

Quality Corner *(Continued from page 3)*

What's a Case Manager to Do?

A household that includes at least one person who is elderly or disabled is not subject to a gross income test for SNAP eligibility nor a capped shelter deduction. These two provisions of SNAP regulations are favorable elements of the SNAP benefit calculation for elderly and/or disabled households.

Case managers must be careful when entering information into BEACON. Nonfinancial information such as disability status and number of household members also impacts the eligibility of the household. For more information on elderly or disabled household members see 106 CMR 361.210.

From the Hotline

If you have any questions on this column or other policy and procedural material, please have your Hotline designee call the **Policy Hotline at 617-348-8478**.

- Q.** A father applied for TAFDC and SNAP benefits this morning. His family members are eligible for benefits. The father has verified his noncitizen status as a Parolee, but arrived in the U.S. only last year. He is not disabled and does not meet the five-year requirement. Is he eligible for TAFDC and SNAP benefits?
- A.** It depends. Just as a Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) applicant with less than five years in the U.S. may present with another qualifying noncitizen status, the same may be true for those who were paroled into the U.S. on or after October 10, 1980. For example, if the applicant has also verified Cuban or Haitian nationality, he may qualify for benefits as a Cuban/Haitian Entrant without the five-year wait. Verifications for this include the arrival/departure record, Form I-94 stamped:
- 212(d)(5),
 - 8 CFR 212.12(b),
 - 8 CFR 241.13 or
 - 8 CFR 241.14.

Also, any stamp on the I-94 indicating Cuban/Haitian Entrant status is acceptable. For more information on Cuban/Haitian Entrants, refer to Field Operations Memo 2007-52.

Note: A noncitizen with one year of Parolee status may be eligible for EAEDC. For more information on eligible noncitizen statuses in the EAEDC Program, see 106 CMR 320.620(A).

- Q.** A mother and her disabled child are currently receiving TAFDC. Does this mother need to apply for SSI benefits on behalf of her child?
- A.** No. Unlike EAEDC, applying for SSI is not a TAFDC eligibility requirement. However, remember to advise this client that often a disabled child can receive more in financial assistance from the SSI

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From the Hotline (Continued from page 4)

Program than from the TAFDC Program. Individuals who are eligible for both SSI and TAFDC benefits may elect to receive either benefit, but cannot participate in both programs. For more information on SSI benefit requirements in the TAFDC Program, see 106 CMR 702.710(A).

- Q.** When a child in an EAEDC caretaker household appears to be disabled and potentially eligible for SSI, must this caretaker apply for SSI on behalf of the child and must an AP-SSI-I form be completed?
- A.** Yes. A child who may be eligible for other benefits must apply for these to become or remain eligible for EAEDC. If a child living in an EAEDC caretaker family is disabled and potentially eligible for SSI, the caretaker must apply for SSI on the child's behalf and complete an *Authorization for Reimbursement of Interim Assistance Initial Claim or Post Eligibility Case (AP-SS-IAR)*. For more information on the development of other benefits, see 106 CMR 702.700.

Operations Memos

DTA Families Receiving DHCD HomeBASE Housing Assistance

TAFDC, EAEDC and SNAP
Operations Memo 2011-48

This Operations Memo informs TAO staff about the HomeBASE housing assistance program implemented in August 2011 by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). The HomeBASE program offers time-limited housing assistance to families at risk of homelessness, as an alternative to placement in an EA family shelter or a motel.

The memo also addresses the impact HomeBASE assistance has on the cash assistance and SNAP programs. TAO staff have no responsibility for determining eligibility for EA and HomeBASE assistance.

TAFDC – Increased Work Participation Hours Clean-up

TAFDC
Operations Memo 2011-49

The Fiscal Year '12 state budget increased clients' work program requirement from 24 hours per week to 30 hours per week if their youngest child is between mandatory full-time school age and eight years old.

This Operations Memo describes:

- a data fix to BEACON for these clients that occurred on the night of October 21; and
- a report mailed to TAOs regarding clients impacted by this change.