



**Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance**

MARY CHARLES  
16 SELDEN ST # 2  
DORCHESTER, MA 02124-4321

Agency ID: 1553993

Date: 09/24/2021

**Notice of Change to Federal SNAP Benefit Amounts**

Dear MARY CHARLES,

Because of a federal change, on 10/07/2021, your SNAP benefits will go from \$105.00 to \$168.00. The new amount may also be the result of a change in your income, expenses, or a change in the number of household members.

You will also still get extra SNAP early in the month because of the pandemic. Around November 2, your extra SNAP will be \$145.00. We will tell you when this extra SNAP will stop.

If you have questions, call DTA at 1-877-382-2363.

**Your SNAP may go up if you tell us about certain costs.** For example:

- If you or someone you get SNAP with is 60 or older or disabled, tell us about medical costs over \$35 per month.
- If you are working, looking for work, or in school, tell us about child or disabled adult care costs.

**For more help:**

- If you have children/are pregnant and have no income or low income, you may be able to get TAFDC. If you are 65 or older or disabled with no or very low income you may be able to get EAEDC. Learn more/apply: [DTAConnect.com](https://DTAConnect.com)
- Federal Child Tax Credit or stimulus payments: [FindYourFunds.org](https://FindYourFunds.org)
- Legal help with an eviction: [EvictionLegalHelp.org](https://EvictionLegalHelp.org)
- Rent, mortgage, and utilities: Call 2-1-1 or go to [Mass.gov/covidhousinghelp](https://Mass.gov/covidhousinghelp)
- Money to help pay for the internet or a computer: [GetEmergencyBroadband.org](https://GetEmergencyBroadband.org)
- Emergency food: Project Bread FoodSource Hotline, 1-800-645-8333
- To ask about free legal services, call: Greater Boston Legal Services at 1-800-323-3205.

If you disagree, you have the right to appeal. Appeal rights are included with this notice. You can also file an appeal by calling 617-348-5321. The regulation(s) used in reaching these decisions are 106 CMR: 364.500, 364.600, 366.130.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



## Request for an Appeal

**If you have trouble reading or understanding this notice, call DTA at 1-877-382-2363 for help.**

**What is an appeal?** If you disagree with a Department (DTA) action, you have the right to appeal. If you appeal, you will have a hearing before an independent hearing officer. Hearings are usually held in your local DTA office. If you cannot come to the office, you can have a phone hearing. At least 10 days before the hearing, we will mail you a notice of the time and place of the hearing. You can bring any documents that you want the hearing officer to look at. At the hearing, a DTA employee will explain the reason for DTA's action. You or someone helping you can explain why you disagree with the action. After the hearing, the hearing officer will mail you a decision.

**Can I bring someone to help me?** Yes. You can bring anyone you want to support or represent you. You can also bring witnesses to testify. You may be able to get free legal help. See the other side of this notice for the name and phone number of the free legal aid office in your area or go to [www.masslegalhelp.org](http://www.masslegalhelp.org) for information about free legal services.

How do I appeal? Fill in the spaces below.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to appeal the following decision by DTA:

\_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Agency ID or last 4 of SSN \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

City/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Today's date: \_\_\_\_\_

**If you have someone to help you with this appeal, please fill in their information:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

City/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**If you need special help due to a disability, please contact the Division of Hearings at the numbers listed below**

**Mail this request to: DTA, P.O. Box 4017, Taunton MA 02780-0314 or fax both sides to (617) 348-5311.**

**If you are currently getting cash benefits** – If we get this request before the date your benefits are to be stopped or lowered, your benefits will continue until the appeal is decided. *If you lose your appeal, you will have to pay back these benefits.* If you get TAFDC time limited benefits during your appeal and you lose, the months of benefits you received may count toward your time limit.

**If you are currently getting SNAP (food stamps) benefits** – If we get this request before the date your benefits are lowered or stopped, your benefits will continue until the appeal is decided, or your SNAP certification period ends, *whichever comes first.* *If you lose your SNAP appeal, you will have to pay back the benefits you received during your appeal.*

**If you do not want to get benefits during your appeal** – Check this box ☐ if you choose not to get benefits during the appeal period, and win your appeal, DTA will pay you any benefits owed.

**What are the deadlines for appealing?** We must get your appeal request no later than 90 days from the date the Department sent you written notice of the action you are appealing. But there are exceptions:

- There is no deadline if you appeal the amount of your SNAP benefits during your certification period.
- You have 120 days if DTA fails to act on your request for benefits or services.
- You generally have 120 days if the appeal is about coercive or improper conduct by a DTA employee.
- You only have 30 days if you are appealing because your state tax refund has been held to repay an overpayment of DTA benefits.

**Do you need an interpreter?** – You have the right to a free interpreter if you need one. The interpreter will keep all of the information about your case confidential. You also have the right to bring your own interpreter. If you need an interpreter, please call us at any of the phone numbers listed in the section below or check this box ☐ and tell us your primary language or dialect: \_\_\_\_\_ and we will provide an interpreter for you.

**What if I cannot come on the date of the hearing?** If you need to reschedule, please call at (617) 348-5321 or (800) 882-2017 at least one day before the hearing. If you do not reschedule and miss the hearing, we will send you a letter about your rights. If you had a good reason for missing the hearing, we may be able to give you a new hearing.

