



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

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Commissioner

**Operations Memo 2014-4
January 30, 2014**

To: Department of Transitional Assistance Staff

From: Lydia Conley, Acting Assistant Commissioner for Policy, Program and External Relations

Re:  TAFDC and SNAP: 2014 Federal Poverty Guidelines

Overview

On January 24, 2014, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published the federal poverty guidelines (FPG) in the Federal Register. The poverty guidelines are used to calculate the eligibility standards for the TAFDC and SNAP programs as follows:

- TAFDC: *Income from the Parent(s) of a Teen Parent Under Age 18* (200 percent of the poverty guideline); and
- SNAP: *Gross Monthly Categorical Eligibility Income Standards* (200 percent of the poverty guideline).

Location of the Eligibility Standards

The TAFDC and SNAP eligibility charts and tables affected by the poverty guidelines are posted at www.mass.gov/dta. Effective January 24, 2014, the TAFDC and SNAP charts and tables were updated to reflect the increase in the poverty guidelines. Effective February 3, 2014, the SNAP charts and tables will be updated to reflect the increase in the poverty guidelines.

To view the new standards, select the Program Eligibility Charts & Tables link under Key Resources. Click the appropriate program and select the applicable chart or table.

BEACON Update Effective February 3, 2014, BEACON will begin using the increased eligibility standards in the calculation of income eligibility for TAFDC teen parents under age 18 living with a parent, and the gross monthly income test for categorically eligible SNAP households.

TAFDC Policy Reference A portion of the income from the parent(s) of a teen parent under age 18 living with his or her parents is countable in determining the eligibility and grant amount of a teen parent's TAFDC case in accordance with 106 CMR 204.236.

SNAP Policy References The Gross Monthly Categorical Eligibility Standards are based on household size and are adjusted each year based on the FPG in accordance with 106 CMR 364.976. See 106 CMR 365.180 for more details on determining SNAP categorical eligibility.

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