have a good reason for not getting what is required. If you want to know more about the good cause reasons, talk to your case manager.

An adult caretaker included in an EAEDC family may have to register for work at a One-Stop Career Center or meet the rules for a special work and community service program for EAEDC families.

Income and Assets

You must meet certain rules for income and assets. If your income or assets are too high, you cannot get EAEDC.

EAEDC rules count two kinds of income: *earned* and *unearned*.

- Earned income may be from a job or from self-employment.
- Unearned income may include Social Security benefits or Workers' Compensation.

Your case manager will explain how your income is counted.

EAEDC rules count assets. Assets can be bank accounts, retirement accounts, stocks, bonds or cash surrender value of life insurance policies.

- A single person cannot get EAEDC if he or she has assets of more than \$250.
- Two or more persons cannot get EAEDC if they have assets of more than \$500.

Your case manager will explain which assets count and which assets do not count.

MassHealth (Medicaid)

The EAEDC program gives you limited medical services through a program called MassHealth. MassHealth decides what health services you will get. Even if you are denied EAEDC, you may still get MassHealth. Ask your case manager for a MassHealth application if you are denied EAEDC.