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**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
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Commissioner

**Field Operations Memo 2005-39**  
**September 1, 2005**

**To:** Transitional Assistance Office Staff

**From:**  Cescia Derderian, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations

**Re:**  TAFDC - Clothing Allowance, September 2005

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**Overview**

The Department will pay a nonrecurring clothing allowance for September 2005 for TAFDC recipients. The clothing allowance is \$150 per recipient under the age of 19. The clothing allowance is prorated for recipients eligible in September 2005 but who have a start date after September 1, 2005.

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**Desk Guide**

A desk guide for AU Managers is on pages 2 and 3 of this memo. The desk guide includes the clothing allowance payment schedule. No action needs to be taken by AU Managers to have the clothing allowance payments issued.

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**Direct  
Deposit/EBT**

Recipients on direct deposit will have the clothing allowance deposited into their bank account.

Recipients on EBT will have the clothing allowance transferred into their EBT account.

Refer to the chart on page 3 of this memo for the dates the clothing allowance will be available to the recipients.

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## Clothing Allowance Desk Guide for September 2005

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**Who** All TAFDC recipients under age 19 who are active on September 1, 2005 or TAFDC-eligible during the month of September 2005 are eligible for a clothing allowance. A child born after the family cap date is ineligible for a clothing allowance, unless a waiver or exception of the family cap has been granted.

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**Amount** A separate systems-generated payment is issued for:

- \$150 per recipient under age 19 eligible September 1, 2005; or
- a prorated amount, if eligible for part of September 2005.

BEACON will perform an eligibility test on all applicants who are approved for TAFDC after September 1, 2005 using the August Eligibility Standards. If the applicant is ineligible with these lower standards, BEACON will perform a second test of eligibility using the higher September clothing allowance standards. If the applicant passes this test, BEACON will issue a payment for a portion of the \$150 amount per recipient under age 19. The following informational message will appear at the Interview Wrap-up EBC Results window for these AUs:

“This AU is not eligible for TAFDC using the regular Standard of Need, but is eligible for a Clothing Allowance in the amount of \$XXX.XX.”

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**Notices** Two distinct notices will be issued. Notices will be in English or Spanish with a multilingual notice.

- A notice will be sent to recipients eligible on September 1, 2005 on the following days:

August 31	EBT (SSN 0-4) Direct Deposit (SSN 0-9)
September 1	EBT (SSN 5-9)

- A notice will be sent in September, October and November to AUs with recipients under 19 years old that become eligible on or after September 1, 2005 who will be receiving a full or prorated amount of the clothing allowance.
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**Policy**      **106 CMR 204.400 through 204.425.**

Eligibility standards are increased \$277.50 per applicant/recipient under age 19, and Need and Payment Standards are increased \$150 per applicant/recipient under age 19. In October 2005, the standards will return to regular amounts. The system will recalculate eligibility and send notices to recipients no longer eligible for TAFDC benefits.

**Note: Applicants determined eligible in September due to the increased Standards are entitled to the 30 and 1/3 or 30 and 1/2 disregard when the TAFDC benefits are recalculated for the month of October.**

**Payment Dates**

The clothing allowance payment will be available to grantees according to the following chart.

<b>ENDING SSN</b>	<b>PAYMENT TYPE</b>	<b>BENEFIT AVAILABLE</b>
0 to 9	Direct Deposit	September 1, 2005
0 to 4	EBT	September 1, 2005
5 to 9	EBT	September 2, 2005

Subsequent dates for direct deposits or EBT transfers will be available on September 21, October 19, and November 23 for recipients under 19 years old who are opened/reopened on or after September 1, 2005.

**Payment Information**

Information on the date and amount of a grantee's clothing allowance may be found by accessing the Benefit History tab on BEACON or the BB option on Gateway.

**Questions**

If you have any questions, please have your Hotline designee call the Policy Hotline at 617-348-8478.