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Mayor Brian Arrigo Encourages Revere Residents to Apply for New Federal Funding

Millions of dollars available in expanded food benefits, child tax credits and stimulus checks

REVERE, MA – Mayor Brian Arrigo is calling on Revere residents to apply for millions in new federal funding available to Massachusetts residents through several new and expanded government programs.

- SNAP: Formerly known as food stamps, SNAP provides money for food. It is currently easier than ever to apply for SNAP, and the benefit amount is at an all-time-high. For example, a family of four with an annual household income below \$53,000 is eligible for \$782 every month. Over the past year, over 6,000 Revere students received additional food benefits through the Pandemic EBT, or P-EBT, program. As many as half of those students may also be eligible for SNAP. A recent survey conducted by the MassINC Polling Group of over 10,000 families in Massachusetts showed that a full 48% of participants did not know that you can receive both P-EBT and SNAP benefits at the same time. With P-EBT ending at the end of this summer and temporary increases in SNAP, there's no better time to apply. You can use your SNAP benefits at the Revere Farmers Market to earn money back to your EBT card through the HIP program. For every \$1 you spend, you'll get the \$1 automatically loaded back onto your EBT card. To learn more and to receive free SNAP application assistance, visit https://www.map-ebt.org/snap.
- **Tax Credits:** Low or no-income families with children are eligible to receive monthly payments of \$250-\$300 per child, per month through the expanded Child Tax Credit. The IRS estimates that around 700 children in Revere between the ages of 1-5 are at risk of missing these payments right now because they are not in their system. In addition, hundreds of thousands of Massachusetts residents are eligible for up to \$3,200 in federal stimulus checks if they did not already receive them. And thousands of dollars in additional benefits are available

through the Earned Income Tax Credit. To receive all of these benefits, Revere residents should file a 2020 tax return. To learn more and to receive free application assistance, visit <u>https://www.findyourfunds.org</u>.

"We want to make sure our residents have access to all resources available to them," said Mayor Brian Arrigo. "With the passing of the Urban Farming Ordinance as well as the food justice work being done with the Revere Food Hub, I am proud of all the work Britney Sao and the entire food justice team are doing in our city. By adding SNAP benefits to our toolbox, our residents are in good hands."

Mayor Arrigo was joined by Britney Sao, Food Justice Manager and SNAP Coordinator for the City of Revere, and Danielle Osterman, Community Development Program Manager for the City of Revere and VITA Site Coordinator at the Community Action Agency of Somerville, for a Facebook Town Hall last week to discuss the importance of applying for these programs. A video of that event is available <u>here</u>.

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