



William F. Weld
Governor
Argeo Paul Cellucci
Lieutenant Governor

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Transitional Assistance
600 Washington Street • Boston MA 02111

Joseph Gallant
Secretary
Claire McIntire
Commissioner

Fax 97- 14
Field Operations Memo 97-11
January 31, 1997

To: Local Office Staff
From: Joyce Sampson, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations
Re: Food Stamp Program - Teen Parent Structured Living Placements

As part of the signed agreement between the teen parent and the Structured Living Program (TLP), the teen parent will be required to give her food stamp allotment to the TLP. The TLP will use the food stamp benefits to buy food for the teen parent and her child(ren) and instruct the teen in proper nutrition, food purchase, food preparation and budgeting.

Local offices must support the TLPs by telling teen parents about this requirement. If a teen parent questions this requirement, instruct the teen parent that contributing the food stamp benefits is a condition of living in the TLP.

Use the Payment Standard for Exempt Assistance Units with No Rent Allowance (see 106 CMR 204.420) to determine the amount of food stamp benefits for teen parents and their children. The shelter costs of teen parents residing in TLPs for food stamp calculation purposes shall be the portion of the cash grant contributed to the TLP. The teen parents have no utility costs for food stamp calculation purposes.

| <i>Examples:</i> | | | |
|---|-------------|---|-------------|
| Two-person teen parent household in TLP with no other income | | Three-person teen parent household in TLP with no other income | |
| TAFDC Grant | \$ 446 | TAFDC Grant | \$ 539 |
| Standard Deduction | <u>-134</u> | Standard Deduction | <u>-134</u> |
| Net Income | 312 | Net Income | 405 |
| <i>FS Allotment</i> | <u>126</u> | <i>FS Allotment</i> | <u>193</u> |

Policy questions should be referred to the Policy Hotline at (617) 348-8478. Systems questions should be referred to Systems Customer Support Services at (617) 348-5290.