

From the Hotline

NOTE: The last question and answer in “From the Hotline” (March 2004) has been removed from the on-line version. The corrected version is below.

- Q.** A woman came into our office yesterday applying for TAFDC. She was a step-grandmother applying for herself and her stepdaughter’s son. Is she eligible for TAFDC?
- A.** Yes, she is eligible if she is the spouse of the dependent child’s grandfather. For more information on relationship requirements and verifying relationship requirements in TAFDC, refer to 106 CMR 203.585.
- Q.** A food stamp recipient came into the office and reported a change of address. She said she would be moving in two weeks to Missouri. When the AU Manager entered the information on BEACON, she erroneously entered the out-of-state address. She should have closed the food stamp AU. Will BEACON accept an out-of-state address?
- A.** Yes. BEACON will accept an out-of-state address, but cannot issue the food stamp benefits to an AU with an out-of-state address. Therefore, in the future, it is important to properly close the food stamp AU. At the AU Composition Results window, select “Residency” from the drop-down box under Reason Category and select “No longer MA resident” from the Reason drop-down bar. Indicate the new address in the Narrative tab and file the verification in the AU record. The AU Manager can mail a copy of the closing notice to the out-of-state address. Due to appeal decisions and other maintenance issues, it is possible that food stamp benefits may need to be issued to the AU after it closes or moves out of state. Therefore, AU Managers must not enter an out-of-state address in BEACON. Otherwise, the food stamp recipient may unnecessarily experience an interruption in food stamp benefits.
- Q.** I have a food stamp applicant who is waiting to hear about the status of his Unemployment Compensation (U.C.) claim. He believes he will soon be receiving the U.C. benefits but is not currently receiving them. Should I still put this applicant on Universal Semiannual Reporting (USR)?

- A.** Yes. By putting the food stamp AU on USR, you are ensuring adequate error protection. If you are uncertain about the status of the U.C. benefits, wait to process the food stamp application. If by day 29 your applicant still hasn’t heard about the receipt of U.C. benefits, then open the food stamp AU on USR without the U.C. income.

Also at this time, provide the client with a FS-USR-2 form which identifies the applicable gross income limits. Remind the client that income exceeding the limit must be reported. Remember also to indicate the potential receipt of U.C. benefits on the Narrative tab and check the External Agency Matches, Unearned Income View from the TAO Office Explorer for information on the start date for the U.C. benefits. At the next recertification, you must verify any new information and update BEACON. For further information on USR, refer to 106 CMR 366.110 and *A User’s Guide*, Chapter IV, Section C.

