



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Transitional Assistance
600 Washington Street • Boston, MA 02111

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Commissioner

Operations Memo 2012-40
August 24, 2012

To: Department of Transitional Assistance Staff

From:  Stephanie Brown, Assistant Commissioner for Policy, Program and External Relations

Re: TAFDC - Clothing Allowance, September 2012

Overview

The Department will issue a nonrecurring clothing allowance of \$150 per eligible TAFDC client under the age of 19 for September 2012. This Operations Memo advises DTA staff about the clothing allowance.

Who is Eligible

All TAFDC clients under age 19 who are active on September 1, 2012 or TAFDC-eligible during the month of September 2012 are eligible for a clothing allowance. The clothing allowance is prorated for clients under the age of 19 with an eligibility start date after September 1, 2012. A child born after the family cap date is ineligible for a clothing allowance, unless a waiver or exception of the family cap rule has been granted by September 30, 2012.

Increased Standards

Refer to the mass.gov/dta website, and select the Program Eligibility Charts and Tables link under Key Resources to view the Eligibility, Need and Payment Standards for the month of September. The figures are available with the publication of this Operations Memo.

Eligibility standards are increased by \$277.50, and Need and Payment standards are increased by \$150 for each eligible applicant and client under age 19.

In October 2012, the standards will return to the regular amounts. BEACON will recalculate eligibility and send notices to clients no longer eligible for TAFDC benefits.

September Applications

BEACON will perform an eligibility test for all applicants who are approved for TAFDC after September 1, 2012 using the lower August 2012 eligibility standards. If the applicant is ineligible using the lower standards, BEACON will perform a second test of eligibility using the higher September 2012 standards. If the applicant passes this second test, BEACON will issue a payment for a portion of the \$150 amount per eligible client under age 19.

The following informational message will appear on the Interview Wrapup EBC Results page for these cases:

“This AU is not eligible for TAFDC using the regular Standard of Need, but is eligible for a Clothing Allowance in the amount of \$XXX.XX.”

Amount

A payment (separate from the semi-monthly payment) is issued for:

- \$150 per eligible client under age 19 on September 1, 2012; or
- a prorated amount per eligible client under age 19, if eligible for part of September 2012.

Clients receiving payments through direct deposit will have the clothing allowance deposited into their bank account.

Clients receiving payments through EBT will have the clothing allowance deposited into their EBT account.

Payment Dates

The clothing allowance payment will be available to clients according to the following chart:

BENEFIT AVAILABLE	PAYMENT TYPE	ENDING SSN
09/01/2012	Direct Deposit	0 to 9
09/01/2012	EBT	0 to 9

**Payment
Dates
(continued)**

Supplemental payments will be available on September 21, October 19, November 23 and December 21 (notices should arrive on or about those dates) to households with eligible clients under age 19 who become eligible during the month of September 2012 and are approved on the dates in the chart below:

For clients who become eligible during September and are approved between:	the supplemental clothing allowance will be available on:
Sept 1 – Sept 18	Sept 21
Sept 19 – Oct 16	Oct 19
Oct 17 – Nov 20	Nov 23
Nov 21 – Dec 18	Dec 21

These clients may receive a full or prorated amount of the clothing allowance, depending on the date of application or eligibility. The date and amount of the clothing allowance may be found by accessing the Benefit History tab on BEACON for the appropriate case.

Notices

For clients eligible on September 1, notices (Attachment A) will be sent in August.

A similar notice will be sent in September, October, November, and December to households with eligible clients under 19 years old who become eligible during the month of September 2012 and who will receive a full or prorated amount of the clothing allowance on either September 21, October 19, November 23 or December 21.

Questions

If you have any questions, please have your Hotline designee call the Policy Hotline.

Attachment A

200 Pleasant Street CAN 710
Malden, MA 02148

Important Notice - Read Carefully
Este Mensaje Es Importante – Lea Cuidadosamente

Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance

Mary Jones
101 Main Street
Malden, MA 02148

999-99-9999

08/2012

AN IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT A CLOTHING ALLOWANCE PAYMENT

Dear Mary Jones:

A clothing allowance will be paid for September 2012 for TAFDC. The clothing allowance is \$150.00 for each eligible person under 19 years old.

Your clothing allowance payment for September is in the amount of \$300.00 for 2 persons under 19 years of age.

This is a one-time payment which will be transferred into your bank account or EBT card no later than September 1st.

If you have trouble reading or understanding this notice, you may call Recipient Services at 1-800-445-6604.

If you do not agree with the amount of your clothing allowance payment, you may request a fair hearing by filing an appeal within 90 days of receiving the clothing allowance payment. The reverse side of this notice contains important information about your hearing rights. To request a hearing, complete the reverse side of one copy of this notice.

To ask about free legal services, call: Greater Boston Legal Services at 800-323-3205.

TAFDC manual citations for this action are 106 CMR: 204.400, 204.405, 204.410, 204.415, 204.420 and 204.425.