

**The answers below are in response to inquiries related to State Letter 1275, Food Stamp Farm Bill of 2002: Income and Asset Exclusions.**

- Q.** My food stamp recipient told me that her uncle is willing to pay her landlord \$300 towards her total \$600 monthly rental obligation? Do I count any of this money as income?
- A.** No. If a portion of your food stamp recipient's rent is being paid directly to a landlord, then the gain or benefit is considered an excluded vendor payment, and it is not countable as income. Only the housing expense that your recipient continues to incur (\$300) is used in the shelter deduction when calculating the food stamp benefit amount. Refer to 106 CMR 363.230 (B) for more details.
- Q.** My food stamp recipient is also receiving TAFDC for herself and her two children. How would the circumstances described in the previous question affect the recipient's TAFDC grant?
- A.** Since your TAFDC recipient is paying a portion of her own rent, her uncle's payment to the landlord does not impact the amount of her TAFDC grant. Refer to 106 CMR 204.250 (AA).
- Q.** If the recipient's uncle decides to pay his niece's entire rental obligation to the landlord, would this change the food stamp benefit calculation?
- A.** Yes. If the uncle begins paying the entire rental obligation of \$600, then the recipient is no longer paying any shelter expense. Enter zero as the shelter expense on BEACON to correctly calculate the food stamp benefit amount.
- Q.** What will happen to the recipient's TAFDC benefit when the uncle begins paying the entire \$600 rental amount to the landlord?
- A.** If the recipient's uncle begins paying the full amount of rent for his niece, then an income-in-kind deduction must be made. The income-in-kind rent/mortgage deduction for TAFDC recipients is \$126.30 for a heated facility, or \$102.00 for an unheated facility, per month. For more information on income-in-kind deductions in the TAFDC program, refer to 106 CMR 204.510.

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