



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
*Executive Office of Health and Human Services*  
**Department of Transitional Assistance**  
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**Field Operations Memo 2006-24**  
**May 19, 2006**

**To:** Transitional Assistance Office Staff  
**From:**  Cescia Derderian, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations  
**Re:** Overpayment Referrals and Recoveries—TAFDC, EAEDC and FS

**Overview**

State Letter 1313, effective May 22, 2006, issues policy revisions implementing changes for the recovery of benefit overpayments for the TAFDC, EAEDC and Food Stamp Programs. The changes were made to comply with USDA regulations, to reduce the administrative costs of pursuing minor overpayments for closed AUs not involving suspected fraud, and to ensure consistency in overpayment recovery across programs.

**Regulation Changes**

For **closed** AUs, the changes to the TAFDC, EAEDC and Food Stamp Program regulations increase the threshold for the recovery of overpayments due to **Unintentional Program Violations (UPVs)** from \$35 to \$125, or the minimum recovery threshold established by the Department, whichever is higher. The Department will continue to pursue recovery of overpayments in any amount for active AUs, or closed AUs involving suspected fraud or Intentional Program Violations (IPVs).

**AU Manager Responsibilities**

AU Managers are no longer required to complete an Accounts Receivable (AR) referral in BEACON for closed AUs where the overpayment is caused by an Unintentional Program Violation (UPV) and is less than \$125. Referrals, however, must always be completed for:

- active AUs, regardless of the overpayment amount or whether the overpayment is caused by a UPV or suspected fraud; and
- closed AUs, if the overpayment is caused by suspected fraud (in any amount), or is caused by a UPV and is \$125 or greater.

**BEACON AR  
Window  
Changes**

The next BEACON Increment (2.1.20) will contain window changes in the AR Referral Folder. For example, the “To CEO” button, which submits the referral to Central Office, will be renamed “To FIR,” to reflect the name change from Centralized Eligibility Operations (CEO) Unit to Fraud Investigations and Recoveries (FIR) Unit. Additionally, other modifications will allow AU Managers to add new text to existing referral notes.

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**A User’s Guide  
Documentation**

*A User’s Guide: Transitional Assistance Programs and BEACON*, Chapter II-E is being updated to reflect current policy and procedures for making overpayment referrals, as well as the new window changes effective with the next BEACON increment. This updated chapter will be issued when the new increment is in place. AR Referral Folder changes will also be documented in “What’s New” in BEACON.

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**Updated Policy  
References**

TAFDC and EAEDC – 106 CMR 706.250, 106 CMR 706.280  
Food Stamp Program – 106 CMR 364.870, 106 CMR 367.495, and 106 CMR 367.495 (H)

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**Questions**

If you have any questions, your Hotline designee may call the Policy Hotline at 617-348-8478.

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