



PROJECT BREAD



SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

OVERVIEW AND OUTREACH

OCTOBER 4, 2022
SIMMONS UNIVERSITY



Project Bread connects people and communities in Massachusetts to reliable sources of food while advocating for policies that make food more accessible—so that no one goes hungry.

Food insecurity doubled during the pandemic.

Prior to the pandemic, household food insecurity in Massachusetts was at 8.2%.

The coronavirus pandemic fueled a hunger crisis unlike any other in our lifetime, at its peak rendering 19.6% of households food insecure. Food insecurity declined from that peak, but it is climbing again as government benefits sunset and inflation stretches budgets.

THE FACTS

**18.3% of all
households &
26.2% of Households
with Children in
Massachusetts are
food insecure**

What is SNAP?

- SNAP stands for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Previously it was known as Food Stamps.
- It is a federal program that is administered on a state-by-state basis. In Massachusetts, SNAP is overseen by the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA).
- SNAP provides a monthly benefit onto an EBT card that can be used to buy groceries at local stores & supermarkets.
- There are specific requirements for the program based on household size, citizenship status, income, and certain expenses.

3 LEVELS

Federal



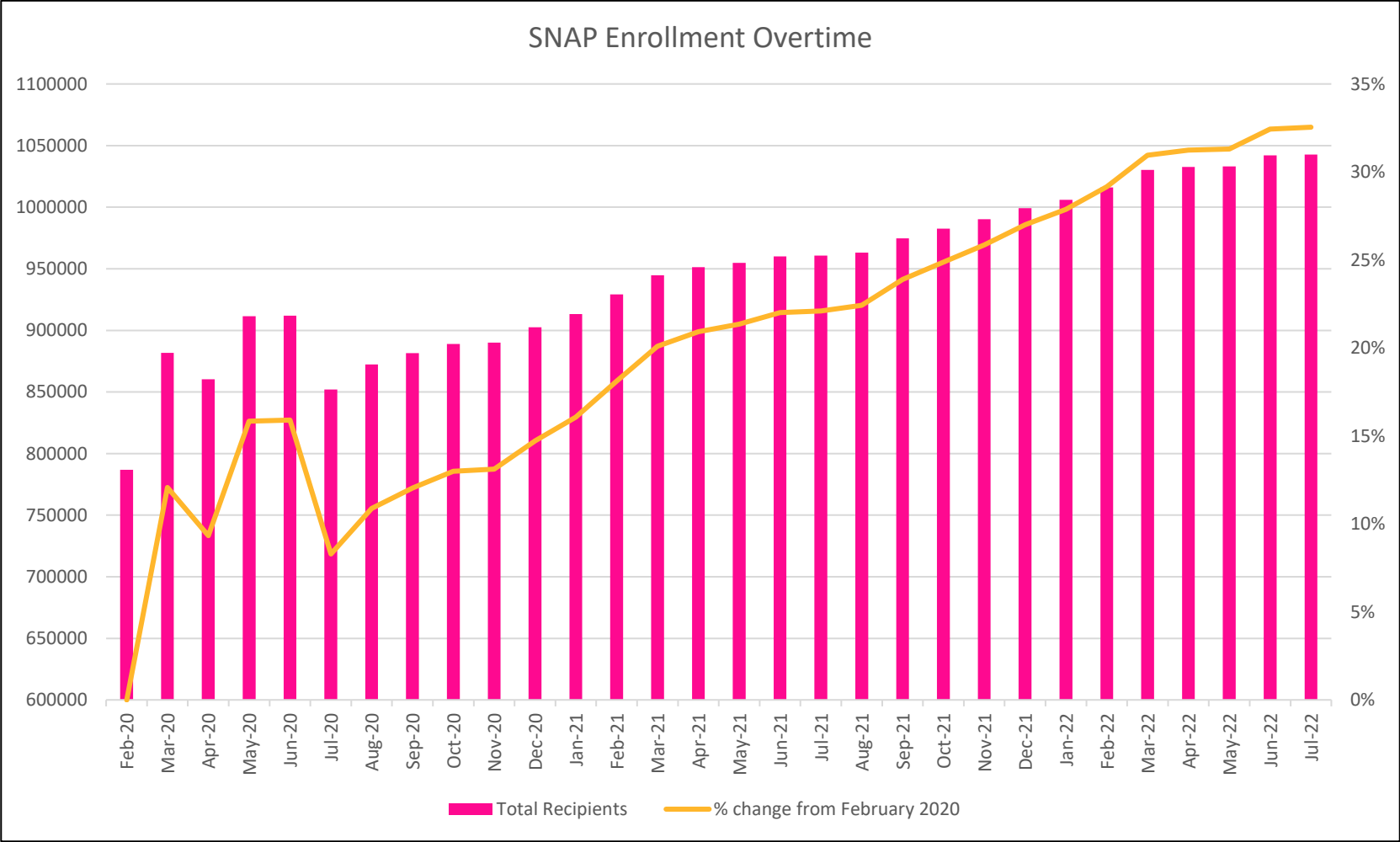
State



Individual



SNAP Enrollment in Massachusetts



College Student SNAP Eligibility

Unfortunately, college students are treated as ineligible until proven otherwise due to federal regulations. However, MA has some exemptions in place to make it more accessible. Exemptions include:

- Attending a MA Community College
- Federal/State Work Study participation
- Receiving MASS Grant Scholarship
- Attending classes less than half time
- Parenting a child under 6 or have a child 6-11 and are a single parent
- Working an average of 20 hours per week or more
- Pandemic Only: Full Pell Grant Recipients & Those with Expected Family Contributions (EFC) of \$0



SNAP & Immigration

- SNAP has rigid and complex requirements when it comes to immigration status.
- In order to be considered for SNAP, there needs to be at least one eligible household member on the case. To be considered an eligible household member:
