

## From the Hotline

- Q. I have an individual applying for TAFDC and expedited food stamp benefits. He has a car with a fair market value of \$9,000.00. How do I treat the value of the car for food stamp benefits?
- A. If he is approved for TAFDC, he would be categorically eligible for food stamp benefits and he would automatically satisfy the asset eligibility criteria. See 106 CMR 365.180(D).
- However, if he is not eligible for TAFDC, he would not be categorically eligible for food stamp benefits. In this case, the equity value would be exempt for one vehicle per household regardless of use, but the countable fair market value ( $\$9,000 - \$4,650 = \$4,350$ ) would make him ineligible because his assets exceed the Food Stamp Program limit of \$2,000. See 106 CMR 363.110 and 363.130(F)(1)a.1.
- Q. Is the Department required to provide interpretation services for non-English speaking applicants and recipients?
- A. Yes. Interpretation services must be made available to non-English speaking applicants and recipients and American Sign Language (ASL) users who call or come to a Transitional Assistance Office (TAO). They must not be turned away and told to return with their own interpreter. If a bilingual AU Manager or interpreter who speaks the language of the applicant or recipient is not available, the applicant or recipient should be given an appointment to return at a time when the TAO is able to provide interpretation services. However, if an applicant or recipient calls or comes to a TAO and prefers to use the services of his or her own interpreter, he or she is allowed to do so. See 106 CMR 701.360, 106 CMR 360.510, and Field Operations Memo 99-31.
- Q. A food stamp applicant receives Subsidized Adoption income for a severely disabled child. The child must stay in the hospital at least three days per week. Do we count this income toward the food stamp assistance unit's eligibility?
- A. Yes. Subsidized Adoption income is unearned income and must be counted in determining eligibility. Only income listed in 106 CMR 363.230 is excluded in determining eligibility for food stamp benefits.

## Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) Checks

### All State Letter 1199

This State Letter transmits the final regulations on Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) checks for DTA employees or other persons regularly providing client or support services in any DTA program or facility or in vendor agency programs funded by DTA.

## F.O.R. Families

### TAFDC *The TAFDC Procedural Guide Update 035*

- This update incorporates a change made to the F.O.R. Families Referral Form. The original was a two-sided form to be used for referring both adults and teen parents. There is now a separate form for teen parents.
- *The TAFDC Procedural Guide Update* also deletes the outdated fax number and contact name at DPH. The fax number to be used appears at the bottom of the forms: (617) 624-5003.