



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

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Online Guide Transmittal 2023-80
November 21, 2023

To: Department of Transitional Assistance Staff
From: Sarah Stuart, Associate Commissioner for Change Management
Re: TAFDC: One-time TANF Pandemic Emergency Assistance Payment

Handwritten initials: KP for SS

Overview

As part of The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, a Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Pandemic Emergency Assistance fund was established. Massachusetts is using the remaining money within this fund to issue a one-time payment of \$39.17 to children and pregnant individuals who received a TAFDC payment in the month of October 2023. This includes cases that are now closed with limited exceptions such as cases that closed due to death.

TAFDC families do not have to do anything to receive this payment. It will be issued to each family via the same benefit issuance mechanism their monthly TAFDC benefits are issued. Pandemic Emergency Assistance funds are not considered countable income for SNAP, TAFDC, and or EAEDC. **The Pandemic Emergency Assistance Payment is a one-time payment issued to specific household members. Case managers must not issue a supplement (related benefit) for this payment.**

Purpose

The purpose of this Online Guide Transmittal is to advise staff of the Pandemic Emergency Assistance funds being issued to children and pregnant individuals who received a TAFDC payment in the month of October 2023. The payment will be issued November 24, 2023

Communication

Planned for November 24, 2023, the following text message and DTA alert will notify clients in eligible households of the TANF Pandemic Emergency Assistance funds. “Due to COVID-19, you are getting a one-time special cash benefit. Check your balance on DTA Connect or by calling the number on the back of your card.” This text message and DTA alert will be sent in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Vietnamese and Chinese based on the language on file. Those with HLS or who have affirmatively opted-out of text messaging and alerts from DTA will be excluded. Text messages are sent regardless of the phone type listed on BEACON.

Additionally, a notice will be mailed to communicate this change, and upon issuance of these funds, the following batch narrative entered for all assistance units receiving this payment:

“A onetime Pandemic Emergency Assistance payment has been issued in the amount of \$39.17 for XX eligible members of this household.”

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.
