

If you are age 60 or older, it's now easier to get Food Stamp benefits !!

▶ There is no longer any asset test for most food stamp applicants in Massachusetts, including elders (age 60+) and persons with disabilities. As of June 9, 2008, **DTA no longer counts assets** such as money in the bank, car, retirement account, your home or other assets.

▶ Your gross income must be below 200% of the federal poverty level. For example: if you live alone, your income (before taxes) must be under \$1,734 per month. For two persons, household income must be under \$2,334 per month. *Note: Elders above these income limits may still qualify, but must have less than \$3,000 in countable assets.*

IMPORTANT: Your food stamp worker will ask about your assets just to see if you qualify for expedited (emergency) food stamps. If you have little or no income and assets, you may get food stamp benefits more quickly. Otherwise, it can take 30 days to receive them.

▶ To increase your food stamp benefits, you can claim deductions for out-of-pocket health care costs and high shelter costs. *Send DTA proofs of these expenses when you apply.*

TWO EXAMPLES of FOOD STAMP BENEFITS for SENIORS	
Jane Doe is 84 years old. She receives \$850/month from Social Security, pays \$250 rent and heating costs separate. She has \$40 monthly medical expenses out of pocket.	Her Monthly Benefits: \$120
Sam and Mary Smith are both in their 60's. They receive \$1,300 per month pension, pay \$700 rent with heating costs separate. They have \$160/month out of pocket medical costs.	Their Monthly Benefits: \$205

▶ You can apply for food stamp benefits through your local Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA). Elders do not need to go in person to DTA. You can apply by mail with phone follow-up. **To apply, call 1-866-950-FOOD today!!**

