

From the Hotline

Q. I have read Field Operations Memo 2002-20 regarding disabled noncitizens, and I noticed that PRO decision code 120 is now acceptable to identify a disability for food stamp purposes. Is code 120 acceptable only for disabled **noncitizens** or is the code now an acceptable disability code for other food stamp recipients as well?

A. PRO decision code 120 is now acceptable to identify a disability for any food stamp recipient who is otherwise eligible for benefits. For more information on this topic, see ***A User's Guide: Transitional Assistance Programs and BEACON***, section XIII-H, pages 53-54.

Q. Last month's Hotline Focus detailed the two exceptions for authorizing an EA benefit more than once in a 12-month period. An exception exists if 1) the AU leaves temporary emergency shelter for permanent housing and loses that housing prior to the expiration of the 12-month period and shows a continued need for emergency shelter by demonstrating that the housing did not meet the definition of safe or permanent housing when the AU moved into it; or 2) the AU needs temporary emergency shelter benefits and the EA benefit received within the past 12 months was an EA rental arrearage payment. Refer to 106 CMR 309.020(K) for details.

I now have an EA AU that has been in a shelter for 12 months. What are the procedures I should be following in this case?

A. If EA shelter benefits have been provided for 12 continuous months, you must complete another EA-1 for another authorization number and submit it to SSPS. The EA-1 must be entered on SSPS within seven days of the date entered in block 11 (Authorization Date) on the EA-1. Then, complete another SSPS invoice for continued billing purposes and submit it for SSPS data-entry for another control number. ***This is considered a continuance of EA benefits, not a reapplication.***

Refer to the ***EA User's Guide***, page II-9 for further details.

Q. I recently took a TAFDC application on a father who is an eligible legal permanent resident as he arrived in the United States over five years ago. However, his **only** child is an ineligible legal permanent resident (LPR); her LPR status was granted in 2001. Can I approve this TAFDC application?

A. Yes. This TAFDC application may be approved as an AU of one consisting of the father. The child in this AU is a dependent child (refer to 106 CMR 203.560) but is ineligible due to her noncitizen status. Refer to 106 CMR 203.675 (A)(2) and the Noncitizen Desk Guide for more details.

Child Support

TAFDC

State Letter 1240

A User's Guide: Transitional Assistance Programs and BEACON Update 035

- A TAFDC applicant keeps all child support payments until the AU or the child is authorized to receive TAFDC benefits.
- The amount of child support received, excluding support for a family cap child and a special manually calculated DEFRA amount, will be deducted from the initial TAFDC benefits.
- Upon authorization of TAFDC benefits for the child, the child support payments must be paid directly to DTA by the TAFDC recipient or the absent parent.

