



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

CHARLES D. BAKER  
Governor

KARYN POLITO  
Lieutenant Governor

MARYLOU SUDDERS  
Secretary

JEFF McCUE  
Commissioner

Dear Partner,

**This fall, the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) is updating its economic assistance programs benefits: TAFDC (Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children) and EAEDC (Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children) to further support clients' upward economic mobility. The updates will create a change in DTA benefit levels, which may impact benefits clients receive from other agencies. Clients will receive a notice from DTA if their grant amount changes. Please review the updates carefully.**

**Important changes that begin in October:**

**Improving Access to Child Care**

- If a client is looking for an Employment Services Program activity, or employment, he/she can get 3 months of child care to find employment or enroll in an activity.
- If a client gets into an approved activity (including work, education, training, or community service), he/she can get 12 months of child care. This means that clients will have stable child care for their children for a whole year even if they change their activity.

**Important changes that begin in November:**

**Income from Work:** Every dollar a client makes from work he/she now gets to keep. This is called the *100% earned income disregard*. It means that, for qualifying clients, income from work will not count against the TAFDC grant. If a client is currently working, this income disregard will last for six months. A client will get to keep his/her TAFDC eligibility as long as his/her household's total gross income remains under 200% of the federal poverty level. For a family of 3, the federal poverty level is \$3,463 a month. If a client is not working now but gets a job in the future, earnings will not be counted for six months. After 6 months, half of the client's earnings will be counted if he/she still qualifies for TAFDC.

**Grant Increase for Work Program Required Families:** All work program required TAFDC families will see a 2.75% increase in their grant. This means an increase for most families of \$10 per month.

**Higher Asset Limit:** The asset limit will increase from \$2,500 to \$5,000. This means clients will be able to save more while keeping their benefits.

**Homeless Individuals Grant Increase:** EAEDC grants will be increased to \$303.70 per month from \$92.80 per month for clients who have no established place of residence, pay no shelter costs, or live in a temporary emergency shelter.

If you have questions about these changes, you can contact John Stella, Director of Economic Assistance at the Department of Transitional Assistance, at [John.Stella@MassMail.State.MA.US](mailto:John.Stella@MassMail.State.MA.US).

*Important Note: If a client also receives SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits, these changes may result in a reduced SNAP benefit amount or case closure. A client's case manager can explain how these changes impact SNAP benefits and what options may be available to the client.*

Regards,  
The Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance