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Field Operations Memo 2002-17
July 29, 2002

To: Transitional Assistance Office Staff
From: *JD* Cescia Derderian, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations
Re: Revised EA Eligibility Standard

Overview

The FY03 budget requires a change in the EA Eligibility Standard which is to be based on 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. The current EA Eligibility Standard is based on 130 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. As of 7/30/2002, the revised EA Eligibility Standard must be used for new or pending EA applications in determining eligibility for EA benefits.

The FY03 Budget also eliminated rental arrearage payments and disaster benefits from the EA program.

Revised EA Eligibility Standard

The EA Eligibility Standard based on 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level is:

AU Size	EA Eligibility Standard
1	\$ 738.00
2	995.00
3	1252.00
4	1508.00
5	1765.00
6	2022.00
7	2278.00
8	2535.00
9	2792.00
10	3049.00
incremental	257.00

- Processing EA Applications** Until the EA Eligibility Standard in BEACON is adjusted to the lower amounts, AU Managers must determine the financial eligibility manually by using the amounts in the table on the prior page for any new or pending EA application. If the AU's countable monthly income exceeds the EA Eligibility Standard for an AU of its size, complete the NFL-9 to deny benefits because "the monthly income exceeds the EA Eligibility Standard for an assistance unit of its size". Manual citation is 106 CMR 309.020.
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- Ongoing EA AUs** At this time, AU Managers are not to reevaluate the financial eligibility of active EA AUs assigned to them. Staff will be advised if they need to take additional action.
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- Regulations** EA policy regulations have been revised to reflect the lowered standard and the elimination of rental arrearage and disaster benefits. State Letter 1230 which contains these changes will be shipped as soon as possible.
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- Questions** If you have any questions, please have your Policy Hotline designee call the Policy Hotline at 617-348-8478.
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