



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


MITT ROMNEY
Governor

TIMOTHY MURPHY
Secretary

KERRY HEALEY
Lieutenant Governor

JOHN A. WAGNER
Commissioner

Field Operations Memo 2006-34
August 28, 2006

To: Transitional Assistance Office Staff
From:  Cescia Derderian, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations
Re: TAFDC - Clothing Allowance, September 2006

Overview The Department will pay a nonrecurring clothing allowance of \$150 per TAFDC recipient under the age of 19 for September 2006. The clothing allowance is prorated for recipients eligible in September 2006 but have a start date after September 1, 2006.

Desk Guide A desk guide for AU Managers is on pages 2 and 3 of this memo. The desk guide includes the clothing allowance payment schedule. No AU Manager action is needed to have the clothing allowance payments issued.

Direct Deposit/EBT Recipients on direct deposit will have the clothing allowance deposited into their bank account.

Recipients on EBT will have the clothing allowance transferred into their EBT account.

Refer to the chart on page 3 of this memo for the dates that the clothing allowance will be available to the recipients.

Clothing Allowance Desk Guide for September 2006

Who

All TAFDC recipients under age 19 who are active on September 1, 2006 or TAFDC-eligible during the month of September 2006 are eligible for a clothing allowance. 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.

Amount

A separate systems-generated payment is issued for:

- \$150 per recipient under age 19 eligible September 1, 2006; or
- a prorated amount, if eligible for part of September 2006.

BEACON will perform an eligibility test on all applicants who are approved for TAFDC after September 1, 2006 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 recipient under age 19. The following informational message will appear at the Interview Wrap-up EBC Results window for these AUs:

“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.”

Notices

Two distinct notices will be issued. Notices will be in English or Spanish with a multilingual notice.

- A notice will be sent to recipients eligible on September 1, 2006 on the following days:

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

- A notice will be sent in September, October, November, and December to AUs with recipients under 19 years old that become eligible on or after September 1, 2006 who will be receiving a full or prorated amount of the clothing allowance.
-

Policy

106 CMR 204.400 through 204.425.

Eligibility standards are increased \$277.50 per applicant/recipient under age 19, and Need and Payment Standards are increased \$150 per applicant/recipient under age 19. In October 2006, the standards will return to the regular amounts. The system will recalculate eligibility and send notices to recipients no longer eligible for TAFDC benefits.

Note: Applicants determined eligible in September due to the increased Standards are entitled to the 30 and 1/3 or 30 and 1/2 disregard when the TAFDC benefits are recalculated for the month of October.

Payment Dates

The clothing allowance payment will be available to grantees according to the following chart.

ENDING SSN	PAYMENT TYPE	BENEFIT AVAILABLE
0 to 9	Direct Deposit	September 1, 2006
0 to 4	EBT	September 1, 2006
5 to 9	EBT	September 2, 2006

Subsequent dates for direct deposits or EBT transfers will be available on September 20, October 18, November 22 and December 20 for recipients under 19 years old who are opened/reopened on or after September 1, 2006.

Payment Information

Information on the date and amount of a grantee's clothing allowance may be found by accessing the Benefit History tab on BEACON or the BB option on Gateway.

Questions

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