

EAEDC - Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children During COVID-19

Who:

- Adult who is unable to work due to disability or health problem that will last at least 60 days.
- Over 65 years old and not receiving SSI.
- Adult who is participating in a Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission program.
- Caregiver required to take care of a person with a disability in the home who would otherwise be at risk of needing institutional care.
- Certain children and their caretakers who are not eligible for TAFDC because they do not meet the TAFDC relationship requirement.

What:

- Administered by the MA Department of Transitional Assistance.
- Cash benefit paid twice per month – \$303.30 monthly for one person.

For **information about applying** for EAEDC during COVID-19, see next pages.

Contact your local [Legal Services](#) if you have a problem with EAEDC or questions about eligibility.

Financial eligibility:

- No income, or *very* low income¹
- Assets below \$250 (not including up to \$1,500 of value of 1 vehicle)

Immigrant eligibility:

- Non-citizens are eligible for EAEDC if legally present in the United States
- If questions, check with [Legal Services](#).

Key information:

- Some EAEDC rules are not in effect during the COVID-19 crisis:
 - EAEDC applicants/recipients do not have to apply for SSI and appeal SSI denials.
 - An EAEDC applicant can give a verbal statement about a disability or health problem and does not need to submit medical documentation.

¹ The first \$200 in earnings are not counted in determining eligibility. There is a small deduction for child care expenses.

EAEDC during the COVID-19/coronavirus crisis

- Many EAEDC rules are not in effect. The application process is simpler.
- DTA offices are closed to the public. DTA is not holding any in-person appointments.

What is EAEDC?

EAEDC is a monthly cash benefit for people with disabilities, caretakers and some children who cannot get TAFDC. You must have no income, or very low income. You can find basic information about who can get EAEDC on the Department of Transitional Assistance website. See [Check EAEDC eligibility and how to apply](#).

How do I apply for EAEDC during COVID-19?

1. **Apply online** at DTAConnect.com

- The application is very short. After you submit it, DTA will interview you by phone.
- You can fill out the application in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, or Vietnamese.
- If you do not already get SNAP, your application counts as a SNAP application.
- If you have “Heightened Security” on your DTA case for safety reasons, call DTA’s Ombuds Unit : 617-348-5354.

2. **Apply by phone** – call your local DTA office:

- Find contact information for your local DTA office [here](#). If you try your local office 2 or 3 times and you cannot get through, call DTA’s Ombuds Unit: 617-348-5354.
- If you apply by phone, DTA will mail you an application after your interview. Sign and mail the application back to them. It is better to apply online, if you can, because it takes more time to apply over the phone and mail your application back.

What else do I need to know to apply for EAEDC during COVID-19?

- DTA may ask you for more information to decide if you are eligible. For many things, DTA will accept your verbal statement instead of asking you to give them other proof. For example, you can write a statement about a change in income. This is a “self-declaration.”
- DTA will accept your verbal statement that you have a disability. This is a self-declaration. For now, DTA will not require you to get proof from a doctor that you cannot work.
- EBT card:
 - If you do not have an EBT card, DTA will mail one to you. It may take 7-10 days to arrive.
 - If you already have an EBT card, be sure to tell DTA you already have a card when you have your phone interview.

What are the other changes to the EAEDC program during COVID-19?

- **SSI application:** DTA will not require you to apply for SSI or appeal an SSI denial.
- **Direct deposit:** Even if you have a bank account, DTA will not require you to have your EAEDC benefits deposited into the account. DTA will put your benefits onto your EBT card.

You may still get notices from DTA about these rules. But you can ignore them during the COVID-19 crisis.

What should I do if I start to get Unemployment while I am getting EAEDC?

- Tell DTA about your Unemployment within 10 days of your first payment.
- DTA will close your EAEDC case. DTA will send a notice telling you whether your SNAP will continue

How do I tell DTA about changes and submit documents?

Write to DTA about any changes. Put your DTA Agency ID or the last 4 digits of your SSN on all pages. Keep a copy and add a note to yourself about when and how you sent it.

1. Use the [DTA Connect app](#) on a smartphone or tablet. You can see information about your DTA benefits and upload documents.
2. Create an account on the [DTA Connect website](#). You can see information about your DTA benefits and upload documents.
3. Fax the information to (617) 887-8765.
4. Mail the information to:

DTA Document Processing Center
PO Box 4406
Taunton, MA 02780

Contact your local [Legal Services](#) if you have a problem with EAEDC.