 - US Citizen
 - Legal Permanent Resident
 - 5 years or more for adults
 - Any length of time for a minor
 - Asylee
 - Refugee
 - Various special cases



For mixed status families, the income guidelines are applied differently depending on their specific situation. This is a time when a prescreen with the FoodSource Hotline can be helpful.



SNAP Application Steps

1. Prescreen with FoodSource Hotline (Optional)
2. Initial Application
3. *Phone Interview*
4. Submission of Verification Documents
5. DTA Processes Decision
6. Approval/Denial

Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) can help families buy food while schools are closed due to COVID-19. [Click here](#) if you got a P-EBT card and need help setting up a PIN or need to request a replacement card. If you do not get SNAP benefits, you have a right to apply. See this page for information.



Massachusetts DTA

English



Log in

Help get the food you need

1 out of 9 people in Massachusetts receive SNAP benefits.
Apply for SNAP in 20 minutes or less.

Apply SNAP!

Applying for Cash Benefits?

Your family must meet certain requirements to get Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) — Click [here](#) to find out more.

Apply TAFDC!



SNAP Changes Since Covid-19 Pandemic Began

1. Unfortunately, NO changes to income guidelines or citizenship eligibility requirements
2. Phone interviews are not currently required **if** verification documents are submitted
3. Slightly expanded college student exemption criteria
4. Federal pandemic legislation has been bringing all households up to the maximum amount for their household size.



Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline

- One-stop-shop for food assistance in Massachusetts.
- Comprehensive list of all available resources.
- Free & confidential
- Residents can Live Chat a counselor online in English or Spanish:
 - [GettingSNAP.org](https://www.gettingsnap.org)
 - [Projectbread.org/get-help](https://www.projectbread.org/get-help)



PROJECT BREAD'S FOODSOURCE HOTLINE

1.800.645.8333

Food assistance in 180 languages

HOTLINE HOURS

Mon-Fri

8am-7pm

Sat

10am-2pm

www.GettingSNAP.org

Ver en Español



[How to Apply](#) [Who is Applying](#) [About SNAP](#) [FAQs](#) [SNAP Updates](#) [More Food Resources](#)

