



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

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Online Guide Transmittal 2016-45
September 30, 2016

To: Department of Transitional Assistance Staff

From:  Sarah Stuart, Associate Commissioner for Program and Policy Implementation

 Paul Sutliff, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations

Re: Cross Programs – Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

Overview

In September 2014, the Department, in collaboration with Project Bread and a number of local Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) partners, developed a CSA program initiative in which SNAP clients could participate. This initiative was continued in the 2015 and 2016 CSA seasons. In May 2016, the SNAP CSA Program was expanded to operate year-round.

Under this initiative, clients (SNAP-only and SNAP/Cash combination households) receive weekly shares of produce at predetermined community sites. Participating clients' EBT accounts are debited a preset monthly amount on their benefit issuance date.

To support the existing SNAP CSA Program and further automate the payment process, effective with BEACON Build 48.5, a new page was added to BEACON entitled, "Healthy Incentives Program." Three new SNAP notices were created for this enhancement. These notices inform clients when each automated payment occurs, when the last payment of the season is debited, and whenever a cancellation is processed. In addition, a CSA Special batch narrative is automatically generated when a SNAP CSA Program membership begins and ends for participating clients.

This Online Guide Transmittal advises staff of:

Purpose

- the view-only Healthy Incentives Program BEACON page that records the SNAP households' participation and allows case managers to identify which clients are participating in the SNAP CSA Program;
 - the new SNAP CSA notices; and
 - the new CSA Special batch narratives.
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**Updated Online
Guide Page**

Topic: SNAP
Book: Nutrition Education
Chapter: Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)
Page: Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

**New Online
Guide Book
and Page**

Topic: Cross Programs
Book: Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)
Page: Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

Questions

If you have any questions, please email the DTA Mailbox.
Systems questions should be directed to the Systems Support Help Desk.
