

DTA's Elderly/Disabled Simplified Application Project- EDSAP

EDSAP = Making SNAP Simple for Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities

What is EDSAP?

EDSAP is a change in how DTA handles SNAP cases for older adults and persons with disabilities. It greatly reduces required paperwork and will make it easier for low-income households to get and keep SNAP.

Who is part of EDSAP?

In order to be part of EDSAP, every adult (age 18+) who is part of the SNAP household must be:

- Age 60 or older, OR
- Receiving a disability-based benefit - such as SSI, Social Security Disability, or MassHealth as disabled.

The SNAP household can include children under 18. No adult in the household can have earnings from a job in order to be part of EDSAP.

What does it mean to be part of EDSAP?

- ⇒ NO Interim Reports! EDSAP households do not need to do any Interim Reporting paperwork to keep SNAP for 3 years.
- ⇒ At the end of 3 years, EDSAP households will need to recertify to keep their SNAP.
- ⇒ There is NO interview required at the point of recertification – unless DTA finds information in the Recertification form is “questionable.”
- ⇒ EDSAP households only have to tell DTA about the two changes listed below.

How do households know if they are part of EDSAP?

On December 17, 2018, DTA moved about 87,000 households into EDSAP because they did an application, Interim Report, or Recertification recently with DTA. DTA will be moving additional cases onto EDSAP at the point of Recertification. All SNAP households eligible for EDSAP should be moved into EDSAP by about June 2020.

When SNAP households are moved into EDSAP, DTA will send a notice explaining EDSAP, when their 3 year certification period ends and the reporting requirements. See Page 3 for a sample EDSAP notice.

DTA notices can be viewed on DTACONNECT.com or through the DTA Connect mobile app. Households can also call DTA to ask if they are part of EDSAP.

What information do EDSAP households have to report to DTA?

EDSAP households must report only two items to DTA:

1. If someone joins or leaves the households (eg. an adult child moves in or a spouse leaves)
2. If anyone in the household starts to get earnings (regular job or self-employed)

This information needs to be reported to DTA by the 10th day of the month following the month of the change.

Example: John Doe, age 65, starts a new job in November and receives his first pay check on November 28. He needs to report the earnings to DTA by December 10th.

EDSAP households are NOT required to tell DTA about any other changes. However, EDSAP households should report increases in expenses if they are not getting the maximum SNAP benefit, such as an increase in rent or medical costs.

What happens if a household is no longer eligible for EDSAP?

If someone who is not eligible for EDSAP moves in to an EDSAP household (ie. a 20 year old child), or if someone in the households starts a job, the SNAP household is no longer eligible for EDSAP. Their SNAP benefits will continue and the household remains certified for the remainder of the 3 years.

When DTA moves a household from EDSAP to regular SNAP, the household will need to comply with Simplified Reporting rules. Under Simplified Reporting rules, they will not be required to report any changes to DTA but they will need to complete Interim Reports to stay on SNAP.¹

Example: Mary Moe is disabled. Her SNAP is approved as an EDSAP case in January 2019. Mary's certification period is from January 2019 through December 2021. She does not have to complete any Interim Reports. In November 2019 she reports her 19 year old son has moved in and he is not disabled. Mary will be taken out of EDSAP and required to complete an Interim Report every 6 months, but she is still certified for SNAP through December 2021.

Households can become eligible for EDSAP again! If the earnings stop or the EDSAP ineligible person moves out, DTA will move a household back into EDSAP – and the required Interim Reports will stop.

Example: Sam, age 68, works at a part time job for 3 months, but cannot continue working due to the distance of the job from his home. He sends DTA proof that his job ended. Once DTA knows Sam no longer has earnings, DTA should put Sam back on EDSAP for the remainder of his 3 year certification period.

Will SNAP benefit amounts change while a household is on EDSAP?

In most cases, SNAP amounts should not change by more than a few dollars for EDSAP households (during the annual Cost of Living Adjustment). However, DTA will adjust the SNAP benefits if they get information that is "verified upon receipt" (directly from the source). For example, if a household's Social Security or SSI goes up, DTA will automatically adjust the SNAP amount. If this happens, DTA will send a notice.

SNAP benefits can also change if a household has an increase in costs and tells DTA about the increase (if their shelter or medical costs go up). An EDSAP household is NOT required to tell DTA if their shelter or medical costs go down.

For more information contact Vicky Negus, vnegus@mlri.org or Pat Baker pbaker@mlri.org.

¹ Households with an older adult (60+) or a person with a disability are not required to report any changes to DTA. If the household includes someone ages 18-49 who is subject to the ABAWD time limit, the ABAWD may need to report if their work hours decrease. See DTA's Online Guide or MLRI's SNAP Advocacy Guide for more information.

EDSAP-36 ELIGIBLE CONVERSION NOTICE

Mary Jones 999-99-9999
100 Main St. Malden TAO - DTA
Malden, Ma. 02148

Dear Mary Jones:

As part of your approval to receive SNAP benefits, your reporting responsibilities for SNAP have changed. You are now part of a special certification group called EDSAP-36.

Your certification period ends on { }. At that time, you will get a separate notice about what you have to do to recertify and have your SNAP benefits continue.

You will now have to tell DTA if someone moves into or out of your household or if someone in your household starts to work. You must report these changes no later than the 10th day following the end of the calendar month in which the change occurred. For example, if someone moves into your household on November 25th, you would have to report the change by December 10th.

Please note that if DTA receives verified information that your circumstances have changed, your benefit amount may change as well.

The regulation(s) used in reaching this decision are 106 CMR: 366.100, 366.110.

We must not discriminate due to age, race, color, sex, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or political beliefs. If you think that we have discriminated against you, contact the Office of Diversity at 617-348-8555 to find out how to file a complaint.

If you have any questions about your case, you should call the DTA Assistance Line at 1-877-382-2363 {Senior Assistance Office #}.