

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services Department of Transitional Assistance

CHARLES D. BAKER Governor MARYLOU SUDDERS Secretary

KARYN POLITO Lieutenant Governor MARY SHEEHAN Acting Commissioner

Online Guide Transmittal 2022-95 November 23, 2022

To: Department of Transitional Assistance Staff

From: Sarah Stuart, Associate Commissioner for Change Management

Re: TAFDC and EAEDC: Implementation of the Asset Limit Repeal–Phase 3

Overview

A change in legislation, eliminated the asset limits for both the TAFDC and EAEDC programs effective July 1st, 2021. Effective July 1st, 2022, EAEDC clients in Living Arrangement E, a licensed rest home, also known as a residential care facility, have an asset limit of \$2000.

Effective October 21, 2022, changes were implemented to eliminate all references to assets limits for TAFDC and EAEDC (with the exception of EAEDC rest home applicants and recipients) within BEACON workflows to prevent the collection of new asset information and to remove the asset calculation from eligibility rules.

Purpose

The purpose of this Online Guide Transmittal is to advise staff about:

- BEACON changes to support current asset rules for TAFDC and EAEDC client; and
- updates to the Online Guide.

The following systems changes have taken place:

Systems Changes

- All asset questions on the EAEDC and TAFDC DTA Connect Online Application have now been removed.
- The Assets Q and A Navigator on BEACON longer requires edits for any program during application or reevaluation.
- Asset data collection pages can be visited without going through the Q and A Navigator. Case managers must only visit asset pages when there are incomplete pages preventing an interview wrap up or they are working on an EAEDC rest home case. Any existing asset information (with the exception of rest home cases) must be ended, except for bank accounts being used for direct deposit purposes. The balance of the bank account must always be \$0.
- Where applicable, asset ineligibility reasons have been removed. These reasons remain when they are used for SNAP non-categorically eligible cases or EAEDC rest home cases.
- The BEACON ineligibility reason "EBT Cash High Balance in excess of asset limit" has been renamed to "EBT Cash High Balance in excess of limit".

BEACON VC-1 Changes

The following Verification Checklist (VC-1) changes took place on October 21, 2022:

- The Deposit Form (CA/DD) is now an optional verification, and
- Asset verifications can no longer be selected when a case manager prints a VC-1 notice from the Verification tab for TAFDC or EAEDC cases (with the exception of rest home cases). For combo cases, the verification can be selected, but the asset(s) will only be listed in the SNAP program section.

Asset Data Match Changes

The PI checklist for DOR Bank Match data will only be created when a client has a pending/active SNAP assistance unit or pending/active EAEDC rest home assistance unit.

Obsolete Field Operations Memos and Online Guide Transmittals

The following Field Operations Memos and Online Guide Transmittals are obsolete: 2018-75 TAFDC: Increase in Asset Limit, 2019-72 TAFDC: Exclusion of the Primary Vehicle as a Countable Asset, 2013-52: TAFDC and EAEDC – Non-Principal Real Estate, 2017-72: TAFDC and EAEDC: Fair Market Car Valuation, 2010-22: TAFDC and EAEDC – Kelley Blue Book and Car Values

Updated Forms

The following forms have been revised:

- Application Central Print Form
- Application/Reevaluation Addendum Form (VC-1) and;
- Application/Reevaluation Form

Updated Brochures

The following brochures have been revised:

- TAFDC-PB, Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children Program Brochure (English and Spanish) and;
- EAEDC-PB, Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children Program Brochure (English and Spanish)

Updated Notices

References to assets were removed from applicable notices.

Updated Online Guide Pages

Various Online Guide pages have been updated to reflect this change in policy.

Obsoleted Online Guide Pages

Topic: TAFDC

Book: Financial Requirements

Chapter: Assets

Page: Asset Types-Vehicles Examples

Topic: TAFDC

Book: Financial Requirements

Chapter: Assets

Page: Inaccessible Assets-TAFDC

Topic: EAEDC

Book: Basic Case Activities & Maintenance

Chapter: Closings and Denials

Page: Overview of Closings and Denials

Topic: TAFDC

Book: Basic Case Activities & Maintenance

Chapter: Closings and Denials

Page: Overviews of Closings and Denials

Topic: EAEDC

Book: General Nonfinancial Requirements

Chapter: Noncitizen

Page: Noncitizen Introduction

Topic: TAFDC

Book: Program Nonfinancial Requirements

Chapter: Noncitizen

Page Noncitizen Introduction-TAFDC

Questions

If you have any policy or procedural questions, after conferring with the appropriate TAO personnel, please have your Systems Information Specialists or TAO management email them to DTA.Procedural Issues.

Systems issues should be directed to the Systems Support Help Desk.