

# FYI

## Federal Income Tax Rebates

Starting this summer, federal income tax rebates will be issued to many taxpayers. The U.S. Treasury is still in the process of working out the details for these rebate payments. Although the process may change between now and the time the payments are made, we are issuing this reminder as to how to treat the tax rebates for program purposes.

## Food Stamp Program

Money received in the form of nonrecurring lump sum payments such as tax refunds or rebates is **noncountable income** in accordance with 106 CMR 363.230(I), but is **counted as an asset in the month received** in accordance with 106 CMR 363.130(E).

## TAFDC & EAEDC

For TAFDC and EAEDC, income tax refunds are not counted as income, but are considered a countable asset. See 106 CMR 204.120(I) and 106 CMR 321.120(I).

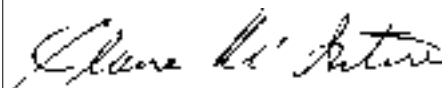
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system. This additional period of time allows us to review and resolve issues identified during the Integrated User Acceptance Test. It has also allowed me to make decisions which I believe will result in a smoother implementation.

Many of you have spoken to me or to your Implementation Manager about the complexities of the Household Merge process. I heard what you said, reviewed the process myself and decided to make it optional in many instances. Similarly, some expressed a desire to have the leeway to continue taking paper applications and to enter the information onto BEACON after the conclusion of the interview. Although I hope to move away from paper applications in time, I saw this as a reasonable request and have agreed to it. I have also instructed central office staff to continue to review how you receive information about BEACON and how we can better learn of and respond to your questions.

I am very much looking forward to the implementation of BEACON. That anticipation is heightened by the knowledge that your hard work and the time you have spent on pilot activities, the Integrated User Acceptance Test and the stress tests has resulted in a better system and in a staff well prepared to implement that system. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Claire McIntire  
Commissioner

## BEACON Today



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