

Assistance Programs and BEACON, Chapter XIII-K-8 through XIII-K-17 and 106 CMR: 203.900.

- Q.** If I reduce the grant amount by ending a child's TAFDC eligibility for failing to provide verifications for the Learnfare requirement (as described in the previous question), can I then apply the Food Stamp Attributed Amount to avoid increasing the food stamp benefits for this AU?
- A.** No. Failure to provide verifications *is not* a Food Stamp Attributed reason. (Remember, however, that failure to meet the Learnfare school attendance requirement *is* a Food Stamp Attributed reason.) For more information on the Food Stamp Attributed Amount, refer to *A User's Guide: Transitional Assistance Programs and BEACON*, Chapter XIV-D-4 through XIV-D-9. Also, see 106 CMR: 363.220 for more details.
- Q.** A food stamp applicant recently arrived here in Massachusetts from Puerto Rico. While in Puerto Rico, she received the Nutritional Assistance

Program (NAP) benefit. Do I count the NAP benefit as income in determining her food stamp benefit amount?

- A.** No. These benefits are not considered income in the Food Stamp Program because, according to the USDA, the benefit is not provided in the form of money payable directly to the household.
- Q.** My applicant received NAP benefits a couple of weeks ago in Puerto Rico. Today (March 16, 2005), she's applying for food stamp benefits here in Massachusetts. If the applicant received an NAP benefit in Puerto Rico for the period beginning on March 1st and ending on March 31st, what is her food stamp start date?
- A.** If all other food stamp eligibility factors are met, this applicant's benefit start date is March 16, 2005. There is no delay in issuing food stamp benefits.

Transportation Changes

TAFDC

A User's Guide: Transitional Assistance Programs and BEACON - Update 57

This update transmits the following changes to Chapter XII, Section C: Transportation:

Division of Career Services (DCS) (formerly Division of Employment and Training (DET)) will no longer provide transportation payments for recipients who are participating in Basic Job Search or Structured Job Search. Transportation for eligible recipients will now be provided by TransAction Associates. No additional AU Manager action is required.

The minimum number of hours the recipient must work to receive transportation payments has changed from 30 hours per week to 20 hours per week.

"Prejudices are the chains forged by ignorance to keep men apart."

Countess of Blessington