

## From the Hotline

Q. A food stamp applicant received TANF benefits in another state within the past 12 months. Is the assistance unit categorically eligible for food stamp benefits due to receipt of TANF within the past 12 months?

A. No. Since TANF requirements vary from state to state, receipt of TANF benefits in another state within the past 12 months does not ensure categorical eligibility in Massachusetts. However, receipt of TANF benefits in Massachusetts within the past 12 months would make the food stamp applicant categorically eligible.

Q. How long do I certify a food stamp case which is categorically eligible due to receipt and/or authorization for Income Eligible Child Care (IECC)?

A. Certify the food stamp case for the length of IECC eligibility. According to the Office of Child Care Services, IECC can be authorized for a maximum of six months and can be preauthorized at the end of each period.

Q. I have a family requesting reimbursement for the amount they paid for a funeral which was less than \$1,500.00. Can they receive a reimbursement?

A. No. Payments can only be made directly to the funeral home vendor.

Q. I have an applicant for food stamp benefits who is receiving \$289.00 a week in Unemployment Compensation and has provided me with a statement printout from DET that indicates that her benefit is based upon \$330.00 pretax, \$41.00 in taxes deducted and a "net" payment of \$289.00. In entering the countable amount on the PACES Worksheet, should I use the actual income received (i.e., \$289.00) or the gross benefit amount (i.e., \$330.00)?

A. When determining eligibility for food stamp benefits, the full amount (pretax or gross) must be used. The same is true for TAFDC, EAEDC and EA.

Q. I am looking at the ViewDirect Screen and see payments issued to recipients coded CP and PA. Does this mean the recipient received those payments?

A. No. ViewDirect showing the code PA indicates that the money was allocated to this agency, not the recipient. If there is a code of CP Non PA, the money has been allocated to the recipient.

## TAFDC Extensions Beyond the 24-Month Period

### TAFDC Field Operations Memo 2000-29

This memo issues:

- guidelines for extension decisions;
- guidelines for appropriate extension activities; and
- clarifications to the extension request process.