



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

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**Online Guide Transmittal 2023-85
December 7, 2023**

To: Department of Transitional Assistance Staff
From: Sarah Stuart, Associate Commissioner for Change Management
Re: SNAP: Restaurant Meals Program

Overview

The Restaurant Meals Program (RMP) is a state option that allows certain eligible households to use their SNAP benefits to purchase meals at approved restaurants. RMP expands food options to certain DTA households who may have barriers to preparing and cooking food for themselves.

The Department selected a combination of restaurants and food trucks across priority communities in the Commonwealth. Food insecurity, accessibility, cultural competency, equity, meal value, and location were the elements used to evaluate and make the selections.

Purpose

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

- the launch of the Restaurant Meals Program;
- approved restaurants and food trucks participating in the RMP;
- eligibility of certain households to purchase meals at RMP-participating restaurants;
- purchase limitations; and
- text notifications to eligible households.

Household Eligibility

To be eligible to purchase meals at RMP-participating restaurants, the SNAP household must include a grantee or household member who is:

- Homeless; and/or
- Federally certified as disabled; and/or
- 60 years or older

Eligible SNAP households will be automatically enrolled in the RMP and allowed to use their EBT cards at participating restaurant locations.

While SNAP households have to meet certain criteria to be eligible to purchase restaurant meals with their SNAP benefits, any household receiving cash benefits from DTA may purchase meals with their cash benefits at MA RMP-approved restaurants. If a combo case household meets the RMP eligibility criteria, they may use both their SNAP and cash benefits to pay for meals at RMP-approved restaurants.

Purchase Limitations

Meals offered at participating restaurants average \$11 per meal. Meals purchased with an EBT card, at RMP-participating locations, are not subject to meals tax.

SNAP benefits cannot be used to pay for gratuity.

RMP-eligible households are not limited to making purchases at restaurants within their catchment area. Eligible clients may make purchases at **any** RMP-participating restaurant in Massachusetts.

Text Messages

As restaurants are approved and onboarded, the Department will send text messages to RMP-eligible households to notify them of newly approved RMP-participating restaurants in their catchment area. This will be ongoing as additional locations receive FNS-approval.

The first round of text messages will be sent to eligible households in the Fall River, Chelsea, Worcester, and Nubian Square catchment areas.

Revised Online Guide Pages

Topic: Cross Programs
Book: Restaurant Meals Program (RMP)
Page: RMP Operations

Topic: Cross Programs
Book: Restaurant Meals Program (RMP)
Page: RMP Overview

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.
