Food Stamps/SNAP – A Critical Household Resource Against Hunger

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“Snap Shot” of Massachusetts SNAP Caseload since 2000

- July 2001: **220,500** participants
  - MA had **worst** participation rate in U.S.
- Sept 2011: **830,000** participants
  - MA is **now in top 10**!
Growth of SNAP dollars feeding Massachusetts families

Annual fed benefits received in MA in FFY2001: $175 M/year

Amount received in MA in FFY2011: $1.3 B - $107 M/month!

Economic stimulus: $1.79 for every $1 SNAP benefits
SNAP and Recently Unemployed

- Right to apply at any time –
  - in person, on-line, on paper – no wrong door

- Expedited SNAP rights (within 7 days)

- State option for “broad-based categorical eligibility” –
  - higher gross income (up to 200% FPL)
  - no asset test

- State options for less verification
SNAP and Recently Unemployed

SNAP “voluntary quit” disqualification
- 30 to 60 day pre application disqualification (state option on length of)
- Disqualification for recipients who quit
- Job firings not affect SNAP eligibility
- Broad “good cause” exceptions
- State option to disqualify head of household or entire household at application
SNAP for Low UI Beneficiaries

“Cat el” states – Families with gross UI under 200% FPL may qualify

State options on verification of expenses
  – Shelter costs, child care costs

Child care deduction allowed
  – If needed for work search/ E&T activities
  – Broad range of allowable costs, fed mileage
Growth in SNAP HHs claiming Dependent Care Expenses

Dependent Care Deduction Utilization

SNAP for UI Exhaustees

Outreach through “2-1-1- initiatives”

- MA UI and other state agencies collaboration
- Flier of benefits to all UI exhaustees
- Shorter SNAP app for UI exhaustees
SNAP for UI Exhaustees

- Promote expedited (fast) SNAP benefits
- Promote self-declaration verification policies
- SNAP E&T options
- Possible SNAP eligibility for UI exhaustees who return to college