

FYIs

Changes to DTA Online

This month, the following changes have been made to **DTA Online**:

- Information on National Disability Employment Awareness Month has been added to the listing of Diversity Events accessed through the **Diversity** side-bar option;
- A revised flyer entitled “Do You Have a Disability?” has been added to Online Forms accessed through the **Policy Online** side-bar option;
- Job Aids accessible through the **Policy Online** side-bar option have been updated to reflect the name change from Food Stamp Program to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP);
- The Commissioner’s letter to DTA staff regarding the Voluntary Layoff with Incentive Program has been added and can be accessed through the **Latest News/Photo Gallery** side-bar option; and
- Updates have been made to the TAO Liaison Listings accessed through the **Field Operations** tab.

Changes to the EOHHS mass.gov DTA Homepage

Changes to the EOHHS mass.gov DTA Homepage include:

- Updates to our caseload information which can be accessed by selecting the appropriate Department program (EAEDC, SNAP, Homeless, SSI, TAFDC) beneath the **Research & Statistics** side-bar.
- The September 2008 Facts and Figures Report which can be accessed by selecting “DTA Facts and Figures” beneath the **Research & Statistics** side-bar;
- Removal of links to the Falmouth TAO closing announcement and the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 from the **News and Updates** side-bar; and
- Changes to the Domestic Violence window accessed through the **What We Do** side-bar option.

Proper Verification of Identity at Application

Case managers are reminded that when an applicant or client submits proof of identity, the proof of verification selected in BEACON must mirror the exact document that the applicant/client has submitted. It is important that the proof of verification selected on BEACON be identical to the document that has been photocopied and placed in the case record.

Recently, *Birth Certificate* was added as a selection in the BEACON Verification tab. Case managers should select this value if a client provides a birth certificate for verification of identity.

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FYIs (Continued from page 9)**Update - Verifying Extended Unemployment Compensation Benefits**

An FYI in October 2008 Transitions advised staff that the Unemployment Insurance Information Inquiry screen did not include information about Extended Unemployment Compensation (EUC08), and that case managers should call the Division of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) to get information about EUC08 until the screen was updated.

DUA has advised us that the Unemployment Insurance Information Inquiry screen has been updated. For clients receiving UC benefits (either regular or extended) the screen will display the amount of benefits paid for each week and the correct remaining balance. Clients with zero remaining balance displayed are not receiving benefits (either regular or extended). The screen does not indicate whether benefits are regular or extended, so case managers must still follow-up with clients for potential eligibility for extended benefits.

While not a requirement for SNAP benefits, applicants/clients should be encouraged to apply for EUC08 benefits. However, TAFDC and EAEDC regulations require that applicants/clients apply for UC benefits (including extended benefits) as a condition of eligibility.

Effective immediately, case managers must refer to the Unemployment Insurance Information Inquiry screen and no longer call the number provided in the FYI to obtain UC information by phone.

Do you know...?

Until recently, refugees, asylees and certain other humanitarian immigrants, including victims of human trafficking, have been eligible to receive SSI benefits for only a seven-year period. A new law now extends the eligibility period to nine years. Individuals who have had their SSI benefits terminated because of the seven-year time limit may also be eligible for this extension.

Noncitizens eligible for the extension include:

- Noncitizens under age 17 or over age 70;
- Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs) who have held such status for less than six years;
- Noncitizens who have applied to become LPRs within four years from the date they began receiving SSI;
- Cuban/Haitian Entrants; and
- Noncitizens who have been granted withholding of deportation or removal.

In addition, the law exempts from the time limit through Fiscal Year 2011 those noncitizens with citizenship applications pending at the end of their eligibility period.

Noncitizens who have had their SSI benefits terminated because of the previous seven-year time limit should contact SSA immediately to apply for the extension of benefits.