

## **Benefits Available To People Regardless Of Immigration Status**

*The programs below are available to all Massachusetts residents without regard to citizenship or immigration status. Additional benefits are available to US citizens and non-citizens with an eligible immigration status.*

### **HEALTHCARE**

#### Health Safety Net (formerly called Free Care)

- Who is eligible?
  - Massachusetts residents with family income no higher than 150% of poverty who are not eligible for other subsidized insurance may be eligible for FULL Health Safety Net care.
  - People with income up to 300% of poverty may be eligible for PARTIAL Health Safety Net care after meeting a deductible.

#### Children's Medical Security Plan

- Who is eligible?
  - Children under the age of 19 may be eligible. There is no premium charge for children with family income under 200% of poverty; premiums are charged over 200% of poverty.

#### MassHealth Standard for Pregnant Women

- Who is eligible?
  - Pregnant women with family income up to 200% of poverty are eligible during pregnancy and 60 days post-partum.

#### MassHealth Limited

- Who is eligible?
  - Infants with income up to 200% of poverty,
  - Adults under age 65 with income up to 133% of poverty,
  - Children under age 21 with income up to 150% of poverty, and
  - Individuals age 65 or older with income up to 100% of poverty and limited assets.

#### Prescription Advantage

- Who is eligible?
  - Individuals age 65 or older
  - Disabled individuals under age 65 with income up to 188% of poverty

#### Home Care Program

- Who is eligible?
  - Massachusetts residents age 60 or older, or under 60 and diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease,

- For most services, there are annual income limits and copayments. An individualized evaluation must show serious functional limitations and critical unmet needs.

Information on how to apply

The Health Safety Net, Children's Medical Security Plan and MassHealth all use the same application form. Apply on-line at [www.mahealthconnector.org](http://www.mahealthconnector.org), by telephone at 800-841-2900, in person at a MassHealth Enrollment Center or by mail or fax. A paper form can be downloaded from [www.mass.gov/masshealth](http://www.mass.gov/masshealth). Most hospitals and health centers can also help you to apply. For Prescription Advantage or Home Care, for application information, call 1-800-243-4636 or visit [www.800ageinfo.com](http://www.800ageinfo.com).

### **Nutritional Assistance**

There are no immigration status requirements to be eligible for WIC, National School Lunch & Breakfast, and access food banks and soup kitchens.

- See here for more information on food banks and school lunches:  
<https://www.gbfb.org/need-food/>.
- See here for more information on soup kitchens and free meals:  
<http://www.rosiesplace.org/site/assets/docs/Find%20Help%20Documents/Food%20Soup%20Kitchens%2C%20Hot%20Meals.pdf>

### **Headstart**

There are no immigration status requirements to be eligible for Headstart if they meet the other income requirements.

### **Housing**

State housing programs:

- State public housing
- Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP)
- Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP)
- State-funded multifamily (privately owned subsidized) housing

Some federal multifamily (privately owned subsidized) developments:

- Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)
- McKinney Homeless Programs (except for the McKinney Section 8 moderate rehabilitation program)
- Shelter Plus Care Supportive Housing
- HOME Rental Assistance

- Low Income Housing Tax Credit properties (unless there are other housing program rules for the property restricting immigrant eligibility)

### **EA Shelter**

Undocumented individuals are **not** eligible for EA shelters, but if there is a family member with qualifying status (citizen, LPRs, PRUCOL, or pending asylum or VAWA petition) then the family is eligible (meaning anyone within the family unit may stay in the shelter regardless of his or her immigration status).

### **Financial Assistance**

<https://www.massundocufund.org/>

Unfortunately, at this time certain benefits such as unemployment benefits, EAEDC Cash Assistance, TAFDC Cash Assistance, or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or Food Stamps/SNAP, etc., have specific immigration status requirements.

Alternative resources for disqualified individuals and families can be found at <https://www.masslegalservices.org/content/immigrants-and-public-benefits-bbt-training-and-resource-materials>

Justice at Work has also developed an FAQ for questions related to the workplace:  
English: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1i4KbrJ7Tw99Bmq3RBe-z8\\_s3IISXX0XD05O-ljm08g/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1i4KbrJ7Tw99Bmq3RBe-z8_s3IISXX0XD05O-ljm08g/edit?usp=sharing)

Spanish:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ShYD1K35j7mwWYo1EDHHW4fUIdd-ojqBaMCSsgojIAQ/edit?usp=sharing>

### **Mutual Aid In MA**

Mutual Aid is reciprocal aid and cooperation across and among social groups. Individuals sign up for what they need, and offer anything that they can offer.

<https://www.massjwj.net/news/2020/3/17/cover-19-mutual-aid-networks>  
Berkshires, [click here](#).

Beverly, [click here.](#)

Boston <http://bit.ly/COVID-BOS> (includes informational resources, health, etc)

East Boston / Chelsea: [click here](#)

Dorchester: [click here!](#)

Jamaica Plain and Roxbury, [click here.](#)

Brookline, [click here.](#)

Cambridge, [click here.](#)

Lawrence: [click here](#)

Lexington, [click here](#)

Lowell, [click here.](#)

Lynn, [click here](#)

Natick/Framingham: [click here](#)

Quincy: coming soon!

Revere: [click here](#)

Somerville / Medford [click here.](#)

South End, [click here.](#)

Southcoast Mutual Aid: Fall River / New Bedford [click here](#)

Waltham, [click here.](#)

Worcester: [click here!](#)

Mutual Aid For:

[Students \(National\) Mutual Aid - ECAASU compiled](#)

[Muslim American Society Mutual Aid](#)

[Mutual Aid for MA Prisoners - GoFundMe](#)

[Mass Mutual Aid Networks`](#)

Links and other Resources:

More information: [https://www.massjwj.net/news/2020/3/17/cover-19-mutual-aid-](https://www.massjwj.net/news/2020/3/17/cover-19-mutual-aid-networks?fbclid=IwAR3HKTzOwTFAoBkVMbl9xOD4KooJT9DC0pmPD0PZPEyHhd70tb9htRWqTL8)

[networks?fbclid=IwAR3HKTzOwTFAoBkVMbl9xOD4KooJT9DC0pmPD0PZPEyHhd70tb9htRWqTL8](https://www.massjwj.net/news/2020/3/17/cover-19-mutual-aid-networks?fbclid=IwAR3HKTzOwTFAoBkVMbl9xOD4KooJT9DC0pmPD0PZPEyHhd70tb9htRWqTL8)

Human Network Initiative/Brigham and Women's Hospital:

<https://www.humannetworkinitiative.com/neighborhoods>

Mutual Aid Mamas: <https://mutualaidmamas.com/> - has the current map, links to the google toolkit, and other resources

Join Mutual Aid organizers in **Massachusetts**: [here](#)