

Transitional Aid to Families and Dependent Children (TAFDC)

Fact Sheet 2019

How can TAFDC help me?

TAFDC is a program administered by the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) that offers temporary cash benefits to families or pregnant women who have little or no assets or income. Besides this, TAFDC beneficiaries are also granted annual clothing allowances for children, free childcare and work-related transportation, as well as access to programs, such as English for Employment and Graduate Equivalency Diploma.

Who qualifies for TAFDC benefits?

You must have little or no income, be a resident of Massachusetts and live with your child or live with and take care of a child related to you, or be at least 5 months pregnant. **Note:** If you are working when you apply, \$200 of your gross earnings will be excluded when determining eligibility. You must also be a US citizen or an eligible noncitizen. **Note:** If your immigration status prevents you from getting TAFDC, your children may still be eligible.

How much are TAFDC monthly benefits?

TAFDC monthly cash benefits are based on how many people live in your household, your monthly household gross income (before taxes), and whether or not you have a housing subsidy (see TAFDC cash benefit chart below*). **Note:** Cash benefits may be lower than the figures below, if others in your household also receive income.

Family Size	Housing Subsidy		Private Housing	
	Income Limit	Cash Benefits	Income Limit	Cash Benefits
1	\$699.30	\$378	\$773.30	\$418
2	\$884.30	\$478	\$958.30	\$518
3	\$1,069.30	\$578	\$1,143.30	\$618
4	\$1,245.05	\$673	\$1,319.05	\$713

* www.masslegalhelp.org/income-benefits/tafdc/advocacy-guide/part4/q82-how-much-will-you-get-each-month

Is there a time limit to my cash benefits?

Yes. In a five-year period you can only get a total of 24 months of TAFDC benefits, unless you are receiving benefits because of health problems, disability, domestic violence, or pregnancy.

What is the TAFDC work requirement?

Participants may be required to perform a work-related activity in order to qualify for TAFDC. The work requirement depends on the age of your youngest child who lives with you and does not fall under the 'Family Cap' rules. Visit the links below to learn more about this.

How can I meet the work requirement?

The work requirement is met as long as you are either working, going to school, participating in a vocational program and/or an internship, searching for a home, or doing community service.

Will work impact my TAFDC benefits?

Yes. TAFDC has a gross monthly income limit for eligibility. If you exceed those limits due to work earnings and/or other income you receive for the month, then you will not be entitled to a cash benefit.

Do I have to report my work income?

Yes. Report all income changes immediately to DTA. Doing so will help you avoid unnecessary overpayments that you must pay back. This is critical, so you don't jeopardize your eligibility for future benefits, should you need them.

For more info on TAFDC, visit or call:

- www.mass.gov/dta/assistance
- www.masslegalhelp.org/income-benefits/welfare
- DTA Assistance Line 1-877-382-2363

A Community Work Incentives Coordinator can help you understand TAFDC benefits and the impact of work on them.

For more information about **Work Without Limits Benefits Counseling** contact

1-877-YES-WORK (1-877-937-9675) or visit <http://www.workwithoutlimits.org/benefits-counseling/>