

From the Hotline

- Q.** Does the recent elimination of EA rental arrearages and disaster benefits (Field Operations Memos 2002-5, 2002-6, 20002-8 and 2002-8A) also apply to SSI Special Benefits for Aged and Disabled recipients? (These benefits cover natural disasters, fire, moving payments and burial payments.)
- A.** No. All SSI Special Benefits may still be issued to SSI recipients as they are not funded from any EA account.
- Q.** I have a TAFDC two-parent AU in which the father is disabled and the mother wants to stay home and care for her one-year-old baby. Can this mother be considered exempt as the child is under two years of age?
- A.** If one parent claims to be disabled, the other parent cannot claim an exemption due to having a youngest child under age two unless there is medical documentation that the parent claiming to be a disabled grantee is unable to care for the child in the household. Refer to 106 CMR 203.100 and *A User's Guide: Transitional Assistance Programs and BEACON* pages XI-A-1 through XI-A-7 for details.
- Q.** I have a food stamp client who works for our local school department and has an annual contract. He will not be working during the summer months and has opted to receive his income during the ten month school period. How do I consider his income?
- A.** When considering the income of school employees, remember that each employee may receive their earnings differently. Some are paid over 10 months and others are paid over a 12 month period. In both situations, teachers and school employees, who work under a renewable annual contract, are considered to be receiving their pay over the entire year even though they may opt to receive their salary only during the school year. Refer to 106 CMR 365.430 for more details.

FYI

Excess Medical Deduction

AU Managers are reminded that the reasonable cost of transportation and lodging to obtain medical treatment or service is an allowable

medical deduction for elderly and disabled food stamp AUs.

If the AU uses their own vehicle for transportation, they are eligible for mileage at the rate of 28 cents per mile. If the AU uses public transportation, they have to verify the costs incurred. Refer to 106 CMR 364.400(C) for more information on excess medical deductions.

Changes To Calculation for FS/SSFSP Combination Cases

FS, SSFSP State Letter 1219

This State Letter transmits changes to the treatment of income, assets and deductions of SSFSP members in combination FS/SSFSP AUs. These regulations also change the treatment of income, assets and deductions of persons failing to comply with SSN requirements and persons disqualified due to undocumented citizen status.

This change was made in an effort to save SSFSP monies and eliminate proration. BEACON has been modified to automatically calculate benefits for FS/SSFSP Combination AUs. AU Managers no longer have to prorate the income or deductions of SSFSP members. Additional information on this change will be issued shortly.