



Massachusetts Department of Public Welfare
600 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02111

FAX# 95-10
FIELD OPERATIONS MEMO 95-11
JANUARY 31, 1995

TO: LOCAL OFFICE STAFF
FROM: JOYCE SAMPSON
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR FIELD AND ELIGIBILITY OPERATIONS
RE: FY95 FUNDING FOR THE AFDC PROGRAM - UPDATE #1

On January 12, 1995, you received Field Operations Memo 95-8 on the status of the AFDC funding and the notice sent to recipients during the second cycle in January 1995. As of this date, the AFDC funding situation has not been resolved.

As a result, it is necessary to notify AFDC recipients that the check they receive during the first cycle in February 1995 will be the last AFDC check until the funding is restored. A copy of check insert notice is on the reverse side. A similar notice will be sent to direct deposit cases and those AFDC cases who do not receive a check because the grant amount is less than \$10.00.

EAEDC and RRP recipients are not impacted by this potential lack of funding. AFDC recipients' eligibility for Food Stamps and Medicaid will continue.

Reminder: Although the notice has an 800 number for recipients to call if there are questions, many calls will come to the local office. These questions should be answered at the local office. Your director has provided you with information regarding anticipated questions and answers. Do not simply refer the recipient to the 800 number.

The Department has been sued on this funding issue. A hearing is scheduled for later this week.

We will keep you informed about any developments in this situation.

In January, we informed you that current funding for the AFDC program would run out on February 15, 1995 unless legislation was enacted to continue funding the program. Although the Legislature is now considering the status of the AFDC program, funding legislation has not yet been enacted. We remain hopeful that funding legislation will be enacted soon and that you will not lose any assistance. Until funding is restored, however, the enclosed check will be your last check. Your eligibility for Food Stamps and Medicaid will continue.

If you currently attend a training program through the Mass JOBS program; your children are in child care paid by the Commonwealth, or you receive transportation money from the Commonwealth to attend a training program, funding for these programs will also be interrupted until funding legislation has been enacted.

The Department is required to take these actions because it may not spend money without an appropriation. The Legal authority for these actions is M.G.L. c. 29, sections 6D, 26, 27 and 29 and the Commonwealth's withdrawal from the AFDC program which will occur absent further appropriation. Because the funding laws affect all AFDC recipients, there are no administrative appeals of these actions.

We are trying to resolve this situation as quickly as possible. If you have any questions, please call 1-800-249-2007.

If you are an EAEDC or RRP recipient please disregard this notice because there is sufficient funding in those programs.

Joseph Gallant
Commissioner