



Glossary

FMSSG Project

DTA: Department of Transitional Assistance. DTA is a department within the Massachusetts Health and Human Services Office. SNAP benefits are provided by the Federal government and administered by DTA.**

DUNS number: Data Universal Numbering System.** A DUNS number is a unique, non-indicative 9-digit identifier issued and maintained by Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) that verifies the existence of a business entity globally.

EBT card: Electronic Benefit Transfer card. A plastic card issued to SNAP shoppers to purchase eligible food items. An EBT card is similar to a debit card in that funds are drawn directly from an account and a PIN is required for all transactions. In Massachusetts, EBT cards are administered through the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA). **

EBT system: Electronic Benefit Transfer. This electronic system allows SNAP shoppers to swipe a card, rather than paper vouchers, to access their food assistance benefits.

Economic development corporations: An organization whose mission is the improvement, maintenance, development and/or marketing or promotion of a specific geographic area.

Electronic Funds Transfer: The movement of funds from one bank account to another through the use of electronic records.

Farmers Market: The USDA defines a farmers market as a multi-stall market at which farmer-producers sell agricultural products directly to the general public at a central or fixed location, particularly fresh fruit and vegetables (but also meat products, dairy products, and/or grains).

Farmers Market Associations: An organization composed of, or representing, one or more farmers markets.

FINI: Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Grant Program. It supports projects that increase purchases of fruit and vegetables among SNAP shoppers by providing incentives at the point of purchase. Click [here](#) to learn more.

FMC: Farmers Market Coalition.**

FMSSG: Farmers Market SNAP Support Grant. Click [here](#) to learn more.

FNS: Food and Nutrition Service is an agency within the United States Department of Agriculture that administers the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), WIC Farmers Market

Nutrition Program (FMNP), Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP), and WIC Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Cash Value Voucher (CVV) Program, among others.

FNS number/Authorization Number: A unique identifier for all SNAP Retail Merchants including farmers markets.

HIP: Healthy Incentives Pilot and Healthy Initiative Program. The pilot was a 12 month pilot program (11/1/11-12/31/12) that tested whether a financial incentive would encourage SNAP participants to purchase healthy fruits and vegetables. Click [here](#) to learn more. The Program is the rollout of Massachusetts FINI award, starting in 2016 and running into 2019

Manual voucher: A paper document signed by the EBT cardholder to redeem benefits through telephone verification when the EBT system or a POS device is not working. It can also be used by farmers market retailers who do not have a POS device.

Merchant Agreement: The contract a business signs with a provider who processes electronic funds transfers and usually provides the terminals and software to merchants to do so.

MFM: Mass Farmers Markets.

Non-profit corporation: Any organization or institution with IRS 501(c) status or accredited institutions of higher education, where no part of the net earnings benefit any private shareholder or individual.

PIN: Personal Identification Number. This four number code must be used with your EBT card. It is very important to keep this code a secret.

POS device: A Point-of-Sale device, sometimes referred to as a POS terminal, EBT terminal or card reader machine. These devices process EBT, debit, and credit card transactions. Market managers/volunteers/coordinators, or vendors use a POS device to swipe a SNAP shopper's EBT card to withdraw funds from their account and move them to the bank account assigned to the device through the merchant agreement registration process.

Public benefit corporation: A corporation organized to construct or operate a public improvement, the profits of which benefit a State(s) or to the people thereof.

Purveyor: A non-farmer that sells items from an outside source.

Regional farmers market authorities: An entity that establishes and enforces regional, State, or county policies and jurisdiction over State, regional, or county farmers markets.

Scrip: A certificate that can be exchanged for goods at the farmers market that issued it. Scrip can be paper vouchers, tokens, or receipts.

SNAP: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program. SNAP is a Federal program that is administered by the States to help low-income people purchase food.

SNAP license: Farmers markets must have SNAP license in order to accept SNAP sales. Your FNS number is printed on your SNAP license.

State and local government: Any unit of government, including a State, county, borough, municipality, city, town, township, parish, local public authority, special district, school district, intrastate district, council of governments, or other instrumentalities of local government.

Tribal governments: A governing body or a governmental agency of any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community (including any native village as defined in section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, 85 Stat. 688 (43 U.S.C. § 1602)) certified by the Secretary of the Interior as eligible for the special programs and services provided through the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

USDA: United States Department of Agriculture.

** For More Information:

- Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA)
<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dta/>
- Farmers Market Coalition
<https://farmersmarketcoalition.org/>
- DUNS
<http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>
- USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/>

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