

Spread the Word to Seniors this Fall

Let seniors in your community know about two important changes to the Food Stamp Program.

- **Simplified Application for Seniors**
- **Name Change**

With rising food costs and expected record heating costs, the coming winter will be tough for everyone, especially seniors with limited budgets. Food stamp benefits can help seniors make ends meet. Recent changes to the program make it easier than ever for needy seniors in Massachusetts to access this important nutrition safety net.

Simplified Food Stamp Application for Elderly Applicants in Massachusetts

The Simplified Food Stamp Application for Elderly Applicants is a shortened version of the regular food stamp application form; adapted to reflect the general circumstances of elders. The form is only one page front to back.

There are new rules that make it easier for seniors to apply, including:

- Asset Test Eliminated for Most Applicants
- Standardized Certification Periods for Seniors and Disabled Clients

A change in the Standard Medical Deduction for Elderly and/or Disabled Clients may make those previously ineligible now eligible--find out and encourage folks to reapply.

How to Find Out More:

Call the MA Food Stamp Application Hotline at 866-950-FOOD

Access the shortened food stamp application at www.gettingfoodstamps.org

Access multiple State services through MA's Virtual Gateway at www.mass.gov/eohhs

Name Change



As of Oct. 1, 2008, SNAP is the new name for the **federal** Food Stamp Program. It stands for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and reflects the changes we've made to meet the needs of our clients, including a focus on nutrition and an increase in benefit amounts. The name change was mandated by the Farm Bill.

Important Note: States have the option of choosing their own name. Massachusetts has not yet switched to SNAP; it may choose another name. Find out more about the federal name change at www.fns.gov/SNAP