



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

Argeo Paul Cellucci  
Governor

Jane Swift  
Lieutenant Governor

William D. O'Leary  
Secretary

Claire McIntire  
Commissioner

**Field Operations Memo 99-19**  
**July 12, 1999**

**To:** Transitional Assistance Office Staff

**From:** Joyce Sampson, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations

**Re:** Two *Acosta* Payments in July

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**Background**

The Department issues an *Acosta* payment to a TAFDC recipient when the amount of current monthly support from the noncustodial parent(s), up to the monthly support obligation amount, exceeds the recipient's monthly TAFDC benefit amount (including vendor payments and/or recoupment). Prior to July, an *Acosta* payment was based on the noncustodial parent(s)'s support payments from two months ago. For example, last month, the June *Acosta* payment was based on support payments the noncustodial parent(s) made in April.

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**July *Acosta* Payments**

In July, the Department will begin issuing the monthly *Acosta* payments based on the support payments from one month ago. To implement the revised schedule, the Department will issue two *Acosta* payments in July:

- a payment will be available on July 15 if the support payments from the noncustodial parent in *May* exceeded the recipient's May TAFDC benefits;
  - a second payment will be available on July 28 (the normal monthly issuance for an *Acosta* payment) if the support payments from the noncustodial parent in *June* exceeded the recipient's June TAFDC benefits.
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**Identifying  
Acosta Payments**

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The ViewDirect DOR/CSE Acosta File Report screen lists the amount of the *Acosta* payment and the date of each payment. This screen shows updated information on the day after the payment is issued. The DOR/CSE Acosta File Report screen alerts Transitional Assistance Workers to the possibility of income in excess of the TAFDC Eligibility Standards and to use the support payment information in determining the prospective eligibility of the TAFDC recipient.

When a recipient receives *Acosta* payments in **two consecutive** months, the Transitional Assistance Worker must enter the current monthly support payments from the noncustodial parent(s), up to the monthly obligation amount (weekly obligation X 4.333), on a PACES Worksheet as follows:

- If the TAFDC case is subject to monthly reporting and a PACES worksheet has not been submitted this month, enter the current monthly support payment in the Special Income Type block as code C when the PACES Worksheet is submitted with any other income;
- If the TAFDC case is subject to monthly reporting and a PACES Worksheet has been submitted for this month, complete another PACES Worksheet entering Txn Type P (for prospective calculation) along with the current monthly support payment in the Special Income Type block as code C. This amount, in conjunction with any other earned or unearned income, is used in determining the eligibility of the TAFDC assistance unit; or
- If the TAFDC case is not subject to monthly reporting, complete a PACES Worksheet entering the current monthly support payment in the Special Income Type block as code C.

PACES calculates the financial eligibility and sends the appropriate notice.

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**Notice**

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The following special notice will be sent to approximately 660 TAFDC recipients receiving May's *Acosta* payment on July 15.

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Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance  
*Acosta* Payments in July

If the noncustodial parent pays all or part of your current support obligation to the Department of Revenue (DOR) in the month that it is due and the payment is more than your TAFDC benefits, you are owed the difference. This is called an *Acosta* payment.

- The Department is issuing an *Acosta* payment on July 15 if the support payments in MAY were more than your TAFDC benefits.
- Another *Acosta* payment will be issued on July 28 if the support payments in JUNE were more than your TAFDC benefits.

In August and each following month, the *Acosta* payments will be based on the noncustodial parent's support payments from one month earlier.

Acosta 7/99

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**Questions**

If you have any questions, please have your Hotline designee call the Policy Hotline at (617) 348-8478. For system-related questions, call the Customer Service Center at (617) 348-5290.

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