

## Benefits Available To People Regardless Of Immigration Status

*The programs below are available to all Massachusetts residents regardless of citizenship or immigration status. Additional benefits are available to US citizens and non-citizens with an eligible immigration status.*

**NOTE: None of the benefits that are available regardless of status will be considered under a public charge test. For more information about public charge, please see <https://www.masslegalservices.org/publiccharge>**

### HEALTHCARE

#### Health Safety Net (formerly called “Free Care”)

- Who is eligible?
  - Massachusetts residents with family income less than 150% of poverty who are not eligible for other subsidized insurance may be eligible for *full* Health Safety Net care.
  - People with income up to 300% of poverty may be eligible for *partial* Health Safety Net care after meeting a deductible.

#### Children’s Medical Security Plan

- Who is eligible?
  - Children under the age of 19. There is no premium charge for children with family income less than 200% of poverty; premiums are charged if family income is over 200% of poverty.

#### MassHealth Standard for Pregnant Women

- Who is eligible?
  - Pregnant women with family income up to 200% of poverty are eligible during pregnancy and 60 days post-partum.

#### MassHealth Limited

- Who is eligible?
  - Infants with income up to 200% of poverty
  - Adults under age 65 with income up to 133% of poverty
  - Children under age 21 with income up to 150% of poverty
  - Individuals age 65 or older with income up to 100% of poverty and limited assets.

#### Prescription Advantage

- Who is eligible?
  - Individuals age 65 or older
  - Disabled individuals under age 65 with income up to 188% of poverty

#### Home Care Program

- Who is eligible?

- Massachusetts residents age 60 or older, or under 60 and diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease
- For most services, there are annual income limits and copayments.
- An individualized evaluation must show serious functional limitations and critical unmet needs.

#### How to apply:

The Health Safety Net, Children's Medical Security Plan and MassHealth all use the same application form. Apply on-line at [www.mahealthconnector.org](http://www.mahealthconnector.org), by telephone at 800-841-2900, in person at a MassHealth Enrollment Center or by mail or fax. A paper form can be downloaded from [www.mass.gov/masshealth](http://www.mass.gov/masshealth). Most hospitals and health centers can also help you to apply. Application information for Prescription Advantage or Home Care can be obtained by calling 1-800-243-4636 or visiting [www.800ageinfo.com](http://www.800ageinfo.com).

#### Nutritional Assistance

There are no immigration status requirements to be eligible for WIC, National School Lunch & Breakfast, or access to food banks and soup kitchens.

- For more information on WIC, [click here](#).
- For more information on school lunches, [click here](#).
  - For a map of locations for school lunches, [click here](#).
- For more information on food banks, [click here](#).
- For a map of locations for food banks, [click here](#).
- For more information on soup kitchens and free meals, [click here](#).

Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT) is a special food benefit authorized by the federal coronavirus bill. It's available for **all** Boston Public Schools and Charter School students who were receiving free and reduced-price school meals while schools are closed. For more info, [click here](#).

- If families currently receive SNAP benefits, the P-EBT will be added to their cards.
- If families aren't enrolled, they will get cards sent to them in the mail.
- Using P-EBT benefits does not impact any adult or child's immigration status, and the Public Charge rule does not apply to P-EBT benefits.
- If families have questions about P-EBT, SNAP, WIC or other food resources, they can call Project Bread's Hotline at 1-800-645-8333. They can also contact the city's Office of Food Access at 617-635-3717 or by email at [food@boston.gov](mailto:food@boston.gov).

### Headstart

There are no immigration status requirements to be eligible for Headstart. There are income limitations. For more information, [click here](#).

### Housing

City of Boston:

- [Rental Relief Fund](#) (Covid-specific)

State housing programs:

- State public housing
- Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP)
- Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP)
- State-funded multifamily (privately owned subsidized) housing
- Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) - provides financial assistance that can only be used for housing related expenses.

Some federal multifamily (privately owned subsidized) developments:

- Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)
- McKinney Homeless Programs (except for the McKinney Section 8 moderate rehabilitation program)
- Shelter Plus Care Supportive Housing
- HOME Rental Assistance
- Low Income Housing Tax Credit properties (unless there are other housing program rules for the property restricting immigrant eligibility)

### EA Shelter

There are immigration status requirements for EA shelters. Most individuals without documents are **not** eligible for EA shelters, but if there is a family member with a qualifying status (citizen, LPRs, PRUCOL, or pending asylum or VAWA petition) then the family is eligible (meaning anyone within the family unit may stay in the shelter regardless of his or her immigration status).

