

The questions and answers in this month's "From the Hotline" column concern the three-tier hourly requirement for the TAFDC Work Program. More information on this topic is available in Field Operations Memos 2004-37, 2004-37A and 2004-37B as well as State Letter 1284.

- Q.** A TAFDC, two-parent AU was sanctioned for not meeting the Work Program requirement. The AU consists of two children ages 11 and 13. Both parents failed to participate in the Work Program and the AU closed in July, 2004. The couple returned to our office to reapply before the expanded hourly requirement took effect. How many hours are required during the two-week period for each parent to cure their sanction?
- A.** In this situation, each parent must perform 20 hours of work or education and training for two weeks in order to cure their sanction. When the parents came to the office to reapply, the AU Manager explained that, to cure this sanction, 20 hours were required. These parents would first need to be informed of the new expanded hourly requirement before we would make it a requirement for this AU. The AU Manager should meet with these parents again to explain the Work Program requirement changes that took effect on September 27, 2004.
- Q.** What would happen if the same couple described in the question above came to our office and reapplied on or after September 27, 2004?
- A.** If these parents came in to reapply on or after September 27, 2004, they would have been informed of the new hourly requirements on that day. Therefore, in this situation each parent would need to participate in at least 30 hours to meet the Work Program requirement for a period of two weeks to cure their sanction.
- Q.** The other day when I was explaining the new hourly requirements to a TAFDC recipient, she expressed her concern that finding an additional job/activity or expanding the hours at her current job/activity would be difficult to arrange. She asked me how long she has before the failure to comply with her 30-hour Work Program requirement affects her grant. How should I respond to this question?
- A.** Unless your recipient has good cause as defined in 106 CMR 701.380, encourage her to meet the increased hourly Work Program requirement within the next 30 days. Remember, however, that a recipient will not be sanctioned for failing to meet the new hourly requirement until a later date. Until this BEACON change is made, only recipients who fall below 20 hours will be sanctioned.
- Q.** Assuming my recipient does not have a good cause reason, when exactly will BEACON begin sanctioning her for failing to comply with new hourly Work Program requirements?
- A.** This change in BEACON will occur only after all recipient reviews are completed explaining the new hourly requirements and good cause reasons. Refer to Field Operations Memo 2004-37 for details on how to conduct recipient reviews.

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