

FY18 Budget Request

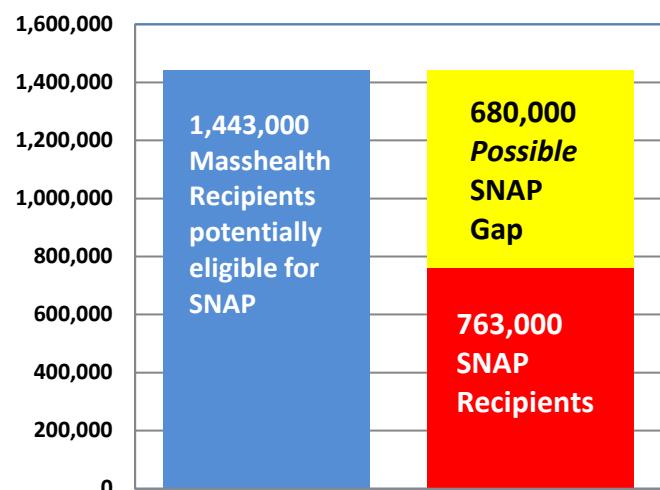
Close the SNAP Gap and Create a Common App!

Please help Close the SNAP Gap in the FY18 Conference Committee Budget by including the Senate Budget provision!

The Problem:

- The SNAP gap refers to the 680,000 people who are receiving Mass Health and likely eligible for SNAP, but aren't receiving benefits.¹ (Check out local **SNAP Gap Map** by city and town: <http://tinyurl.com/j7kudzs>)
- MassHealth and SNAP, as well as many other safety-net programs, have separate application processes that ask for the same basic information, duplicating efforts and creating more work for both the state and clients.

How big is the SNAP Gap?



The Solution:

- Create a **common application portal** to let low income households apply for MassHealth and **SNAP at the same time**. This lays the foundation for a common application portal for safety-net benefits, reducing duplicate data collection, and increasing efficiency of state government.

Benefits of closing the SNAP Gap and creating a Common Application Portal:

- Streamline and improve the efficiency of the application process for Massachusetts residents.
- Increase access to 100% federally-funded nutrition dollars for low income households.
- Help more low income residents meet their basic needs and lower healthcare costs.
- Boost automatic "direct" certification for children for free school meals.
- Generate \$1.5 billion in economic stimulus to the state and local economy.
- Increase food access for over 100,000 Massachusetts elders.

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¹ **Data:** September 2016: EOHHS reported 1.8 million Masshealth recipients under 200% FPL, November DTA data shows 763K SNAP recipients. MLRI determined 80% of the 1.8M MassHealth recipients "likely SNAP eligible," excluding long term care, ineligible students, 3 month time limit, immigrant ineligibles.

Organizational Supporters of Closing the SNAP Gap and Creating a Common Application

As of April 11, 2017

Acord Food Pantry	Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry
Action for Boston Community Development, Inc.	Lowell Alliance
Action, Inc.	Lynn Food and Fitness Alliance
Allston Brighton Health Collaborative	Massachusetts Councils on Aging
American Red Cross of Massachusetts	Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
Amherst Survival Center	Mayor's Office of Food initiatives, City of Boston
Arise for Social Justice	Massachusetts Public Health Association
Atrius Health	Metropolitan Area Planning Council
Beverly Bootstraps	Northern Berkshire Interfaith Action Initiative/
Boston Area Rape Crisis Center(BARCC)	Friendship Center Food Pantry
Boston Public Health Commission	Operation A.B.L.E. of Greater Boston, Inc.
Bunker Hill Community College	Poor Peoples United Fund
Catholic Charities Worcester County	Project Bread
Central West Justice Center	Quincy Community Action Programs, Inc. - Southwest
Children's HealthWatch	Community Food Center
Coalition for a Better Acre	Rosie's Place
Coalition for Social Justice	SCALE
Community Action Agency of Somerville, Inc.	Shape Up Somerville, City of Somerville
Community Servings	Somerville Food Security Coalition
EMPath	Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center
Groundwork Lawrence	The Bridge of Central MA, INC
Groundwork Somerville	The Family Pantry of Cape Cod
Health Care For All	The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts
Healthy Hampshire	The Greater Boston Food Bank
Horizons for Homeless Children	The Latino Health Insurance Program, Inc.
Immigrant Service Providers Group/Health	The Open Door
Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action	WHEAT Community Connections
Justice Center of Southeast MA	Worcester County Food Bank
	Worcester Food Policy Council

To sign your organization on as a SNAP Gap Common App campaign supporter go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/SNAPgapsignon>