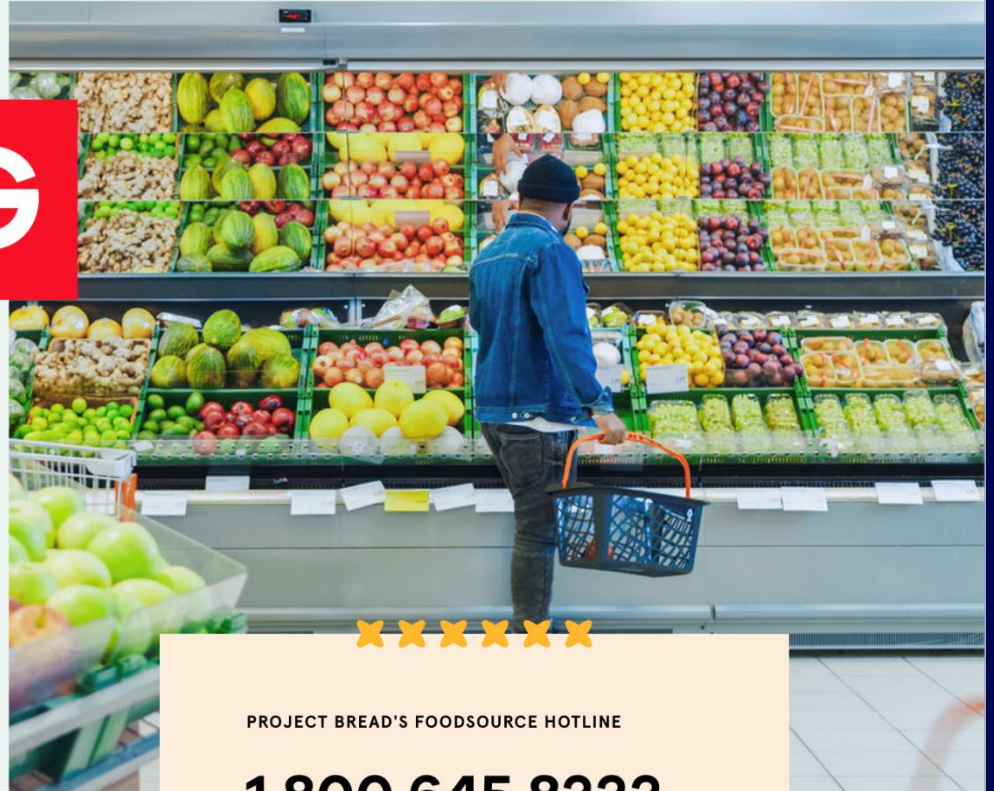
GETTING SNAP

Serving Massachusetts residents.



START A CHAT WITH OUR COUNSELORS

Could you be



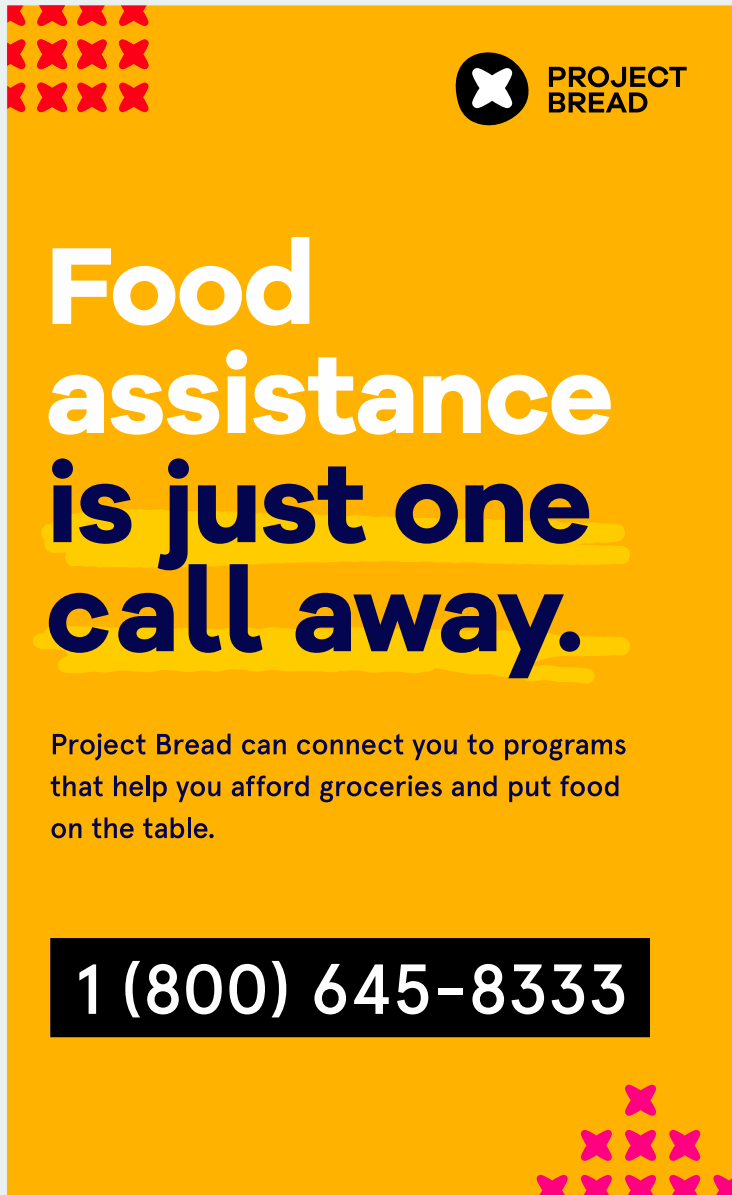
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HOTLINE HOURS

