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Department of Transitional Assistance

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Online Guide Transmittal 2024-59
October 10, 2024

To: Department of Transitional Assistance Staff

From:  Sarah Stuart, Associate Commissioner for Local Implementation and Special Populations

Re: Cross Programs: Citizens from Compacts of Free Association (COFA) Nations

Overview

The Compacts of Free Association (COFA) are a series of treaties between the United States, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI).

On March 9, 2024, President Biden signed The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024 into law. This Act added Compacts of Free Association (COFA) citizens living in the U.S. to the list of noncitizens eligible to receive federal public benefits, such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance of Needy Families (TANF), as soon as they enter the U.S.

These individuals are not subject to any waiting period and are immediately eligible for SNAP and TAFDC benefits as long as they meet all other DTA program financial and non-financial eligibility requirements. EAEDC clients are never subject to a 5-year waiting period.

Purpose

The purpose of this Online Guide Transmittal is to advise staff of:

- Compacts of Free Association (COFA) citizens being added to the list of noncitizens eligible to immediately receive federal public benefits; and
 - corresponding guidance in the Online Guide.
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**New Online
Guide Pages**

Topic: EAEDC
Book: General Nonfinancial Requirements
Chapter: Noncitizen
Subchapter: Eligible Qualified Noncitizens
Page: Citizens from Compacts of Free Association (COFA) Nations - EAEDC

Topic: SNAP
Book: Eligibility Requirements
Chapter: Noncitizen
Subchapter: Eligible Qualified Noncitizens
Page: Citizens from Compacts of Free Association (COFA) Nations - SNAP

Topic: TAFDC
Book: Program Nonfinancial Requirements
Chapter: Noncitizen
Subchapter: Eligible Qualified Noncitizens
Page: Citizens from Compacts of Free Association (COFA) Nations - TAFDC

**Updated
Online Guide
Pages**

Topic: EAEDC
Book: General Nonfinancial Requirements
Chapter: Noncitizen
Page: Noncitizen Introduction- EAEDC

Topic: SNAP
Book: Eligibility Requirements
Chapter: Noncitizen
Page: Noncitizen Introduction – SNAP

Topic: TAFDC
Book: Program Nonfinancial Requirements
Chapter: Noncitizen Requirements
Page: Noncitizen Introduction – TAFDC

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 them to [DTA.Procedural Issues@massmail.state.ma.us](mailto:DTA.ProceduralIssues@massmail.state.ma.us).

Systems issues should be directed to the Systems Support Help Desk at DTA-DL-ITRequests@MassMail.State.MA.US.
