

## *From the Hotline*

**Q.** An undocumented noncitizen and her two citizen children were in my office last month applying for TAFDC and food stamp benefits. Since the mother is not a member of the food stamp AU, why is BEACON counting her earnings in the food stamp benefit calculation?

**A.** In the Food Stamp Program, federal regulations mandate that, for a noncitizen “not legally residing” in this country, the income and assets are counted in their entirety. Refer to 106 CMR 365.520 (A) for more details. Remember, however, if the noncitizen is disqualified from the Food Stamp Program due to his or her ineligible **legal** non-citizen status, then the income is **not** counted. See 106 CMR 365.520(B) for more information.

For TAFDC purposes, a categorically ineligible noncitizen parent is legally obligated to support his or her children. As long as the parent(s) is living in the same household as the dependent child, his or her income must be deemed to the AU in accordance with 106 CMR 204.330(B)(1).

**Q.** If my TAFDC recipient is work program required, can she use the One Stop Career Center to meet her work program requirement?

**A.** If your recipient is in her last three months of time-limited benefits, then the One Stop Career Center is a way for her to meet her work program requirement now that there is no longer funding for the ESP Structured Job Search component for the remainder of this fiscal year. More information on the work program requirement is found at 106 CMR 203.400 and Field Operations Memos 2003-6, 6A and 6B.

**Q.** When I asked my food stamp applicant to list her utility expenses, the only item she verified was her use of a pre-paid cell phone calling card. If the telephone SUA is an allowable deduction for AUs that use a cell phone as their only utility, can I consider a pre-paid cell phone calling card an allowable SUA deduction as well?

**A.** No. A pre-paid calling card is a one-time payment and cannot be considered an allowable deduction since there is no regular bill or due date for this service. More information on the SUA is located in *A User's Guide*, pages XIV-I-4 through XIV-I-6 as well as 106 CMR 364.400.



## *TransAction Associates*

### *EA*

*EA User's Guide: Emergency Assistance, SSI Special Benefits and BEACON Update No. 011*

To arrange transportation for an EA family, the AU Manager calls TransAction Associates. The contact person at TransAction Associates has changed from Bobi Hoglund to Aaron Duncan. Aaron Duncan's cell phone number is 617-212-8200.

*Farm Bill 2002: 4/1/2003 Food Stamp Noncitizen Restoration Part III, Ineligible Noncitizens*

### *FS*

*Field Operations Memo 2003-7C*

This memo informs local offices of the third group of noncitizens (former SSFSP recipients) who, unlike the first two groups, appear ineligible under the Food Stamp Noncitizen Restoration of April 1, 2003. The memo discusses the notice to be sent to these noncitizens and a report to be sent to TAOs listing the specific APs who appear ineligible.

*BEACON Today Issued in May 2003*

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