

Quality Corner

The following analysis of three recent Quality Control errors may help AU Managers identify and correct problems.

Riverside Sanction

A mother was sanctioned and removed from the TAFDC case early in May 2001. Under the "Riverside" rules, the AU Manager entered an amount of unearned income in the food stamps unearned income section (to avoid increasing the food stamp benefits when sanctioned for a cash assistance reason). Two weeks later, the sanction was lifted for the cash case, but the amount of unearned income was not removed for the food stamp benefits. This resulted in an underissuance error since the food stamp benefits were not increased after the sanction was removed. A recent *BEACON Today* (#64, December 12, 2001) noted: after removing the sanction from the AU Composition Results window, the AU Manager must indicate that the FS Attributed Amount no longer exists.

What Can an AU Manager Do?

When removing the sanction and restoring the cash benefits for Riverside cases, the AU manager must be sure to remove the unearned income from the food stamps portion of the case. If there is more than one source of unearned income, be sure to remove only the sanction-related amount.

Noncitizen, Legal Permanent Resident

A food stamp assistance unit consists of a mother and her child. The mother had entered the country in 1982 at age nine. To be eligible as a noncitizen she needed to be disabled (she was not), to be under 18 (also not) or to have 40 quarters of work. Since she did not have sufficient quarters, she was determined ineligible for food stamp benefits. Under food stamp policy, however, she can use the combined quarters that her parents worked before she was 18. Since together they had worked sufficient quarters before her 18th birthday, she is eligible for federal food stamp benefits.

What Can an AU Manager Do?

If the noncitizen is over 18, is not disabled, and has insufficient work experience, check the parents' work histories. Even adults who entered the country as children can use quarters worked by their parents before the child is 18. For noncitizen cases that don't meet the other eligibility criteria, a parent's work quarters may help establish eligibility.

February 2002

New TAFDC 60-Month Period

TAFDC

A User's Guide: Transitional Assistance Programs and BEACON Update 020

This BEACON Update adds information about the impact of a new 60-month period on TAFDC AUs. The sections updated are: applications, work requirements, disability, domestic violence, extensions and time limits.

FYI

Division of Hearings (DOH) Address Change

On January 9, 2002, DOH moved to DTA Central Office. The new address is 600 Washington Street, 2nd floor, Boston, MA 02111. The new phone numbers are:

Main # 617 348-5321

Fax # 617 348-5311

TTY # 617 348-5337

The 800 number remains the same, 1-800-882-2017. The mailing address remains P.O. Box 167 Essex Station, Boston, MA 02112-0167. Supplies of the appropriate appeal forms with the revised Notice of Request for a Fair Hearing (FHRN) (Rev.1/2002) have been shipped to TAOs.