



*Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Transitional Assistance*

CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

MARYLOU SUDDERS
Secretary

KARYN POLITO
Lieutenant Governor

JEFF McCUE
Commissioner

May 22, 2018

Dear Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) partners and retailers,

On Monday, May 21, 2018, Governor Baker signed into law a supplemental budget, passed by the Legislature earlier in the day, which included an additional \$2.15 million for HIP for the remainder of the State's Fiscal Year ("SFY", through June 30, 2018).

As a result of this additional funding, effective Wednesday, May 23, 2018, HIP will be reinstated. As of that date, SNAP clients will earn HIP incentive benefits when they make qualified HIP purchases with an authorized retailer.

As many of you know, I requested the convening of a HIP Advisory Council to provide feedback and suggestions for program design changes that would maximize the program's impact while providing predictability for clients and retailers alike. At this time, SNAP clients will continue to earn a dollar-for-dollar incentive up to their household's monthly cap (\$40 for 1-2 person households, \$60 for 3-6 person households and \$80 for 6+ person households) when making qualified HIP purchases. That being said, it is likely that seasonality will play a significant role in the future of the program. While HIP has been secured for the remainder of SFY18, the status of SFY19 (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019) is unknown at this time. As mentioned in my previous letter to you all, assuming the legislature follows the Governor's budget recommendation, additional funding will be available for SFY19 which will allow for the program's continuation. We will continue to keep you informed to that end.

The suspension of HIP was an unpleasant reality for many. Thank you for your continued support of the program and patience with the shifting foundation.

As with the news of the suspension, the Department is committed to mitigating client confusion for the reinstatement of the program. DTA will communicate directly to clients informing them of the program's reinstatement in the coming days.

Again, thank you all for your dedication to this program and your continued collaboration to ensure its success.

Sincerely,



Jeff McCue