

From the Hotline

If you have any questions on this column or other policy and procedural material, please have your Hotline designee call the **Policy Hotline at 617-348-8478**.

The questions below concern new education and training options available to DTA clients. More information on this topic can also be found in Field Operations Memo 2008-42 and Field Operations Memo 2008-50.

- Q.** Can TAFDC clients meet their work program requirement by participating in an educational program beyond the associate's degree level?
- A.** Yes. A client may participate in either a four-year or advanced-degree program in order to meet his or her TAFDC work program requirement, as long as the 12-month education and training limit has not been reached. To determine whether or not a client has used 12 months of education or training, review the Education/Training counter found on the TAFDC tab of the Work Requirements window.
- Q.** I have a TAFDC client who is reapplying for cash benefits. I noticed on BEACON that she has already used 12 months of training and education as an ESP component activity. Can this client still continue with her four-year college course of study?
- A.** Yes. Your TAFDC client who has used 12 months of training and education must enroll and participate in another ESP activity(ies)

to meet her work program requirement, but continue to pursue her current course of study.

- Q.** My TAFDC client has already used her 12 months of training and education, but is still attending classes and plans to continue taking additional courses towards her four-year degree. She has a 20-hour work program requirement and is currently employed 22 hours each week. Can I refer her for child care services to cover both her employment activity and her college class hours?
- A.** Yes. In addition to referring your client for child care services that cover her work program required hours of employment, you may also refer your client for child care services to cover the additional hours she needs for other component activities that support her Employment Development Plan (EDP) goal, including four-year college classes.

For more information on the EDP, refer to 106 CMR 207.110. Additional information on ESP support services is located at 106 CMR 207.210.

- Q.** Now that my TAFDC client is enrolled and participating in a four-year college, do I need to make sure she meets the Food Stamp Program's definition of a qualifying student?
- A.** No. As stated in 106 CMR 362.410 (E), a client who is receiving TAFDC complies with the Food Stamp Program's student eligibility requirements.