

From the DTA Mailbox

If you have any questions on this column or other policy and procedural material, please have your manager or supervisor contact the **DTA Mailbox**.

Q. 1. Does a TAFDC client need to request transportation payments in order for DTA to approve the benefit?

A. 1. It is important to make sure that clients are aware of this reimbursement. In fact, many clients may not think to ask for this ESP support service. Even when it may not be obvious, it's important to recognize that just as child care will be a challenge for ESP participants and employed TAFDC clients, so too are transportation costs. For example, a client may tell you that she owns a car, but that does not mean she can afford to maintain and operate it. You must explore with the client if they have transportation costs associated with participating in an eligible work activity. In most cases, TAFDC clients are eligible for the full \$80 per month reimbursement amount and it should be authorized. See 106 CMR 701.220(A) for details.

Remember, TAFDC clients who receive the support services they're entitled to are more likely to be successful in finding and maintaining a job before the 24-month time limit expires. For more information on transportation payments, refer to 106 CMR 207.210(B) in the TAFDC regulations and for information on transportation payments in the Online Guide, go to [Home](#) > [TAFDC](#) > [Services](#) > [Transportation](#).

Q. 2. Which ESP activities qualify for transportation payments?

A. 2. In addition to approving transportation payments for clients who are meeting their work participation requirement solely through employment, other qualifying activities include:

- Basic Education, including High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) Certificate programs
- Post-Secondary Education: 2-year College, 4-year College, Advanced Degree
- Community College Programs
- Young Parent's Program
- Office for Refugees and Immigrants (MORI) Employment Ready
- CIES component activities
- Employment Ready (including those conducting self-directed job search)
- DTA Works

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- Q. 3.** My TAFDC client does not own a car. Also, he lives in a remote part of Massachusetts and there is no public transportation available to him. Can this TAFDC client still receive transportation reimbursement?
- A. 3.** Yes, if the client has costs associated with participating in a work activity. TAFDC clients using fee-based transportation services, such as van pools and taxi services also qualify for transportation payments. Additionally, if a client's friend or family member is willing to drive a client to work, but is requesting reimbursement from our client for the expense, TAFDC transportation payments may be authorized.
- Q. 4.** My TAFDC client has a preschool child who must be transported to and from child care services. Can this be considered in the client's transportation costs?
- A. 4.** Yes. The transportation reimbursements may include the cost for transporting a child to and from child care, if such costs exist and are verified, in order to participate in a work activity. Verification of child care transportation costs is made by the client submitting receipts from the transportation provider, or a letter from the child care provider verifying that transportation is not provided as part of the child care service.

NOTE: The unreimbursed costs of transporting a child to and from child care are also a deductible dependent care expense in SNAP. Refer to 106 CMR 364.400(D) for more details.