

FYI

Changes to the EOHHS Mass.gov DTA Homepage

This month you will see the following changes to the EOHHS mass.gov DTA homepage.

News and Updates

A link entitled *Notice of Resolution Agreement* has been added to the list of available options. When selected, the notice of the signed agreement between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights and the DTA will be displayed.

Research and Statistics:

The link to DTA Facts and Figures has been updated with January 2007 Grant Levels, Eligibility Standards and FY'07 Appropriations.

The program links (Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children; Food Stamps; Homeless; Supplemental Security Income; and Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children), when selected, display updated caseload information.

FYI

Medicare Part D Deductible Changes for 2007

The Medicare Modernization Act allows for changes in the Medicare Part D prescription

benefit each year. This means that each January participants will see a change in the amounts they pay for the premium and for the deductible. As stated in Field Operations Memo 2006-3, Medicare Part D has three levels of participation: Standard, Partial Extra Help or Full Extra Help. The overwhelming majority of FS-eligible participants qualify for either Full Extra Help or Partial Extra Help due to low income and assets. Therefore, some FS-eligible participants will continue to pay no premium or deductible, while others will pay a low premium and a low deductible.

As of January 1, 2007, the Standard deductible was increased from \$250 to \$265, the Partial Extra Help deductible was increased from \$50 to \$53 and the Full Extra Help deductible remains at \$0. The Medical Expenses window has been programmed to accept the new deductible amounts. The Health Insurance window did not require any reprogramming; it will continue to accept the varying Medicare Part D premium amounts.

FYI

TAFDC - ESP Increased Capacity

Due to increased demand, capacity has increased for the following ESP programs in the following TAOs:

Activity:

Supported Work and (including Job Search/ Job Readiness)

Vocational Rehabilitation Services (including Job Search/ Job Readiness)

Division of Career Services (DCS)(Job Search/ Job Readiness)
Office for Refugee and Immigrants (ORI) (including Job Search/Job Readiness)

TAOs:

Fall River, Lawrence Lowell

Dorchester, Boston Family Housing, Newmarket Sq., Former Davis Sq., Lowell and Lawrence. Outreach to additional providers in Worcester, Fall River and Framingham is ongoing

Brockton, Revere, Worcester, Malden, Fitchburg, and Taunton

Increasing capacity statewide at current locations.

TAOs will be notified as additional capacity increases.