



# Transitions

January 2020

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Cross Programs: ADA Accommodation Updates	2
Cross Programs: Treatment of Census Earnings	2
Cross Program: Entering Employment Information	2
Cross Programs: 2020 Social Security COLA for TAFDC, EAEDC and SNAP	2
SNAP: Clarification on Verifying Dependent Care Transportation Costs	3
SNAP: ABAWD Work Rules Waived Areas	3
Client Success Story	4



## Online Guide Transmittals

### Cross Programs:

#### **ADA Accommodation Updates**

Online Guide Transmittal Update 2019-95

Added procedures for ending CAC-only Department initiated accommodations when a CAC cannot implement the accommodation(s) due to no client contact.

Provided guidance clarification to the Authorized Representative role and how it pertains to providing an Authorized Representative accommodation.

#### **Treatment of Census Earnings**

Online Guide Transmittal 2019-98

Earnings of temporary decennial census workers will be noncountable income for DTA programs.

#### **Entering Employment Information**

Online Guide Transmittal 2020-5

When a client's wage stubs or other earned income verification does not include the number of hours worked, but includes the client's hourly rate, staff are able to divide the gross income listed on the earned income verification by the hourly rate and use the result as the number of hours worked.

If hours worked is not available and cannot be calculated, staff are advised to explore collateral contact if it is feasible for the client.

#### **2020 Social Security COLA for TAFDC, EAEDC and SNAP**

Online Guide Transmittal 2020-8

Every year in January, the Social Security Administration (SSA) implements a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for RSDI and SSI recipients. This year the COLA increase is 1.6%. This COLA can affect TAFDC, EAEDC and SNAP benefits.

## Online Guide Transmittals

### **SNAP:**

#### **Clarification on Verifying Dependent Care Costs**

Online Guide Transmittal 2020-1

Dependent-care-related transportation costs that are not based on the federal mileage rate, such as the cost of public transportation or Uber, can be verified by written self-declaration.

A client may be credited with transportation costs related to dependent care, even if s/he does not specifically incur costs for the care of the child or adult.

#### **ABAWD Work Rules Waived Areas**

Online Guide Transmittal 2020-6

Certain clients are exempt from the ABAWD Work Rules because they reside in waived areas. Between January 1, 2020 and March 31, 2020, there will be additional waived areas.

## Client Success Story

Jason is a single father of a 10-year-old daughter. He has been enrolled in the CIES program at the Corporation for Public Management (CPM) for about 5 months and has overcome quite a few obstacles. He was living with his daughter's maternal grandmother, looking for a job and attending his daughter's therapy appointments. Unfortunately, they were forced to leave the home without notice and became homeless. The team at CPM helped Jason obtain vouchers to stay in a hotel while he and his daughter awaited shelter placement. They were finally placed in a shelter in Greenfield and soon after Jason was offered a job at HiD Liners with a starting rate of \$16.25 per hour. He is currently employed full-time and working with the shelter to secure permanent housing through the Homebase program.

If you have a Client Success story that you would like to share, please email [Jessica.Cunha@state.ma.us](mailto:Jessica.Cunha@state.ma.us).

## TAO Meeting Notes