### Financial Assistance

<https://www.massundocufund.org/> (6/18: applications temporarily closed, fundraising)

<https://pwworkerscenter.org/undocu-fund/>

<https://bit.ly/MassWorkerReliefFunds> (large listing)

CSS of Fall River - offering \$500/month for immigrant families who a) reside within Barnstable County, Nantucket or Martha's Vineyard and b) did not receive federal stimulus. To request funds, call CSS's main line, (508) 674-4681, Mon.-Thurs, inquire about the 'Cape Cod Project', and leave a voicemail.

Unfortunately, at this time certain benefits such as unemployment benefits, EAEDC Cash Assistance, TAFDC Cash Assistance, or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or Food Stamps/SNAP, etc., have specific immigration status requirements and all but the unemployment benefits may carry public charge consequences for some individuals.

Alternative resources for disqualified individuals and families can be found at <https://www.masslegalservices.org/content/immigrants-and-public-benefits-bbt-training-and-resource-materials>

Justice at Work has also developed an FAQ for questions related to the workplace: [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

## Mutual Aid In MA

Mutual Aid is reciprocal aid and cooperation across and among social groups, typically organized by city or neighborhood. Individuals sign up for what they need, and offer anything that they can offer.

<https://www.massjwj.net/news/2020/3/17/cover-19-mutual-aid-networks>

Arlington: [click here](#)

Belmont: [click here](#)

Berkshires, [click here](#).

Beverly, [click here](#).

Boston Neighborhoods

Allston/Brighton: [click here](#)

Dorchester: [click here!](#)

East Boston / Chelsea: [click here](#)

Jamaica Plain and Roxbury, [click here](#).

Roslindale: [click here](#)

South Boston: [click here](#)

South End, [click here.](#)

Brockton: [click here](#)

Brookline, [click here.](#)

Cambridge, [click here.](#)

Chelsea: [Vecinos@greenrootschelsea.org](mailto:Vecinos@greenrootschelsea.org)

Everett: [click here](#)

Framingham: [click here](#)

Lawrence: [click here](#)

Lexington, [click here](#)

Lincoln/Sudbury: [here](#)

Lowell, [click here.](#)

Lynn, [click here](#)

Malden: [click here](#)

Medfield: [click here](#)

Natick: [click here](#)

Natick/Framingham: [click here](#)

Newton: [click here](#)

Plymouth Area, New Hampshire: [click here](#)

Quincy: [click here!](#)

Revere: [click here](#)

Salem: [click here](#)

Somerville / Medford [click here.](#)

South Shore Mutual Aid: Rockland, Hingham, and Abington [click here](#)

Southcoast Mutual Aid: Fall River / New Bedford: [click here](#)

Stoneham: [click here](#)

Watertown: [click here](#)

Western Mass Mutual Aid: [click here](#)

Amherst

*Athol-Orange*

Belchertown

***Chicopee***

Easthampton

Florence

Hadley/South Hadley

Greenfield

***Holyoke***

Montague

Northampton

*Pelham / Shutesbury / Leverett*

***Springfield***

Warwick

Wendell

*Williamsburg*

Waltham, [click here](#).

Worcester: [click here!](#)

#### Mutual Aid For

[Students \(National\) Mutual Aid - ECAASU compiled](#)

[Muslim American Society Mutual Aid](#)

[Mutual Aid for MA Prisoners - GoFundMe](#)

[Mass Mutual Aid Networks](#)

#### Other Boston-Area Mutual Aid Collective

**Solidarity Supply Distro:** Solidarity Supply Distro is a coalition of leftist and anti-capitalist organizers in Boston who are building community resilience to the COVID-19 pandemic. [Donate here](#). [Facebook](#).

**Boston Community Support Network:** We need mutual aid because our local and national governments are not prepared for crises (nor do they necessarily have our interests in mind) so we need to be – not to incite fear but to be local insurance, to care for our nervous systems by leaning into each other.

**#ShelterInSafety** Resources and social media toolkit from Impact Boston

#### Links and other Resources

Human Network Initiative/Brigham and Women's Hospital:

<https://www.humannetworkinitiative.com/neighborhoods>

Mutual Aid Mamas: <https://mutualaidmamas.com/> - has the current map, links to the google toolkit, and other resources

AOC Toolkit: [here](#)

Join Mutual Aid organizers in **Massachusetts**: [here](#)

Join mutual aid organizers **nationally**: Slack Group Signup: [here](#)

Arlington compilation of resources: [here](#)