LET'S TALK!

A yellow poster for Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline. In the top left corner, there is a 3x3 grid of red 'X' marks. In the top right corner, there is a black circle with a white 'X' inside, followed by the text 'PROJECT BREAD' in black. The main text is 'Food assistance is just one call away.' where 'Food' and 'assistance' are in white, and 'is just one call away.' is in dark blue. Below this, in smaller black text, it says 'Project Bread can connect you to programs that help you afford groceries and put food on the table.' At the bottom, there is a black rectangular box with the white text '1 (800) 645-8333'. In the bottom right corner, there is a small cluster of pink 'X' marks.

**Food
assistance
is just one
call away.**

Project Bread can connect you to programs that help you afford groceries and put food on the table.

1 (800) 645-8333

Our Purpose

- Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline connects people struggling to put food on the table with SNAP benefits and other food resources in their communities.
- We answer calls from individuals and families across the state – no town is too small.
- We strive to reduce barriers to accessing government food programs whether that is a language barrier, lack of access to the internet, or confusion around program requirements.



OUR SERVICES

Screenings for SNAP/Food Stamp eligibility

Over-the-phone SNAP application assistance and follow up with applicants throughout the process

Provide general information to pending or current SNAP recipients and those who are hesitant to apply

Referrals to community food programs

Referrals to other assistance programs such as WIC, school meals, housing, and utility assistance

Information on the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) for SNAP recipients and how to utilize the program

Healthy Incentives Program (HIP)

- HIP is a reimbursement program for SNAP recipients.
- It puts money back on EBT cards when clients use SNAP funds to buy fresh produce from HIP farm vendors.
- Farm vendor locations are typically found at farmer's markets, farm stands, mobile farmer's markets, and some farms that run seasonal CSAs.
- The monthly maximum amount reimbursed depends on household size:
 - 1-2 - \$40
 - 3-5 - \$60
 - 6+ - \$80



Find locations at
www.DTAfinder.com or
call the Hotline!

Alternative Food Resources

If callers are already enrolled in SNAP, are not eligible, or are unsure about applying; there are other food programs to assist with accessing emergency food resources:

- Food Pantries
- Community Meal Programs
- Meals on Wheels
- Community Servings
- Fair Foods
- WIC
- Summer Eats



Dispelling SNAP Myths and Misconceptions

- The FoodSource Hotline consistently receives calls from people who have heard that they would be ineligible for various inaccurate reasons, getting SNAP will have negative repercussions for them, or they are harming others by getting SNAP:
 - **“I don’t have children, so I am not eligible.”**
 - **“I won’t be eligible if I am college student.”**
 - **“It will affect my ability to become a citizen.”**
 - **“I don’t want to take SNAP from folks who need it more.”**
- These myths are pervasive, but they can be sorted through for each specific situation. The challenge is to not be discouraged by what passes through the grapevine.



THANK YOU

QUESTION?



PROJECT
BREAD

