



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Transitional Assistance
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Field Operations Memo 2010-38
August 23, 2010

To: Transitional Assistance Office Staff
From: John Augeri, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations
Re: TAFDC - Clothing Allowance, September 2010

Overview

The Department will issue a nonrecurring clothing allowance for September 2010 of \$150 per eligible TAFDC client under the age of 19.

Who is Eligible

All TAFDC clients under age 19 who are active on September 1, 2010 or TAFDC-eligible during the month of September 2010 are eligible for a clothing allowance. The clothing allowance is prorated for clients under the age of 19 with an eligibility start date after September 1, 2010. A child born after the family cap date is ineligible for a clothing allowance, unless a waiver or exception of the family cap rule has been granted by September 30.

Amount

A separate payment is issued for:

- \$150 per eligible client under age 19 on September 1, 2010; or
- a prorated amount per eligible client under age 19, if eligible for part of September 2010.

Clients receiving payments through direct deposit will have the clothing allowance deposited into their bank account.

Clients receiving payments through EBT will have the clothing allowance deposited into their EBT account.

Increased Standards

Refer to the mass.gov/dta web site, and select the Program Eligibility Charts and Tables link under Key Resources to view the Eligibility, Need and Payment Standards for the month of September.

Eligibility standards are increased \$277.50, and Need and Payment standards are increased \$150 for each eligible applicant and client under age 19.

In October 2010, the standards will return to the regular amounts. BEACON will recalculate eligibility and send notices to clients no longer eligible for TAFDC benefits.

September Applications

BEACON will perform an eligibility test for all applicants who are approved for TAFDC on or after September 1, 2010 using the lower August eligibility standards. If the applicant is ineligible using the lower standards, BEACON will perform a second test of eligibility using the higher September standards. If the applicant passes this second test, BEACON will issue a payment for a portion of the \$150 amount per eligible client under age 19.

The following informational message will appear on the Interview Wrap-up EBC Results window for these cases:

“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.”

Payment Dates

The clothing allowance payment will be available to clients according to the following chart:

BENEFIT AVAILABLE	PAYMENT TYPE	ENDING SSN
September 1, 2010 (Wednesday)	Direct Deposit	0 to 9
September 1, 2010 (Wednesday)	EBT	0 to 4
September 2, 2010 (Thursday)	EBT	5 to 9

**Payment
Dates
(continued)**

Supplemental payments will be available on September 17, October 15, November 19 or December 17 (notices should arrive on those dates) to households with eligible clients under age 19 who become eligible during the month of September 2010 and are approved on the dates in the chart below:

For clients who become eligible during September and are approved between:	the supplemental clothing allowance will be available on:
Sept 1 – Sept 14	Sept 17
Sept 15 – Oct 12	Oct 15
Oct 13 – Nov 16	Nov 19
Nov 17 – Dec 14	Dec 17

These clients may receive a full or prorated amount of the clothing allowance, depending on the date of application or eligibility. The date and amount of the clothing allowance may be found by accessing the Benefit History tab on BEACON for the appropriate case.

Notices

For clients eligible on September 1, notices will be issued one day before payment dates of the clothing allowance and will be in English or Spanish with a multilingual notice.

Notices will be sent to clients eligible on September 1, 2010 on the following dates:

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

A notice will be sent in September, October, November, and December to households with eligible clients under 19 years old who become eligible during the month of September 2010 and who will receive a full or prorated amount of the clothing allowance on either September 17, October 15, November 19 or December 17.

Questions

If you have any questions, please have your Hotline designee call the Policy Hotline.
