



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

99-4

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Commissioner

FAX 99- 24
Field Operations Memo 99-4
February 1, 1999

TO: Transitional Assistance Office Staff
FROM: Joyce Sampson, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations
RE: Two Support Payments (DEFRA) in February

Background

Field Operations Memo 99-3 alerted staff to the problem the Department was having in issuing the "up to \$50 maximum support payment" (known as DEFRA) to TAFDC recipients in January. The problem has been corrected but not in time for the Department to issue the support payment in January.

February Support Payments

In February, the Department will issue two "up to \$50 support payments" to certain TAFDC assistance units.

- A payment on 2/4/99 is the "up to \$50 maximum support payment" that was not issued in January; and
- The regular monthly "up to \$50 maximum support payment" on or about 2/16/99.

CHEK Screen

The CHEK screen will display the delayed support payment as a code 2 with a date of February 4. The regular "up to \$50 maximum support" payment for February will be displayed as usual.

**Transitional
Assistance
Worker
Respon-
sibility**

Transitional Assistance Workers responsible for Category 2 cases do not need to take any action on these cases regarding the February support payment(s). This amount will automatically be used in calculating the March food stamp benefits.

Transitional Assistance Workers responsible for Category 4 or 9 cases must look on the PRISM II alert "New Child Support Supp" for the total of the "up to \$50 support payments" issued in February. This total support payment, possibly \$100, must be used in calculating the March food stamp benefits.

Note: On 1/25/99, a PRISM II alert "Child Support Supp Terminated" identified the cases with a December child support payment that had to be zeroed out for PACES to recalculate the February food stamp benefits.

Notice

All recipients receiving the support payment on 2/4 will be sent the generic notice explaining that a deposit other than the cyclical issuance has been made.

Questions

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