

From the Hotline

- Q. A previously closed recipient is reapplying for assistance. Should the AU Manager authorize a replacement MassEBT card?
- A. If the applicant no longer has his or her MassEBT card, the AU Manager should authorize a replacement card. If the applicant still has the old MassEBT card, the AU Manager should have the applicant take the MassEBT card to the IIS operator. The IIS operator will complete a “balance inquiry” using the old card. This inquiry will determine whether: (a) the MassEBT card is still in an Active Status on the EBT system, (b) the magnetic strip is working properly, and (c) the applicant remembers the correct PIN associated with that MassEBT card.

If a new MassEBT card and/or PIN is issued, performing a balance inquiry will verify that: (a) the case and card were successfully added to the EBT system, (b) the PIN was properly selected, and (c) the magnetic strip works. This step will prevent possible repeat visits to the TAO by the recipient due to the recipient’s inability to access his or her benefits.

- Q. I have an applicant who lives with her boyfriend, their common child and her child by a previous relationship. She is requesting TAFDC for herself and her child by a previous relationship as there is a deprivation factor of continued absence. Her boyfriend works full time and is not applying for assistance for himself or their common child. Can the applicant and the child by a previous relationship qualify as an assistance unit of two?
- A. No. Since there is no TAFDC work history requirement or designation of a principal earner, the common child has a deprivation factor based on the unemployment of his mother. Since all siblings related by blood who are themselves dependent children must be in the same assistance unit, the common child must be included in the TAFDC application. Additionally, since the parent(s) of a dependent child must be included in the same TAFDC assistance unit as the dependent child(ren), the common child’s father must be included in the TAFDC application and his income must be used to determine eligibility for an assistance unit of four. See 106 CMR 204.305.



- Q. I have a woman who is employed and applying for TAFDC for her stepdaughter only. Both natural parents are absent from the home. How is her income counted?
- A. Her income is not counted since she is (a) not the natural or adoptive parent of the dependent child, (b) not the spouse of a parent living in the home, and (c) not requesting assistance for herself. However, if she chooses to be included in the assistance unit, her income and assets would be countable. See 106 CMR 204.210(D), 204.305, 204.310, and 204.320.

FYI

Change in Benefit Date for “0” SSN for First Cycle July

Cash benefits for the first cycle in July for recipients whose SSN ends in “0” will be available July 1, 2001 for recipients on EBT and July 2, 2001 for recipients on Direct Deposit. For those recipients who receive checks, checks will be mailed for delivery on July 2 or July 3, 2001.

These changes are being made because these benefits are paid from the Fiscal Year 2002 funds and that Fiscal Year begins on July 1, 2001.