

FYI

Using TAFDC or EAEDC Disability Determinations to Establish a Disability for Food Stamp Purposes

If a TAFDC Disability Determination Tracking Form or an EAEDC Disability Determination Tracking Form from the Department's Disability Evaluation Services (DES) indicates that an individual's disability meets criteria listing (decision code 100) or equals criteria listing (code 110) for SSI, the DES disability decision can be used to establish that the individual is disabled for food stamp purposes. These DES disability decision codes mean that the individual has been certified disabled using SSI criteria in accordance with 106 CMR 362.210(A)(1).

The disability determination entitles the disabled individual to special treatment including: waiver of the in-office interview (*see* 106 CMR 361.510); gross income standard exception (*see* 106 CMR 364.370); excess medical deduction (*see* 106 CMR 364.400(C)); uncapped shelter deduction (*see* 106 CMR 364.400(E)); food stamp work requirement exemption (*see* 106 CMR 362.310(B) and 362.320(B)); and 165 percent income standard for individuals who are both elderly and disabled (*see* 106 CMR 361.200(B)).

This DES decision is particularly important in determining a noncitizen's eligibility for federal food stamp benefits. In accordance with 106 CMR 362.220(A)(9) a disabled noncitizen is eligible for federal food stamp benefits if he or she:

- (a) is currently a legal permanent resident (green card holder); an asylee under section 208 of the INA; a refugee under section 207 of the INA; a deportee being withheld under section 243(h) or 241(b)(3) of the INA; a Cuban/Haitian entrant (as defined in section 501(e) of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980); an Amerasian immigrant (as defined in section 584 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1988); a parolee under section 212(d)(5) of the INA; or a conditional entrant under section 203(a)(7) of the INA; and
- (b) was lawfully residing in the U.S. on 8/22/96.

Medex Premium Rate Changes

NPA FS
Field Operations Memo
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Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts has announced Medex premium rate changes to six non-group plans, Basic, Bronze, Gold, Standard, Core and Silver, effective March 2000.

This memo:

- identifies the plans that have changed and the corresponding rate changes;
- identifies the date of the changes and the effect these changes will have on the amount of food stamp benefits;
- transmits information for the Medex Premium Rate - Update Report; and
- provides information of updates to food stamp benefits and the Medex premium amounts on PACES.

