

## From the Hotline

- Q. Are the months counted in determining the 24 months of time-limited eligibility calendar months or cyclical months?
- A. They are always **calendar** months. For example, Mary Jones, whose Social Security Number ends in 3, is being changed from exempt to nonexempt. The change to nonexempt will take place on the day she receives her first September benefit, which is September 5. The first month which will count toward her 24 months of time-limited benefits is October because it is the first full calendar month.
- Q. I have a TAFDC case consisting of a grandmother, who is the grantee, her teen daughter and her daughter's one-year-old son. The teen parent is refusing to attend school and is therefore sanctioned. Can the teen parent's child remain on TAFDC with the grandmother? Does it make any difference if the grandmother has legal guardianship?
- A. The teen parent's child cannot remain on TAFDC in the grandmother's case if the teen parent refuses to attend school. Once the teen parent has been sanctioned, you must wait 30 days before you close the teen parent's child. The grandmother can remain eligible as long as her teen daughter remains in her home; however, the grandmother must meet the work requirement, unless otherwise exempt. It makes no difference if the grandmother has legal guardianship.
- Q. I have a TAFDC case consisting of a woman and her child from a previous relationship. The household also contains the woman's boyfriend, who works full time, and their common child with no deprivation factor. The woman must meet the work program requirements. Can we give her child care for this common child?
- A. No. To receive child care benefits, the child must meet the requirements as specified in 106 CMR 207.210(A)(2)(a). The family may be eligible for Income Eligible Daycare. See TAFDC Update No. 10.
- Q. I have a food stamp recipient receiving workers' compensation. Do I consider this earned income?
- A. No. Workers' compensation is considered unearned income. You must use the gross amount of the workers' compensation in determining eligibility.

- Q. I have a food stamp applicant whose only child is disabled and receives SSI. The applicant owns a car which is needed for the child's transportation. It does not have special equipment. Can the value of this car be excluded?
- A. Yes. If a household has a disabled member requiring transportation, that household is entitled to a vehicle exclusion. See 106 CMR 363.140 (C)(5).
- Q. I have a food stamp applicant receiving short-term disability payments with 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 applicant 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.