

FYIs

Changes to DTA Online

This month, you will see the following changes to **DTA Online**:

- All references to the Falmouth TAO have been removed from the **Field Operations** tab and associated city and town cross references have been updated;
- All references to the Falmouth TAO have been removed from “Related Systems Information” accessed through the **Policy Online** side-bar option and associated city and town cross references have been updated;
- A TAO Emails – Special Procedures Memo on the TAFDC Clothing Allowance has been added and is accessible through the **Policy Online** side-bar option;
- A letter from Commissioner Kehoe concerning the 2008 Performance Recognition Award Winners has been added and is accessible through the **Recognition/Awards** side-bar option;
- A change was made to the “Noncountable Assets – Retirement Accounts” Food Stamp Program Job Aid accessible through the **Policy Online** side-bar option;
- Changes were made to the “Overview” page on the **Policy and Program Management** tab; and
- Changes were made to the “Who We Are” page on the **Administration & Finance** tab.

Changes to the EOHHS mass.gov DTA Homepage

Changes to the EOHHS mass.gov DTA Homepage include:

- Updates to our Homeless caseload information which can be accessed by selecting “Homeless” beneath the **Research & Statistics** side-bar;
- The August 2008 Facts and Figures Report which can be accessed by selecting “DTA Facts and Figures” beneath the **Research & Statistics** side-bar;
- Removing all references to the Falmouth TAO from “DTA Office Locations” beneath the **Key Resources** side-bar and updating associated city and town cross references; and
- The Food Stamp Eligibility Charts and Issuance Tables have been included as a separate option along with Food Stamp Program regulations which can be accessed by selected DTA Regulations beneath the **Key Resources** side-bar.

Holiday Gift Verification - Globe Santa Mailing

In October, active TAFDC, EAEDC, and Food Stamp recipients who reside in the Globe Santa geographical area received the “Boston Globe Santa – Holiday Gift Verification Notice.” Recipients may send this notice with their letter to Globe Santa requesting to participate in the Boston Globe Santa program.

This verification notice lists the name, date of birth and gender of all children ‘age 12 years or younger’. The age of children who can participate *in the Globe Santa program** changed from 14 years of age and younger to 12 years of age and younger.

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A second mailing will occur in the middle of November for new client families that were approved after the first mailing.

Families who did not receive the notice or need another Boston Globe Santa – Holiday Verification Notice, will contact either the Central Office Income Verification Unit at 1-800-632-8095 or their case manager. This notice is available from the Letter Request window in BEACON.

In the event a client requests replacement of his or her Globe Santa verification notice between October 13, 2008 to October 27th, 2008, do not generate it from the Letter Request window. Take the client's name and ask him or her to wait until after October 27th for the replacement letter. BEACON will be updated and will display only those children age 12 and younger who are eligible to participate in the program.

* Please note that there is no age limit on the generic notice—different organizations may have different age requirements. For example, Marine Corps Reserve units have authorized distribution of toys to children up to 17 years of age through their “Toys for Tots” program in the following areas: South/Southeast Plymouth, NorthEast Bristol, Norfolk and Worcester Counties. The program will also distribute toys to individuals older than 17 in special cases.

Revised Posters

In the coming weeks Transitional Assistance Offices will receive revised, reformatted and laminated posters. Posters are to be displayed in TAO waiting areas visible to all. **Old versions of these posters must be removed and replaced with the revised versions.** Please see the following list.

Required posters to display in TAO waiting areas:

1. *Policy of Nondiscrimination Programmatic Access and Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity (AAEO Poster)* (English and Spanish)
2. *Public Notice (ADA Poster)* (English and Spanish)
3. *You Deserve to Be Safe (DV Poster -I)* (English and Spanish)
4. *Do You Have a Disability? (OCR-Poster-I)* (English and Spanish)
5. *DTA Mission Statement (DTA MS – 2008)* (English and Spanish)
6. *Good Cause (GC- Poster)* (English and Spanish)

Required posters already displayed in TAO waiting areas:

1. *And Justice for All (FS-USDA)*
2. *Do You Need an Interpreter? (Point to Your Language)*
3. *DTA Orientation Sessions (OS Poster)* (English and Spanish)
4. *Having Trouble Getting Verifications (VPoster)* (Multiple languages)
5. *File Your 2008 Tax (EITC Poster)* (English and Spanish)

Required posters to display in areas other than TAO waiting areas as space allows:

1. *Time is Running Out (Time Limit Poster)* (English and Spanish)
2. *Do You Have questions, concerns, problems relating to your case? (Recipient Services Poster)* (English and Spanish)
3. *Are you a teen parent, a client of TAFDC or an EAEDC family? (RBP Poster)* (English and Spanish)
4. *Branding Posters (English)*

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FYIs (Continued from page 9)**Verifying Extended Unemployment Compensation Benefits**

Unemployment compensation (UC) benefits were extended an additional 13 weeks in Massachusetts, beginning July 7, 2008. In the course of an application interview or at the time of the next client contact, case managers must advise clients who are nearing the end of their UC benefits or clients who have recently exhausted UC benefits to apply for an extension. Information about extended benefits can be found on the Division of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) website at www.mass.gov/dua.

Currently, the Unemployment Insurance Information Inquiry screen does not include extension information. A client's remaining balance might show zero, regardless of the fact that extension benefits are available or are currently being paid.

Note: UC extension payments do not include dependent allowances.

DUA is in the process of updating this screen. In the meantime, you may call DUA at (617) 626-6660 to ask about UC Extension benefit. Case managers may ask:

- if a client is actively collecting Extended Unemployment Compensation (EUC08) benefits;
- what the client's EUC08 benefit rate is; and
- what the client's EUC08 balance is.

You will be notified when the Unemployment Insurance Information Inquiry screen has been updated.

Dates to Remember

October 8, 2008	Senior Benefits Expo Taunton State Hospital, 60 Hodges Avenue 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
October 10, 2008	Senior Benefits Expo Greenleaf Community Center, 1188 Parker Street 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
October 13, 2008	Columbus Day
October 14, 2008	Senior Benefits Expo VETS, Inc., 69 Grove Street 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.