

Table of Contents

<i>Introduction.....</i>	1
Part 1 Categorical Eligibility.....	5
1. Who can get EAEDC?	5
2. How disabled do I have to be to receive benefits?	5
3. How do I prove I am disabled?.....	6
4. What if I have already been approved for SSI/SSDI or MassHealth Disability?	7
5. Who can sign the EAEDC medical report?	8
6. What are the other rules about the medical report?	9
7. How can I pay for medical exams to prove my eligibility?.....	10
8. What is the Disability Supplement and who signs it?	11
9. Will anyone help me get all the medical information I need to prove my eligibility?	13
10. Do I have to wait long for DTA to review my disability information?	13
11. What is the Disability Evaluation Service (DES)?	14
12. What medical information must DES gather and consider?.....	15
13. How does DES evaluate my disability?.....	17
14. What are the EAEDC "medical standards" and SSI "listings"?	17
15. What if my impairments do not meet the EAEDC standards or SSI listings?	18
16. How does DES decide if my condition affects my ability to do basic work activities (Step 1)?	20
17. How does the "sedentary work" test apply to physical impairments (Step 2)?	21
18. What is the Grid and how is it used (Step 3)?	23
19. If I can do more than sedentary work and the Grid says I am disabled, how does DES assess my disability (Step 4)?	24
20. What happens if I have a mental impairment?	25
21. How often do I have to prove disability?.....	28
22. Do I have to apply for SSI?	29
23. What if the Disability Evaluation Service decides I am not disabled?.....	29
24. Can I qualify for EAEDC as a Mass. Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) participant?	30
25. Can I qualify for EAEDC if I am needed to care for someone in my home?	31
26. Can I qualify for EAEDC if I am 65 years of age or older?	32
27. Which families can get EAEDC?	33
28. Do I need to get legal guardianship or custody to get EAEDC for an unrelated child?.....	34

29.	I am a parent or child who is ineligible for TAFDC because of my immigration status, can I get EAEDC?.....	35
30.	Are there low-income families or children who cannot get EAEDC?	36
31.	Are there work requirements for caretakers of children?	37
32.	Can I get EAEDC if I am under 18 and living on my own?.....	39
33.	What if I have an outstanding default or arrest warrant?.....	39
34.	What if I have a criminal history or am fleeing prosecution or punishment?	40

Part 2 *Other Eligibility Conditions* 41

35.	Are there other eligibility conditions I must meet?	41
36.	What if I just arrived in Massachusetts? What if I am homeless?.....	41
37.	What if I am not a U.S. citizen?.....	43
38.	Do I have to apply for citizenship if I am not a citizen?.....	47
39.	Do I have to have a social security number?	48
40.	Do I have to apply for Veterans' Services benefits?.....	49
41.	What other benefits do I have to apply for?	50
42.	Do I have to agree to repay DTA for benefits I received?.....	50
43.	What are the assistance unit rules?	51

Part 3 *Financial Eligibility*..... 53

44.	What is financial eligibility?	53
45.	What is the difference between income and assets?.....	53
46.	Which assets count and which ones do not?.....	54
47.	How does DTA treat assets I spent, gave away or transferred to someone else?.....	57
48.	What if I am expecting money from an accident or illness?	58
49.	What income is not counted?.....	59
50.	What income is counted?.....	60
51.	How does DTA count the income of a spouse?.....	61
52.	I am a sponsored noncitizen, is my sponsor's income counted?.....	61
53.	What is in-kind income and when does DTA count it?.....	61
54.	What is lump sum income and why is it such a problem?.....	63
55.	Does DTA exclude any money from the lump sum rule?	64
56.	What happens if I run out of money before the lump sum time is up?.....	66
57.	Do gifts count as income?.....	67
58.	How does DTA figure monthly income?.....	68
59.	How does EAEDC count earned income?	69
60.	How much income can I have and still get EAEDC?	70
61.	What are the EAEDC "living arrangements" and maximum grant amounts?.....	71
62.	What will my grant be if I live with my spouse?.....	72
63.	What if I live in a rest home?.....	73

Part 4	<i>Benefits.....</i>	75
64.	What are the basic benefits available to EAEDC recipients?.....	75
65.	Do EAEDC recipients get health coverage?.....	75
66.	When will I get my EAEDC payments?.....	77
67.	What other benefits do EAEDC recipients get?	78
68.	What if DTA makes a mistake and owes me money?	79
69.	Can part of my benefits be paid directly to my landlord or utility company?.....	79
70.	How will I get my benefits—direct deposit or Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT)?.....	81
71.	What should I do if I need to replace or change my EBT card?.....	84
72.	What are the rules about what I can buy?.....	86
Part 5	<i>Applications and Proofs.....</i>	89
73.	Where do I apply for EAEDC?.....	89
74.	What proofs do I need?.....	91
75.	How much time do I have to bring in proofs?	95
76.	How should I send my proofs?	96
77.	How long does it take to decide if I am eligible?	97
78.	What if I need benefits right away?	97
79.	What if a disability makes it hard for me to meet DTA rules or use DTA services?.....	98
80.	How do I ask DTA for a reasonable accommodation?.....	100
81.	What are my rights if DTA denies my reasonable accommodation request?.....	101
82.	What if I do not speak English?.....	102
83.	How can I find out what is happening with my case and see my case information?.....	103
84.	Is my information kept confidential?.....	106
Part 6	<i>Proving Continuing Eligibility.....</i>	107
85.	How often will my eligibility be reviewed?	107
86.	When do I have to report changes?.....	109
Part 7	<i>Appeal Rights.....</i>	111
87.	What are my rights if DTA won't give me benefits, or reduces or stops my benefits?	111
88.	How much time do I have to ask for a fair hearing?	112
89.	How do I ask for a fair hearing?	113
90.	I have the proof my worker wanted, should I still ask for a hearing?	114
91.	How should I present my case at the hearing?	115

92.	When will I get a decision and what should I do if you lose?	118
93.	Can I fix problems without going to a hearing?	118
Part 8	<i>Overpayments and Fraud</i>	121
94.	What if I am overpaid?	121
95.	Do I have to repay an unintentional program violation?	121
96.	What is an intentional program violation? What is welfare fraud?	123
97.	When can my benefits be stopped for an intentional program violation?	124
98.	What should I do if I am contacted by the Bureau of Special Investigations (BSI)?.....	126
99.	Can DTA cut my benefits to pay itself back?.....	126
100.	How does DTA collect overpayments if I am not receiving benefits?.....	127
101.	Can I go to jail? Will I have a criminal record?	128
<i>Appendix A: EAEDC Medical Report Form</i>		129
<i>Appendix B: EAEDC Disability Supplement</i>		143
<i>Appendix C: DES Disability Tracking Form</i>		169
<i>Appendix D: The Grid</i>		173
<i>Appendix E: Authorization for Reimbursement of Interim Assistance</i>		177
<i>Appendix F: EAEDC Standards of Assistance</i>		181
<i>Appendix G: Request for an Appeal (Fair Hearing)</i>		185
<i>Appendix H: Department of Transition al Assistance Office Listings</i>		189
<i>Appendix I: Massachusetts Legal Services Offices</i>		197