

From the Hotline

Q. A TAFDC client came to the office today requesting a crib and layette payment for her newborn. Do I need to get her request for this benefit in writing?

A. No. A TAFDC client who requests the infant benefit (verbally or in writing) can be approved for the payment, if otherwise eligible. The issuance of the crib and layette payment must be noted on the BEACON Narratives Tab. Refer to 106 CMR 705.600 for more details.

Reminder: AU Managers must inform clients of any available Department benefits they may be eligible to receive. Refer to 106 CMR 701.220 for more details.

Q. I am recertifying a food stamp household consisting of a father and his 16-year-old son who has dropped out of high school. Is the son required to enroll in the FS Employment and Training Program?

A. No. A 16-or17-year-old who is not the head of household is exempt from the Food Stamp Employment and Training Program. Other 16-or17-year-olds

who may also be exempt from this program include those who are attending school on at least a half-time basis and those participating in an employment and training program on at least a half-time basis. Refer to 106 CMR 362.310(B) for more details.

Q. Recently, a client receiving food stamp benefits stated that she had temporarily moved from the home she owns into an apartment for employment reasons. Can this client claim the mortgage of her home as a food stamp shelter expense, even though she is not currently living in the home?

A. Yes. If the client is responsible for the mortgage payment, she may have her mortgage deducted as a shelter expense, as long as certain other conditions apply.

To allow the shelter deduction for your client, she must state that:

- she intends to return to the home once the reason for vacating the property has ended;
- any current or new occupants to the vacated home are not claiming the shelter deduction for food stamp purposes; and
- the vacated home is not leased or rented during the household's absence.

Per 106 CMR 364.400(G), shelter expenses may be deducted on a home when it was vacated due to employment or training away from home, illness, natural disaster or casualty loss.

If all of the conditions above apply, you may indicate this on the BEACON Narratives Tab and approve the mortgage payment as a shelter expense.

Note: While a food stamp household may have a combined shelter expense deduction on their vacated property as well as their current abode, only one SUA per household is allowed. See 106 CMR 364.400(G).

“What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal.”

Albert Pike