



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Transitional Assistance


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Online Guide Transmittal 2021-79
October 28, 2021

To: Department of Transitional Assistance Staff
From:  Sarah Stuart, Associate Commissioner for Change Management
Re: Cross Program: Updates to the Child Tax Credit COVID-19 OLG Page

Overview

As part of The American Rescue Plan Act, for the first time, families had the option of having one half of a family's total Child Tax Credit paid out in monthly installments.

Payments received through the expanded Child Tax Credits as part of The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, including the Child Tax Credit monthly installments beginning July 15th, 2021 and continuing through December 2021 is "income excluded by law" and is considered non-countable for SNAP, TAFDC, and EAEDC.

DTA clients received a text message in June 2021 advising of the Child Tax Credit and the associated website to assist clients with obtaining more information. Additionally, a second text message was sent out in six languages: English, Spanish, Haitian Creole, Portuguese (Brazilian), Simplified Chinese, and Vietnamese in September 2021 letting clients know that they may still be eligible for their missed stimulus payments and Child Tax Credits. Clients with Heightened Level of Security (HLS) or who have affirmatively opted-out, are not sent text messages.

Language regarding counting Child Tax Credits as assets has been removed due to updated guidance regarding the elimination of EAEDC and TAFDC asset limits.

Purpose

This Online Guide Transmittal advises staff of an additional text message that went out in six languages to DTA clients regarding their child tax credit and how to determine if they are owed any additional Child Tax Credit funds. Additionally, language regarding counting assets has been removed.

Revised COVID-19 Page

Book: COVID-19
Page: Expanded Child Tax Credits

Questions

If you have any policy or procedural questions, after conferring with the appropriate TAO personnel, please have your Systems Information Specialists or TAO management email the DTA Mailbox.

Systems issues should be directed to the Systems Support Help Desk.
