

What happens if my application for SSI is denied?

- If your application for SSI is denied, your application for Bay State CAP food assistance benefits is automatically denied at the same time.
- You will not be sent a separate notice telling you that your application for Bay State CAP has been denied.
- You may still be able to get regular food assistance benefits.

If you want to apply for regular food assistance benefits, contact your local DTA office. If you don't know where your office is located or you wish to get a food stamp application form, please call the Application Info line at 1-800-249-2007.

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Transitional Assistance**

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Your Bay State CAP Food Assistance Benefits



What is Bay State CAP food assistance?

Bay State CAP is a program designed to make it easy for you to get food assistance if you get Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Your application/redetermination interview for SSI is also your application/redetermination for food assistance. The Social Security Administration (SSA) gives us all the information we need to give you food assistance benefits.

What are the benefits of Bay State CAP?

- Your interview for SSI is your interview for food assistance benefits.
- You don't have to fill out any additional forms.
- You don't have to go our office or talk to us.
- You don't have to give us copies of your personal records.
- Your food assistance benefits go into a special account, and we send you a card to use when you buy groceries. The card works just like a bank debit card.

Who is eligible for Bay State CAP food assistance benefits?

You can get Bay State CAP food assistance benefits if you get SSI and you:

- Are at least 18 years old; and
- Live alone, or buy and prepare your food separately from the other people who live with you; and

- Are not living with a spouse or children; and
- Are not working.

Do I have to get my food assistance through Bay State CAP?

No. You can choose to get regular food assistance benefits if your regular benefits would be greater than your Bay State CAP benefits. Your regular food assistance benefits might be greater if you:

- Pay an increased amount for your shelter (rent/mortgage);
- Pay heating or air conditioning costs separately from your rent/mortgage;
- Pay more than \$35 a month in out-of-pocket medical expenses;
- Pay for child or adult dependent care; or
- Pay child support for a child outside your home.

What are your rights and responsibilities?

- You are required to report to SSA changes in your circumstances that may affect your eligibility for and the amount of your SSI payments. This information will also be used for your Bay State CAP benefits. Report changes to SSA by calling 1-800-772-1213 or by visiting your local Social Security Office.

- You may report household expense changes to your Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) case manager. You might receive more benefits if your shelter costs (rent/mortgage) increase, you pay heating or air conditioning costs separate from your rent/mortgage, you pay out-of-pocket medical expenses greater than \$35 a month, you pay child support for a child outside your home, or you pay for child/adult dependent care.

Can I apply for regular food assistance benefits while I'm waiting for SSI approval?

Yes, you may apply for regular food assistance benefits at the SSA office when you initiate an application for SSI, or you may apply at the appropriate DTA office.

What happens if I'm getting regular food assistance benefits when my SSI is approved?

- If your Bay State CAP benefits would be greater, you will be switched to Bay State CAP.
- If your regular food assistance benefits would be greater, you will continue to receive regular food assistance benefits.