

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

EAEDC cash assistance

Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children (EAEDC) gives cash benefits to older adults, people with disabilities, children being cared for by a distant or non-relative, and adults taking care of a person with a disability in Massachusetts when they have little to no income.

The Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) provides the benefits in two cash payments per month. EAEDC includes MassHealth coverage. Visit DTA's website for more information: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/emergency-aid-to-the-elderly-disabled-and-children-eaedc>

Who is eligible for EAEDC?

You may qualify for EAEDC if you are:

- Unable to work due to your own disability that will last at least 60 days
- Age 65 years or older and are not receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Living with and taking care of a child who is not related or is distantly related to you (such as a “godchild” or a friend/neighbor’s child)
- Participating in a MassAbility program (formerly called Mass Rehab Commission or MRC), including many education and training programs
- Living with and taking care of a person with a disability who would otherwise have to move to a nursing home or other institution

What if I have assets or income?

Assets do not matter for EAEDC eligibility, unless you live in a rest home.

Any countable earned or unearned income you (or your spouse) have must be less than the monthly grant amount for your family size.

The chart below shows the maximum grant amount each month based on the number of people in your household. The maximum grant amount is the most one can receive, and how much you exactly receive ultimately depends on your monthly income.

Household Size	EAEDC Maximum Grant Amount
1	\$441.10
2	\$573.70

Visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/emergency-aid-to-the-elderly-disabled-and-children-eaedc> for more information about the EAEDC grant amounts based on household size and living situation.

What level of disability counts for EAEDC?

To get EAEDC based on disability, you must have a physical or mental health issue - or combination of health issues - that limits or reduces your ability to support yourself through work. The health issues must last at least 60 days or more.

What if I have a substance use disorder?

You cannot get EAEDC based on a substance use disorder alone. But if you have a mental or physical health problem in addition to a substance use disorder, you may be able to get benefits.

If DTA thinks you cannot properly spend your money on your basic needs, DTA may pay your benefits directly to your landlord, utility company, and other third parties. This is known as "protective payments."

Can I get healthcare if I get EAEDC?

Yes. You will get a MassHealth card. MassHealth covers most health services you may need, such as doctor visits and prescription drugs. If you are an immigrant, different rules may apply.

Do I qualify if I am a legally present immigrant?

Low income immigrants who are legally present may qualify for EAEDC. This includes legal permanent residents ("green card" holders), refugees, asylees as well as other immigrants who have work authorization or proof of a pending or approved immigration status.

DTA will ask for proof of your immigration status including a copy of any immigration document you have. This can include a statement from an immigration attorney representing you.

If you are in the process of applying for a green card (for example, through a relative petition), be sure to check with an immigration attorney. For many legally-present immigrants, receipt of EAEDC does not impact immigration status.

For more information about “public charge” also available in 10 languages please visit: <https://pifcoalition.org/publiccharge2022> and for additional information go to: <https://www.masslegalhelp.org/immigration/immigrants-benefits/understanding-public-charge>.

How can I apply for EAEDC?

There is no wrong door! You have the right to apply:

- Online at DTAConnect.com
- In person [at a local DTA office](#)
- By phone [with a local DTA office](#)

If you apply online, you will need an interview with a DTA cash worker. The interview can be done over the phone, or you can go to a local office for an in-person interview. When you fill out the application online, you will receive a text and/or letter with the time and date for the interview. If you can't reach DTA by phone, try these tips: [Bit.ly/DTAtips](https://bit.ly/DTAtips)

If you apply over the phone or go in-person to a local DTA office, a DTA worker should be able to conduct that interview when you apply.

The date you sign will be the date your benefits begin. If you need help finding a doctor, getting an appointment, filling out forms, or getting an interpreter for the appointment, tell your DTA worker. The worker must help you, if you ask. Your DTA worker will give you a list of proofs you need to send DTA.

What if I am denied EAEDC or need help?

- If you disagree with how DTA is handling your case, you can reach out to the DTA Ombuds Office for help: 617-348-5354
- If DTA denies or stops your benefits and you disagree with the decision, you have the right to appeal. To learn more about how to appeal: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/file-an-appeal-with-dta>
- You can find free Legal Help: MassLRF.org