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Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Transitional Assistance
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Secretary

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Field Operations Memo 2004-31
September 1, 2004

To: Transitional Assistance Office Staff

From:  Cescia Derderian, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations

Re: TAFDC - Clothing Allowance, September 2004

Overview

The Department will pay a nonrecurring clothing allowance for September 2004 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 2004 but who have a start date after September 1, 2004.

Desk Guide

Pages two and three are a desk guide for AU Managers. 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.

**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 dates.

Clothing Allowance Desk Guide for September 2004

Who All TAFDC recipients under age 19 who are active September 1, 2004 or TAFDC-eligible during the month of September 2004 are eligible for a clothing allowance. A child born after the family cap date is ineligible for a clothing allowance, unless a waiver of the family cap has been granted.

Amount A separate systems-generated payment is issued for:

- \$150 per recipient under age 19 eligible September 1, 2004; or
- a prorated amount, if eligible for part of September 2004.

BEACON will perform an eligibility test on all applicants who are approved for TAFDC after September 1, 2004 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.”

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

- A notice will be mailed on August 31 (SSN 0-4) and September 1 (SSN 5-9) to TAFDC recipients eligible as of September 1, 2004 who will be receiving the full \$150 clothing allowance per recipient under age 19.
 - 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, 2004 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 2004, the standards return to regular amounts. The system recalculates eligibility and sends 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.

ENDING SSN	PAYMENT TYPE	BENEFIT AVAILABLE
0 to 4	for EBT or direct deposit	September 1, 2004
5 to 9	for EBT or direct deposit	September 2, 2004

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, 2004.

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.
