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William D. O'Leary
Secretary

Claire McIntire
Commissioner

Field Operations Memo 98-31
September 1, 1998

TO: Transitional Assistance Office Staff
FROM: Joyce Sampson, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations
Re: September 1998 Clothing Allowance

Introduction

The Legislature has authorized and the Governor has approved a nonrecurring clothing allowance in September 1998 for TAFDC recipients. The clothing allowance is \$150 per recipient under the age of 19. The clothing allowance is prorated for those who are eligible in September 1998 but have a start date after September 1, 1998.

Desk Guide

Pages two and three are a reference desk guide for Transitional Assistance Workers. The desk guide includes the clothing allowance payment schedule. No action needs to be taken by Transitional Assistance Workers to have the 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 accounts. Recipients on EBT will receive the clothing allowance as a separate payment that will be transferred into their EBT account.

Questions

Any questions concerning the clothing allowance should be directed to the Policy Hotline by your Hotline designee at (617) 348-8478.

CLOTHING ALLOWANCE DESK GUIDE FOR SEPTEMBER 1998

Who All TAFDC recipients under age 19 who are active September 1, 1998 or TAFDC-eligible during the month of September 1998 are eligible for a clothing allowance. A child born after the family cap date is ineligible for the clothing allowance, unless a waiver of the family cap has been granted.

Amount A separate systems-generated "P" payment is issued for:

- \$150 per recipient under age 19 eligible September 1, 1998;
- a prorated amount, if eligible for part of September 1998; or
- a combined clothing allowance and grant payment when the grant is less than \$10.

NOTE: In October, a report listing recipients who have received a separate systems-generated "P" payment for a combined clothing allowance and grant payment when the grant is less than \$10 will be produced. Transitional Assistance Workers will need to review and manually accrete these cases on PRISM II, if appropriate. More detailed instructions on these cases will follow along with the report that will be sent next month.

Notices English and Spanish - NCA-2 (9/98)

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 1998, the standards return to regular amounts. The system recalculates eligibility and sends notices to recipients who are no longer eligible for TAFDC benefits.

**Payment
Dates**

<u>SSN</u>	<u>Available Date</u>	<u>SSN</u>	<u>Available Date</u>
0-4	9/1	5-9	9/2

Subsequent deposit/transfer dates will be 9/28, 10/19 and 11/16 for cases opened/reopened after 9/1/98.

**Effect
on FS**

The clothing allowance is noncountable income for Food Stamp purposes as it is considered a one-time nonrecurring payment.
