

## FYI

### Income from Youthbuild and AmeriCorps

On June 29, 2001, the court issued a judgment in the *Prophett v. McIntire* suit. It declared the Department's practice of counting as income any allowances, earnings and payments to individuals participating in Youthbuild or AmeriCorps programs as a violation of federal law.

Because of this decision, the Department shall not count as income any allowances, earnings and payments an applicant or recipient receives from participating in Youthbuild or AmeriCorps programs. TAO Directors were sent a memo explaining this court decision and asked to share the information with their staff.

Accordingly, the instructions in the FYI in the June 2000 *Transitions* entitled "How to Count AmeriCorps Benefits" should no longer be followed.

The regulations will be revised in the near future to reflect this change.

## FYI

### Child Care Brochure and Mailing

The *Getting and Keeping Child Care* brochure shown below was mailed during July to all active TAFDC recipients and all TAFDC recipients closed within the past 12 months. A mailing will be done twice a year to provide child care information to both recipients and former recipients.

This brochure was developed by the Office of Child Care Services and the Department of Transitional Assistance. It explains how to get and keep child care, provides information for the recipient to review with the Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agency, and provides a list of the CCR&Rs.

AU Managers should give a copy of the *Getting and Keeping Child Care* brochure to TAFDC applicants and recipients during application, eligibility review or whenever a TAFDC recipient is completing an EDP. The child care brochure should also be made available in TAO reception areas.

An initial supply of the brochure in English will be sent to the TAOs in August and a Spanish version will be available soon.

**CHILD CARE**  
Getting and Keeping Child Care

Safe, affordable child care is the number one priority for any parent who is working, participating in the Structured Job Search Program, in a training program or going to school. This information will help you make decisions about this important priority.

If you are currently receiving TAFDC, or if you recently received TAFDC, you may be eligible for subsidized child care.

- If you are receiving TAFDC, you may be eligible for subsidized child care if you are working or participating in an approved employment plan activity. If you work or participate in an activity part-time (20 hours per week), you may be eligible for up to 30 hours of child care. If you work or participate in an activity full-time (30 hours per week), you may be eligible for up to 50 hours of child care.
- If you received TAFDC within the last year and are working, you may be eligible for child care. Depending on the hours you work, you may be eligible for either full or part-time child care (see above).
- If you received TAFDC more than one year ago (DTA calls this your "Post Transitional Year") and you are working and meet financial eligibility requirements, you may continue to be eligible for subsidized child care.

If you are eligible, you will receive a voucher to pay for the child care. The types of child care in Massachusetts are: child care centers, after school child care, family child care homes, in-home care and relative child care. You may choose to place your child in any type of child care program.


In order to receive subsidized child care you need to follow these steps:

See your DTA worker who will:

- Determine if you are eligible for subsidized child care
- Issue an authorization for child care which you need to bring to your local Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agency to get a voucher

Make an appointment with your CCR&R:

- Call your CCR&R for an appointment
- Meet with your CCR&R counselor who will explain:
  - What to look for when you visit child care programs
  - The different types of care available: family child care homes, child care centers and after school programs licensed by OCCS or care in your home or with a relative
  - How the child care is paid for: Some parents do not pay a fee, others pay a fee based on their income



The CCR&R counselor will then write a voucher to the provider you choose.

You are responsible for:

- Choosing your own child care program
- Visiting the child care program
- Making sure you have a valid voucher
- Determining the start date of your child's care

Remember:

- You must notify your DTA worker when you change activities
- You must notify your CCR&R counselor if your family size, income or activity changes.