

## From the Hotline

- Q. A recipient's Mass EBT card does not work at the ATM because the magnetic strip is damaged. The recipient has requested a replacement Mass EBT card. Should the recipient be charged the \$5.00 fee?
- A. No. Recipients are not charged a replacement card fee when the Mass EBT card does not work because the magnetic strip is not functioning properly.
- Q. Is a recipient who works for the Americorps USA Program eligible for child care payments?
- A. No. The Americorps USA Program provides child care payments; therefore the Department does not pay for child care for these recipients.
- Q. Can funeral and burial expenses be approved for a child born after the family cap date?
- A. Yes. State law requires us to pay for funerals and burials for indigent persons. All the requirements of 106 CMR 705.700 and 705.710 must be met.
- Q. A food stamp applicant is receiving short-term disability payments and has federal taxes and FICA deducted. Is this considered earned or unearned income and do we count the gross or net amount?
- A. If the applicant: (1) is still regarded as an employee, (2) intends to return to work after recovery, and (3) the money is from company funds, then the income is considered earned because the person is technically employed. If the applicant: (1) is not regarded as an employee, (2) does not intend to return to work after recovery, and (3) the money is from an outside source such as an insurance company, then it does not meet the wages and salaries criteria and it is considered unearned income and the gross amount is counted.
- Q. A household applies for SSFSP benefits but has not resided in Massachusetts for the required 60 days. Is the household eligible for expedited SSFSP benefits?

- A. No. To be eligible for expedited benefits, the household must appear eligible for SSFSP benefits. Since this household is ineligible for SSFSP because it does not meet the 60-day residency requirement, the household is ineligible for expedited SSFSP benefits.
- Q. I have a TAFDC recipient who is in FEP. She and her daughter are not eligible for FS due to noncitizen status. Should they be on category 9 SSFSP?
- A. Yes, this must be a category 9 SSFSP case. In determining the FEP supplement on the category 2TA case, PACES will compare the FEP wages against the former PA grant *only*. It will not take into consideration food stamp benefits since they are no longer suspended. The household receives food stamp benefits under category 9.

