



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Transitional Assistance
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Field Operations Memo 2008-45
August 25, 2008

To: Transitional Assistance Office Staff
From:  John Augeri, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations
Re: TAFDC - Clothing Allowance, September 2008

Overview

The Department will pay a nonrecurring clothing allowance of \$150 per eligible TAFDC client under the age of 19 for September 2008. The clothing allowance is prorated for clients under the age of 19 with an eligibility start date after September 1, 2008.

Desk Guide

A desk guide for case managers is on pages 2 and 3 of this memo. The desk guide includes the clothing allowance payment schedule. No case manager action is needed to have the clothing allowance payments issued.

**Direct
Deposit/EBT**

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

Clients 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 that the clothing allowance will be available to the clients.

Clothing Allowance Desk Guide for September 2008

Who

All TAFDC clients under age 19 who are active on September 1, 2008 or TAFDC-eligible during the month of September 2008 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 rule has been granted by September 30.

Amount

A separate systems-generated payment is issued for:

- \$150 per eligible client under age 19 on September 1, 2008; or
- a prorated amount, if eligible for part of September 2008.

BEACON will perform an eligibility test on all applicants who are approved for TAFDC on or after September 1, 2008 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 eligible client under age 19. The following informational message will appear at 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.”

Notices

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

Notices will be sent to clients eligible on September 1, 2008 on the following dates:

August 28 (Thursday)	EBT (SSN 0-4) Direct Deposit (SSN 0-9)
August 29 (Friday)	EBT (SSN 5-9)

**Notices
(continued)**

A notice will be sent in September, October, November, and December to households with clients under 19 years old that become eligible during the month of September 2008 and who will be receiving a full or prorated amount of the clothing allowance.

Payment Dates

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

BENEFIT AVAILABLE	PAYMENT TYPE	ENDING SSN
August 29, 2008* (Friday)	Direct Deposit	0 to 9
August 29, 2008 (Friday)	EBT	0 to 4
August 30, 2008 (Saturday)	EBT	5 to 9

*Not all direct deposit clients will be able to access their clothing allowance benefit on August 29th. Due to the way banks post to each account and coupled with the fact that September 1st falls on the Labor Day holiday, some client's benefits may not be available until September, 3rd.

Payments will also be sent on September 17, October 15, November 19, and December 17 (notices will be sent on those dates) to households with eligible clients under age 19 who become eligible during the month of September 2008. These households may receive a full or prorated amount of the clothing allowance, depending on the date of application.

Information on the date and amount of a household's clothing allowance may be found by accessing the Benefit History tab on BEACON.

Policy

Refer to 106 CMR 204.400 through 204.425.

Eligibility standards are increased \$277.50 per applicant/client, and need and payment standards are increased \$150 per applicant/client.

In October 2008, the standards will return to the regular amounts. BEACON will recalculate eligibility and send notices to clients no longer eligible for TAFDC benefits. For approvals, a regular grant change notice will be sent and have a benefit effective date of October 1, 2008.

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.

Questions

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