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Field Operations Memo 2001-33
August 27, 2001

To: Transitional Assistance Office Staff

From:  Cescia Derderian, Acting Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations

Re: TAFDC - Clothing Allowance, September 2001

Introduction The Department will pay a nonrecurring clothing allowance for September 2001 for TAFDC recipients. The clothing allowance is \$150 per recipient under the age of 19. The clothing allowance is prorated for those eligible in September 2001 but who have a start date after September 1, 2001.

Desk Guide Pages two and three are a desk guide for AU Managers. The desk guide includes the clothing allowance payment schedule. No action needs to be taken by AU Managers to have the clothing allowance payments issued. The payments are authorized by Central Office.

Direct Deposit/EBT Recipients on direct deposit will receive the clothing allowance as a separate payment that will be deposited into their bank account. Recipients on EBT will receive the clothing allowance as a separate payment that will be transferred into their EBT account.

Questions If you have any questions, please have your Hotline designee call the Policy Hotline at 617-348-8478.

Clothing Allowance Desk Guide for September 2001

Who All TAFDC recipients under age 19 who are active September 1, 2001 or TAFDC-eligible during the month of September 2001 are eligible for a clothing allowance. A child born after the family cap date is ineligible for a clothing allowance, unless a waiver of the family cap has been granted.

Amount A separate systems-generated payment is issued for:

- \$150 per recipient under age 19 eligible September 1, 2001; or
- a prorated amount, if eligible for part of September 2001.

BEACON will perform an eligibility test on all applicants who are approved for TAFDC after September 1, 2001 using the August Eligibility Standards. If the applicant is ineligible with these lower standards, BEACON will perform a second test of eligibility using the higher, September clothing allowance standards. If the applicant passes this test, BEACON will issue a payment for a portion of the \$150.00 amount per recipient under age 19. The following informational message will appear at the Interview Wrap-up EBC Results window for these AUs:

“This AU is not eligible for TAFDC using the regular Standard of Need, but is eligible for a Clothing Allowance in the amount of \$XXX.XX.”

Notices English and Spanish - (NCA- 9/01)

Policy 106 CMR 204.400 through 204.425
Eligibility standards are increased \$277.50 per applicant/recipient under age 19, and Need and Payment Standards are increased \$150 per applicant/recipient under age 19. In October 2001, the standards return to regular amounts. The system recalculates eligibility and sends notices to recipients no longer eligible for TAFDC benefits.

**Payment
Dates**

The clothing allowance payment will be available to grantees with SSNs ending in:

0 to 4 on August 30, 2001 for direct deposit and EBT payments;
and

5 to 9 on August 31, 2001 for direct deposit payments and
September 1, 2001 for EBT payments.

Subsequent deposit/transfer dates will be September 13, October 12
and November 13 for cases opened/reopened after September 1, 2001

**Payment
Information**

Information on the date and amount of a grantee's clothing allowance may be found by accessing the BB windows on Gateway or the Benefit History tab on BEACON.

**Effect on
Food Stamp
Benefits**

The clothing allowance payment is not countable income for food stamp purposes as it is considered a one-time nonrecurring payment.
