

From the Hotline

Q. I have a TAFDC parent who is on SSI. Recently, she informed me that she is employed, and as a result she will not be receiving payments from the Social Security Administration (SSA). When I looked into this further, I discovered that SSA still considers this individual an SSI recipient even though she is not receiving SSI payments. Although we normally consider the income and assets of those who receive SSI as noncountable, are there any exceptions to this policy?

A. The assets and income of any household member who receives SSI payments are considered noncountable, according to 106 CMR 204.140 and 106 CMR 204.250. In this household, the person is an SSI recipient receiving zero payments because her earnings are too high for her to qualify for SSI financial benefits.

Since this individual is not actually *receiving* SSI payments, both her income and assets must be counted and she is now considered a TAFDC recipient and an AU member in the TAFDC grant.

Q. I have a TAFDC recipient who was receiving benefits for herself and her two nieces. She is no longer on TAFDC, although her dependents are still eligible. (She recently remarried and her earnings, along with those of her new husband, make her ineligible.) Is this recipient eligible for up to 12 months of additional child-care services?

A. No. To qualify for up to 12 months of additional child-care services, the entire AU must be terminated. (Refer to 106 CMR 207.210(A)(1)(f)). In this situation, only the AU member was closed. However, this woman may be referred to the nearest Child Care Resource and Referral Agency for potential income-eligible child-care assistance.

Q. I have a client who is pregnant, and she is planning to take a month off from work to care for her new child. Can we continue child-care services for her two other children so that she is able to keep the slot open once she resumes her job, and if so, how long may these services continue?

A. Yes. In this situation, her written statement that she plans to return to work in one month is acceptable proof of her intent, and the child-care services may continue for up to one month,

if necessary, to maintain what would otherwise become an unavailable slot for your recipient. For more information on this topic, refer to 106 CMR 207.210(A)(2).

Q. Can a family receive Emergency Assistance (EA) benefits twice in a 12-month period?

A. Policy states that an EA AU may not be authorized to receive benefits more than once in a 12-month period. However, there are two exceptions to this policy. EA benefits *may* be authorized more than once in a 12-month period if the AU:

- leaves temporary emergency shelter for permanent housing and loses that housing prior to the expiration of the 12-month period, and shows a continued need for emergency shelter by demonstrating that the housing did not meet the definition of safe or permanent housing when the AU moved into it; or
- needs temporary emergency shelter benefits and the EA benefit received within the past 12 months was an EA rental arrearage payment. (Rental arrearage payments were provided until April 16, 2002.)

For further details, refer to 106 CMR 309.020(K).