

Dukes County Regional Programs

Program:	Dukes County Public Benefits Access						Primary Contact for questions:	
Web Address:	dukescounty.org/public-benefits-access						Name:	Sarah Kuh
Mission Statement							Title:	Coordinator
Dukes County's Public Benefits Access Department aims to support lower-income Dukes County residents to become economically and socially secure and empower them to achieve and maintain stability and well-being.							Phone:	(508) 696-0020
							Email:	skuh@dukescounty.org
Brief program description								
We provide assistance to low income Islanders in applying for, enrolling in and recertifying the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), cash assistance, Fuel Assistance, Unemployment benefits and Social Security Disability claims. We assist with follow up and troubleshooting issues with benefits and advocating with state and federal agencies on our clients behalf. We provide transportation and emergency support via VTA bus passes, boat tickets and grocery gift cards. We help clients to get related assistance such as discounted utility bills and telephones.								
Who qualifies for services								
We assist Islanders of all ages, with a focus on those under age 60 who are not eligible for services through the Councils on Aging. Our clients are low income and would be served by a regional Community Action agency off island; we partner with these agencies on the Cape and Southeastern Mass. but there is no local Community Action agency here. We have a wide variety of clients, some with severe illness and disability and many are homeless and have behavioral health challenges.								
"Adjacent" Agencies								
We get referrals from and make referrals to Martha's Vineyard Hospital, the Councils on Aging, Harbor Homes MV, Martha's Vineyard Community Services and the County's Health Care Access Program.								
What if we didn't exist?								
Because many of our clients have behavioral health challenges and/or disabilities, they would likely forfeit the benefits they are entitled to since navigating public benefit bureaucracies is too difficult.								
Benefits								
We help vulnerable Islanders to access a safety net of services when they are financially and socially marginalized. In some cases they can improve their circumstances in order to achieve stability in housing and employment.								

Requested from towns:	Total	Aquinnah	Chilmark	Edgartown	Oak Bluffs	Tisbury	West Tisbury
Allocation *	100%	2.82%	10.44%	32.66%	21.33%	18.56%	14.19%
	\$ 51,628.15	\$ 1,455.91	\$ 5,389.98	\$ 16,861.75	\$ 11,012.28	\$ 9,582.18	\$ 7,326.03

* Allocation % is based on the 50/50 formula: 50% based on population, 50% based on equalized Real Estate value (adjusted annually)

FY25 -24 change	\$ 5,303.15	\$52.27	\$474.90	\$1,514.28	\$1,080.20	\$1,396.56	\$784.94
	11.45%	3.72%	9.66%	9.87%	10.88%	17.06%	12.00%

Requested from towns:	Total	Aquinnah	Chilmark	Edgartown	Oak Bluffs	Tisbury	West Tisbury
FY2024 Allocation *	100%	3.03%	10.61%	33.13%	21.44%	17.67%	14.12%
	\$ 46,325.00	\$ 1,403.65	\$ 4,915.08	\$ 15,347.47	\$ 9,932.08	\$ 8,185.63	\$ 6,541.09