

## FYI

### Treatment of Refugee Reception and Placement Cash Grant

The Reception and Placement Cash Grant offered under the Department of State or Department of Justice Reception and Placement Program is given to refugees within the first 30 days of arrival and is no less than \$400 but could be more depending on the situation of the refugee(s). The grant is verified by a receipt or referral letter to DTA given to the refugee by his or her refugee resettlement agency that clearly identifies that it is a Reception and Placement Cash Grant and the amount of the grant.

The Reception and Placement Cash Grant is considered noncountable income when determining eligibility for TAFDC and EAEDC (see 106 CMR 204.250(CC) and 106 CMR 321.250(Z)) and a nonrecurring lump sum payment when determining eligibility for food stamp benefits (see 106 CMR 363.130(E)).

Even though this grant is given to refugees within the first 30 days of arrival, AU Managers are reminded that refugees do not have to wait 30 days before applying for assistance. 106 CMR 702.105 states, “*Every person has the right, and must be afforded the opportunity, to apply for assistance without delay.*” Process these applications in accordance with the cash and food stamp processing timeframes, located at 106 CMR 702.160 and 106 CMR 361.080, respectively.

## FYI

### Extension of Unemployment Compensation Benefits

On March 10, 2002 the federal government extended the time period individuals eligible for Unemployment Compensation (UC) can receive benefits. Individuals eligible for the UC extension can receive extended benefits for half the number of weeks the individual collected regular UC benefits, up to a maximum of (13) thirteen weeks. The extended benefit amount will be the same as the individual’s regular UC benefit amount.

AU Managers must inform applicants and recipients who may be eligible for extended UC benefits to apply, as applying is also a condition of eligibility to receive TAFDC and EAEDC (106 CMR 702.700(A)). Individuals can apply for extended UC by

calling 1-800-535-0796 or by stopping at one of DET’s 32 walk-in centers located throughout the state.

The UC extension will appear in Unearned Income Matches in the Match History Tab of BEACON when DET sends DTA the match information, which occurs monthly. This means AU Managers must have applicants and recipients verify the amount of extended UC and enter the unearned income into the Other Income Status Window because the UC extension may not appear in Unearned Income Matches until one month after the individual is receiving UC. Please refer to *A User’s Guide: Transitional Assistance Programs and BEACON*, pages XIV-D-1 through XIV-D-2 for further instructions on processing unearned income.



## Stay Informed!