

## From the Hotline

This edition of *From the Hotline* highlights the relocation benefit process. The relocation benefit is an important tool to help families obtain permanent housing. It is important that all TAFDC families in temporary shelter be aware of this benefit and take advantage of it, as appropriate. The questions below highlight some instances when a family is not eligible for a relocation benefit. For more information on relocation benefits, refer to 106 CMR 705.350 and the *EA User's Guide*, page VI-5.

**Q.** TAFDC benefits for a family were closed in August of this year. Recently, the former grantee returned to our office requesting a relocation benefit. Is the family eligible?

**A. No.** To be eligible for relocation benefits, you must be an active TAFDC assistance unit or an EAEDC family assistance unit that has been living in a shelter or teen structured living program for 60 days or more.

**Q.** A TAFDC assistance unit had its Emergency Assistance shelter benefits terminated last month when a relative agreed to house the assistance unit and they moved in with the relative. Now, the TAFDC family would prefer to move elsewhere and is requesting a relocation benefit. Does this TAFDC AU meet the requirements for a relocation benefit?

**A. No.** A relocation benefit may only be authorized when the TAFDC assistance unit has expenses related to securing permanent housing. These expenses could include items and services such as advance rent, security deposit, rent arrearages, utility arrearages or deposit, storage or moving expenses. Because the family has moved in with the relative, the assistance unit is ineligible for the benefit.

**Q.** An AU was transferred into our office last week after the family moved into an apartment in our area. Before moving, the prior office authorized \$500 in relocation benefits. Now that the family has moved into its apartment, they are requesting an additional \$250 in relocation benefits. The maximum allowable relocation benefit is \$750. Should I authorize the additional \$250 amount?

**A. No.** An additional relocation benefit could be issued only if the worker in the prior office neglected to properly complete the SSPS procedures on an already approved relocation benefit. Since the assistance unit is already physically present in their new apartment, additional relocation benefits cannot be authorized.

## TAFDC APs Receiving SSI

### TAFDC Field Operations Memo 2002-27

A recent match with BENDEX/SDX files indicated that 289 currently active TAFDC APs are receiving SSI. The same match also indicated that a number of EAEDC APs are receiving SSI. These EAEDC APs will be processed (closed) by Central Office. *No additional AU Manager action is required for the EAEDC APs.*

While some of the TAFDC APs may be appropriately receiving the SSI benefits for a dependent not included in the TAFDC AU, a review of these TAFDC APs is required by AU Managers to determine which APs can remain active and which need to be closed. This Field Operations Memo gives TAO staff instructions for processing these AUs.