



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Transitional Assistance

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Lieutenant Governor

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Commissioner

Online Guide Transmittal 2021-59
July 15, 2021

To: Department of Transitional Assistance Staff
From: Sarah Stuart, Associate Commissioner for Change Management
Re: COVID-19: Monthly Child Tax Credit Payments Beginning July 15th.

Overview

As part of The American Rescue Plan Act, families with children will begin receiving an expanded Child Tax Credit for 2021. This expansion includes the increase of the maximum annual Child Tax Credit from \$2,000 a year per child to \$3,000 a year per child for dependents between the ages of 6 and 17, and \$3,600 a year per child for dependents 5 years old and younger.

As part of The American Rescue Plan Act, for the first time, one half of a family's total Child Tax Credit will be paid out in monthly installments. Beginning July 15, the IRS will begin providing payments to families eligible for the credit and will continue to deliver these monthly payments on the 15th of every month through December 2021. Families may also opt not to get the monthly installments, and instead receive as they normally would, as a full tax return.

Many Low-income families who have no earned income or earned too little to have filed a 2020 or 2019 tax return can still qualify to receive monthly child tax credit payments by registering with the IRS as a nonfiler. Please see <https://www.findyourfunds.org/> for complete details.

**Overview
(Continued)**

All Child Tax Credit income is "income excluded by law" and is considered non-countable for SNAP, TAFDC, and EAEDC.

These credits are considered noncountable assets for twelve months from the date of receipt. Any portion of the refund remaining after 12 months is considered a countable asset.

**Child Tax
Credit
Text Campaign**

Active clients and those whose case closed in the last 30 days were sent the following message on June 10th regarding the expanded Child Tax Credit: "If you have a child you could get up to \$300 a month per child with Federal Child Tax Credits starting in July. You can apply today, even if you didn't file taxes this year. This money does not count for DTA benefits. Learn more: findyourfunds.org/funds1."

Purpose

The purpose of this Online Guide Transmittal is to advise staff of the expanded Child Tax Credit for 2021, the Child Tax Credit monthly installments beginning July 15th and continuing through December 2021 and to inform staff of a new COVID-19 Online Guide page outlining this information.

**New Online
Guide Page**

Book:	COVID-19
Page:	Expanded Child Tax Credits

Questions

If you have any policy or procedural questions, after conferring with the appropriate TAO personnel, please have your Systems Information Specialists or TAO management email them to DTA.Procedural Issues.

Systems issues should be directed to the Systems Support Help Desk.
