

From the Hotline

Q. An EA applicant told me that she was evicted from public housing for nonpayment of rent in December 2002. She was able to move into a more permanent apartment with one of her sister's friends. The friend had been looking for a roommate and was willing to split the rent. My applicant lived in the apartment with this friend for slightly over one year. One month ago, however, my applicant was informed that the friend's lease would not be renewed because the landlord's son was moving back into the apartment with his new family. Now that my applicant has had to move out of the apartment, she is requesting EA. Is she currently eligible for shelter benefits?

A. If this applicant is otherwise EA eligible, then she is also eligible for shelter benefits because her previous eviction from public housing is not the reason for her current homelessness. She was able subsequently to locate and live in more permanent housing.

The policy states that an applicant is ineligible for EA if evicted for nonpayment of rent, but, in this situation, your applicant is **currently** homeless because her landlord refused for personal reasons to renew the lease .

For more information on shelter eligibility reasons and regulations, refer to 106 CMR 309.040. In addition, Chapter III in the *EA User's Guide* provides information on shelter benefit procedures.

Q. A woman came to our office yesterday to apply for TAFDC. She is applying for herself and her stepdaughter's son. Is she eligible for TAFDC, and, if so, how would I verify this relationship?

A. No, she is ineligible because she does not meet the TAFDC relationship requirements. She is not considered a blood relative, a parent by legal adoption or a spouse of the blood relative or parent. The only acceptable "step" relationships in TAFDC are stepparent, stepsister or stepbrother. For more information on relationship requirements and verifying relationship requirements in TAFDC, refer to 106 CMR 203.585.

Also, eligibility for EAEDC benefits, for example, as a caretaker family, should be explored. Refer to 106 CMR 320.400.

Disability Changes

All

A User's Guide: Transitional Assistance Programs and BEACON Update 050
Field Operations Memo
2004-1

This update transmits the following changes:

Chapter XIII: Assessed Person Nonfinancial Statement, Section H: Disability. The Disability window functionality is now automated.

BEACON now:

- tracks the disability review process;
- updates the window with the findings from the Department's Professional Review Organization (PRO), currently Disability Evaluation Services (DES) at UMass;
- tracks the SSI application process; and
- updates the window with the findings from the SSI review process.

The memo gives TAO staff an overview of the new automated disability process.

