

## From the Hotline

- Q.** A TAFDC recipient began participating in community service at our local elementary school. Since her only child is three years old, she is work program required. She requested child care for her son. Can we authorize child care services for this community service activity?
- A.** Yes, in this situation child care services may be authorized for community service participation. As a work program required grantee, this parent must be employed or engaged in another approved activity at least 20 hours each week. (Refer to 106 CMR 203.400 for more details on the work program requirement.) Since her child is only three years old, she can not confine her community service participation to school hours and therefore a child care authorization would be appropriate for this AU.
- Q.** A TAFDC work program required recipient just completed his 60-day job search period and has been unable to find work. He is a single parent with three school-aged children. Today he mentioned that he would perform community service work at a nonprofit in the neighborhood. While in the process of completing an EDP, he asked me if he would be eligible for child care services as a result of his community service participation. Can I authorize child care services for this activity?
- A.** Yes. However, in this case first determine whether the community service may be performed during normal school hours. As much as possible, if parents have school-aged children, any community service work should be performed during a child's regular school hours. If these hours are not possible at the site he selected, the parent should try to find a different community service site where he *can* participate during normal school hours. If a different community service referral is not possible for this AU, then it would be appropriate for the father to fulfill his work program requirement at this site; and it would be appropriate for the worker to authorize child care services for this activity.
- Q.** What if I determine there are no other possible community service activities available for the father described above, and I approve the activity but then find out that there is no child care available for the father?

- A.** If the community service referral is approved but child care is unavailable, then the father may claim good cause for not participating in the community service activity. Refer to 106 CMR 701.380 for more information on acceptable good cause reasons.

## TAFDC Transportation and Food Stamp Benefit Amount

TAFDC, FS

*A User's Guide: Transitional Assistance Programs and BEACON* Update 049

This update transmits the following changes:

- Chapter XII, Section C and Chapter XVI, Section H: Changes the maximum amount of transportation payments from \$60 to \$71.
- Chapter XVI, Section H: Removes the language that a food stamp benefit amount cannot equal \$1, \$3 or \$5.

"In all things that are purely social we can be as separate as the fingers, yet one as the hand in things essential to mutual progress."

Booker T. Washington (U.S. educator and writer, 1856-1915)