



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
*Executive Office of Health and Human Services*  
**Department of Transitional Assistance**  
600 Washington Street • Boston, MA 02111


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**Field Operations Memo 2009-24 A**  
**June 12, 2009**

**To:** Transitional Assistance Office Staff  
**From:**  John Augeri, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations  
**Re:** TAFDC, EAEDC and SNAP - Extended Unemployment Benefits

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**Background**

Under the Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program, unemployed workers may be eligible for 20 weeks of extended unemployment benefits after their regular benefits have been exhausted. Qualified workers in states with high employment—including Massachusetts—may also be eligible for an additional 13 weeks of extended benefits. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 extended the period of time for which claims for these extended benefits can be filed and benefits paid. ARRA was signed on February 17, 2009. It is also known as the Economic Stimulus Package.

**Note:** ARRA also provided for an increase of \$25 per week to all persons receiving unemployment benefits. See Field Operations Memo 2009-18 for details.

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**Purpose of Memo**

This memo informs TAO staff about:

- extended unemployment benefits;
  - reminding clients to apply for extensions when appropriate, and
  - an increase in the number of weeks an individual can receive an extension of benefits.
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**Eligibility** Generally, anyone who filed for and received or qualified for unemployment benefits after May 7, 2006 and remained qualified after their initial regular benefits were exhausted, may be eligible for extended benefits. Therefore, the number of weeks unemployed workers in Massachusetts may now be eligible for extensions has increased from up to 59 weeks to up to 72 weeks of unemployment benefits. The deadline for applying for these extended benefits is December 31, 2009. At this time, extended benefits will be payable through May 31, 2010, although in some cases benefits may last longer.

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**Notification of Extended Benefits** The Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) will notify all individuals who are eligible for extensions of their unemployment benefits. Case managers will not be responsible for notifying clients of these benefits.

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**Benefits for Dependent Children** Parents with dependent children are eligible to receive \$25 per child, up to 50% of the parent's unemployment benefit rate. For example, a parent receiving \$100 per week in unemployment benefits with three dependent children will have his or her dependent allowance capped at \$50.

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**Obsolete Memo** Field Operations Memo 2009-24 is obsolete.

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**Case Manager Responsibilities** During a TAFDC, EAEDC or SNAP application interview, or at the time of the next client contact for ongoing cases, case managers must:

- check information on the Unemployment Insurance Information Inquiry screen to determine if the client is receiving unemployment benefits, or has recently exhausted his or her unemployment benefits;
- advise the client who is receiving or has recently exhausted his or her unemployment benefits that he or she may be eligible for extended benefits;
- encourage SNAP clients to apply for extended benefits if they have not already applied; and
- give TAFDC and EAEDC clients a VC-1 to verify the application for extended benefits if they have not applied, or proof that all benefits (including extended benefits) have been exhausted. Clients have 10 days to return the VC-1 with appropriate verification.

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**Case Manager  
Responsibilities  
(continued)**

As a condition of eligibility, TAFDC and EAEDC regulations require that applicants and clients apply for unemployment benefits (including extended benefits). If an applicant or client does not provide this information, deny the application and/or terminate the assistance. While not a requirement for SNAP benefits, applicants and clients should be encouraged to apply for unemployment benefits.

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**Questions**

If you have any questions, please have your Hotline designee call the Policy Hotline.

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