

In an era of trying to increase recipient participation and **believing all recipients can** achieve self-sufficiency through engagement in work and work-related activities, our examination of the agency attempts to provide insight on what DTA stands for...how are we perceived (both internally and externally)...and how we make sure we convey the very business we're about. Some of you have been part of this undertaking. Several focus groups have been conducted across the state with recipients, DTA staff, as well as contact with various state legislators and our providers.

Within the weeks ahead we will be unveiling the outcome of the project which will include a new logo and tag line for the agency. I think it will be one that is exciting and will deliver a powerful message to all of us within DTA, the public, and those we serve. And though it will not change the name of the Department (that would require an act of the Legislature), it will better convey what we're about, what we believe, and what all of us strive to do each and every day. So stay tuned....

On a separate topic, I want to mention the retirement of Cescia Derderian, the Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations. Cescia has worked for DTA for 36 years and will be retiring at the end of November. Throughout my nearly five years at DTA, I have known Cescia to be nothing but one of the most outstanding public servants throughout the Commonwealth. Always professional and unfailingly committed to the agency and especially the field, Cescia's judgment, style, and vision were always right-on. In any of the most challenging situations I could imagine as Commissioner, I would want Cescia to be right by my side. I will miss her counsel, presence, and certainly her friendship. I wish her many, many years of good health and enjoyment in her retirement. She deserves it.

Sincerely,



John Wagner, Commissioner

From the Hotline

- Q.** A single mother receiving FS benefits as a household of one recently reported that her adult son had returned to her home. She said he is a student attending a local college full time and that he wants to be included in her food stamp AU. He is currently 23 years old. Is he eligible to join her AU as a student?
- A.** Yes, he could qualify for FS benefits as student if he meets student eligibility requirements. However, because of his age, he may be eligible for his own FS AU if he purchases and prepares separately from his mother. See 106 CMR 362.410 for student eligibility requirements.
- Q.** A single individual applied for FS benefits. He meets the qualifications of an eligible student. Although he has a meal plan through the college, it does not pay for all of his meals. Is he eligible for FS benefits?
- A.** It depends. To be eligible for the Food Stamp Program, this student must be purchasing and preparing a majority of his own meals. Therefore, if the student's

meal plan covers a majority of meals, the student would be ineligible for FS benefits.

- Q.** A full time student came in today and applied for FS benefits. He is not planning to work, but says he is caring for his five-year-old daughter. Also living in the home is his wife who is the mother of this child. Are the three members of this household eligible for FS benefits?
- A.** In this situation, the family may be eligible for FS benefits, but only one parent in the AU can be responsible for the care of their dependent child under six. If the father, who also happens to be a full-time student wants to claim this responsibility, then the mother is Food Stamp E&T required, unless she meets an exemption other than the caretaker of their child. For a complete list of Food Stamp E&T exemptions, refer to 106 CMR 362.310 (B).



From the Forms File

Revised Forms

The following forms have been revised due to a change in the name of the component activity of Basic Job Search/Structured Job Search to Job Search/Job Readiness and the organizational name change of Office for Child Care Services (OCCS) to Department of Early Education and Care (EEC).

02-190-1106-05

02-189-1106-05 (S)

TAFDC-1 (Rev. 11/2006)

Employment Development Plan

02-752-1106-05

02-753-1106-05 (S)

24-EX-AR (Rev. 11/2006)

Additional Extension Request

02-737-1106-05

02-738-1106-05 (S)

24-EXAGR (Rev. 11/2006)

Extension Agreement

02-730-1106-05

24-EXHF (Rev. 11/2006)

24-Month Extension History Form

02-725-1106-05

02-726-1106-05 (S)

24-EXR (Rev. 11/2006)

24-Month Extension Request

02-740-1106-05

02-741-1106-05 (S)

TAFDC-EXTB (Rev. 11/2006)

TAFDC Extensions Beyond the 24-Month Period

The following forms have been revised to include a separate section where the name of the household member(s) involved and a description of the incident(s)/violation(s) must be included, as well as the date of each of the incident(s)/violation(s). Refer to Field Operations Memo 2006-50 for more information.