



# Transitions

February 2019

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## Online Guide Transmittals

### **Cross Programs:**

#### **Non-countable Reimbursement Payments**

Online Guide Transmittal 2019-11

The Online Guide has been updated to clarify that income received by ESP participants in certain programs is non-countable income for both TAFDC and SNAP.

Income received by ESP participants in three programs is non-countable income for both TAFDC and SNAP.

Those programs are:

- More Than Words;
- Roca; and
- UTEC

Staff should contact the Procedural Issues Mailbox when a client is receiving income from participating in an ESP program similar to those listed here to have the income reviewed for consideration as non-countable income.

### **SNAP:**

#### **March Modified Issuance**

Online Guide Transmittal 2019-17

The U.S. government operated under a partial shutdown from December 22, 2018 to January 25, 2019. SNAP benefits were not immediately impacted and January 2019 benefits were issued per regular operations. States were instructed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to process and issue of February 2019 SNAP benefits no later than January 20th due to funding concerns. DTA was able to meet this deadline and ensure that eligible households received their February SNAP benefits.

States have received further instruction as it relates to the issuance of March SNAP benefits.

The purpose of this Online Guide Transmittal is to advise staff of modified March SNAP issuance dates for most clients.



## Online Guide Transmittals

### **TAFDC:**

#### **Temporary Procedures for Young Parent Program (YPP) Referral for Post-Secondary Education**

Online Guide Transmittal 2019-8

A temporary procedure is provided to allow the issuance of an ESP referral to match Young Parent Program's expanded services. It now includes pregnant and parenting clients who wish to pursue post-secondary education and training in addition to continuing to provide services to those who are currently out of school who do not have a high school diploma or its equivalent.

The purpose of this transmittal is to provide staff with a temporary procedure to allow for an ESP referral for YPP to be issued when the client has already completed high school or its equivalent until a system enhancement is completed.

#### **Enhancement to Disability Tracking Page**

Online Guide Transmittal 2019-9

TAFDC applicants or clients claiming a disability must complete a Disability Supplement for a determination by UMASS/DES to request an exemption from certain TAFDC program rules.

Effective February 25, 2019, a BEACON enhancement will be made to the Disability tracking page that allows clients to keep their exemption if the Disability Supplement return date to DTA is prior to the end of their disability exemption Expiration date. BEACON will now read the Supplement return (date) field instead of the Received at PRO date field.

Once this enhancement is implemented OLG 2019-5 will be obsolete.

#### **The 100% Earned Income Disregard and Need Payment Standards Chart**

Online Guide Transmittal 2019-13

To incentivize work and help clients to gain economic mobility before leaving TAFDC, some clients are eligible to receive a 100% Earned Income Disregard if the total household's countable income does not exceed 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for up to 12 cyclical payments.

An additional chart has been made available in the Online Guide to provide a quick reference for determining how much income a filing unit can earn to remain under the 200% FPL limit, as well as the payment standards for assistance units with and without a rental allowance.



## Online Guide Transmittals

### Work Requirement participation, Sanction, and the 60-month clock BEACON edits.

Online Guide Transmittal 2019-15

To assist families in achieving economic stability, the Department offers TAFDC families a variety of Employment Service activities. Engaging families in these activities quickly, keeping them engaged, and providing them with the supports necessary to do so are critical components of helping families along their own paths of economic mobility.

A BEACON enhancement scheduled for February 25, 2019, will help facilitate engagement and support and maintain Department policy on:

- TAFDC work program participation by monitoring participation for multiple activities prior to making a determination,
- the sanction process by simplifying the work program sanctioning process, and
- the 60-month Federal clock by resetting the work program sanction level and presumptive medical disability.

### Automation of Transportation Payments for ESP Participants

Online Guide Transmittal 2019-18

Effective February 25, 2019, updates have been made to the automated transportation payment process. BEACON will issue the monthly transportation payment at the first cyclical benefit issuance for every TAFDC client eligible for the payment with an active EDP and an active ESP activity.

TAFDC clients who are participating in an ESP activity (including employment), are eligible to receive a monthly transportation payment of \$80. However, community service-only clients are not eligible for the transportation payment.

### State Letter:

#### **106 CMR 704:TCAP - TAFDC Budgetary Changes**

State Letter 1398

The emergency 106 CMR 704 Transitional Cash Assistance Program (TCAP) regulations promulgated via State Letter 1397 are being revised based on comments received during the public notice comment period.

The revision adjusted regulatory language to clarify that clients do not lose opportunity for the six-month disregard if they stop working and adjusted regulatory language to clarify that clients may receive the a six-month disregard more than once under certain circumstances. This regulation change is effective February 8, 2019.

## From the Forms File

### New Flyer

*TAFDC Work Program Road Map Flyer (TAFDC-WP-RM-Flyer)(2/2019)*

The TAFDC Work Program Road Map Flyer was developed to replace the already obsoleted TAFDC Work Program brochure (TAFDC-WPIB). This flyer was developed to provide TAFDC applicants and recipients with an overview of the Employment Services Program, promote the TAFDC budget reforms and increased access to child care, and act as a tool for staff to help facilitate client-centered engagement.

## **FYI**

There are no FYIs for this month.

## TAO Meeting Notes