



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


DEVAL L. PATRICK  
Governor

JUDYANN BIGBY, M.D.  
Secretary

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY  
Lieutenant Governor

JULIA E. KEHOE  
Commissioner

**Field Operations Memo 2009-49**  
**August 24, 2009**

**To:** Transitional Assistance Office Staff  
**From:**  John Augeri, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations  
**Re:** TAFDC - Clothing Allowance, September 2009

---

**Overview**

The Department will issue a nonrecurring clothing allowance for September 2009 of \$150 per eligible TAFDC client under the age of 19.

---

**Who is Eligible**

All TAFDC clients under age 19 who are active on September 1, 2009 or TAFDC-eligible during the month of September 2009 are eligible for a clothing allowance. The clothing allowance is prorated for clients under the age of 19 with an eligibility start date after September 1, 2009. A child born after the family cap date is ineligible for a clothing allowance, unless a waiver or exception of the family cap rule has been granted by September 30.

---

**Amount**

A separate payment is issued for:

- \$150 per eligible client under age 19 on September 1, 2009; or
- a prorated amount per eligible client under age 19, if eligible for part of September 2009.

BEACON will perform an eligibility test on all applicants who are approved for TAFDC on or after September 1, 2009 using the August eligibility standards. If the applicant is ineligible with these lower standards, BEACON will perform a second test of eligibility using the higher September clothing allowance standards. If the applicant passes this test, BEACON will issue a payment for a portion of the \$150 amount per eligible client under age 19.

---

**Amount  
(continued)**

The following informational message will appear on the Interview Wrap-up EBC Results window for these cases:

“This AU is not eligible for TAFDC using the regular Standard of Need, but is eligible for a Clothing Allowance in the amount of \$XXX.XX.”

Clients on direct deposit will have the clothing allowance deposited into their bank account.

Clients receiving payments through EBT will have the clothing allowance deposited into their EBT account.

**Payment  
Dates**

The clothing allowance payment will be available to clients according to the following chart:

<b>BENEFIT AVAILABLE</b>	<b>PAYMENT TYPE</b>	<b>ENDING SSN</b>
September 1, 2009 (Tuesday)	Direct Deposit	0 to 9
September 1, 2009 (Tuesday)	EBT	0 to 4
September 2, 2009 (Wednesday)	EBT	5 to 9

Supplemental payments will be available on September 18, October 16, November 20 or December 18 (notices should arrive on those dates) to households with eligible clients under age 19 who become eligible during the month of September 2009 and are approved on the dates in the chart below:

For clients who become eligible during September and are approved between:	the supplemental clothing allowance will be available on:
Sept 1 – Sept 15	Sept 18
Sept 16 – Oct 13	Oct 16
Oct 14 – Nov 17	Nov 20
Nov 18 – Dec 15	Dec 18

These clients may receive a full or prorated amount of the clothing allowance, depending on the date of application or eligibility. The date and amount of the clothing allowance may be found by accessing the Benefit History tab on BEACON for the appropriate case.

**Notices**

For clients eligible on September 1, notices will be issued one day before payment dates of the clothing allowance. Notices will be in English or Spanish with a multilingual notice.

Notices will be sent to clients eligible on September 1, 2009 on the following dates:

August 31 (Monday)	EBT (SSN 0-4) Direct Deposit (SSN 0-9)
September 1 (Tuesday)	EBT (SSN 5-9)

A notice will be sent in September, October, November, and December to households with clients under 19 years old who become eligible during the month of September 2009 and who will receive a full or prorated amount of the clothing allowance on either September 18, October 16, November 20 or December 18.

---

**Policy**

The regulations are being changed to reference the [mass.gov/dta](http://mass.gov/dta) web site, which will contain the increased Eligibility, Need and Payment Standards for September 2009. Refer to [mass.gov/dta](http://mass.gov/dta), and select the Program Eligibility Charts and Tables link under Key Resources to view the Eligibility, Need and Payment Standards for the month of September.

Eligibility standards are increased \$277.50, and Need and Payment standards are increased \$150 for each eligible applicant and client under age 19.

In October 2009, the standards will return to the regular amounts. BEACON will recalculate eligibility and send notices to clients no longer eligible for TAFDC benefits.

---

**Questions**

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

---