

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance

Overview of EA Programs



DTA EA Programs

TAFDC

Families can receive monthly cash benefits in combination with a variety of employment services including childcare referrals and transportation funds to promote economic mobility.



EAEDC

Elderly clients, certain caretakers, individuals with a disability, and certain households including children can receive monthly cash benefits due to limited household resources.



All Programs

- All applicants are able to add an Assisting Person on their case who can help them with the application.
- All applicants are offered the opportunity to speak to a Domestic Violence Specialist.
 - *Clients are not required to meet or speak with the a DV Specialist.*
- All applicants are given the right to an appeal any action taken on their case, including a denial.

Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children

TAFDC

An Overview



Primary Populations We Serve

54,337 Total Recipients



45% are Children



54% have children under 6 years old



92% of adult recipients are women



35% of adults recipients have less than a HS degree



45% live in Subsidized Housing



90% receive SNAP

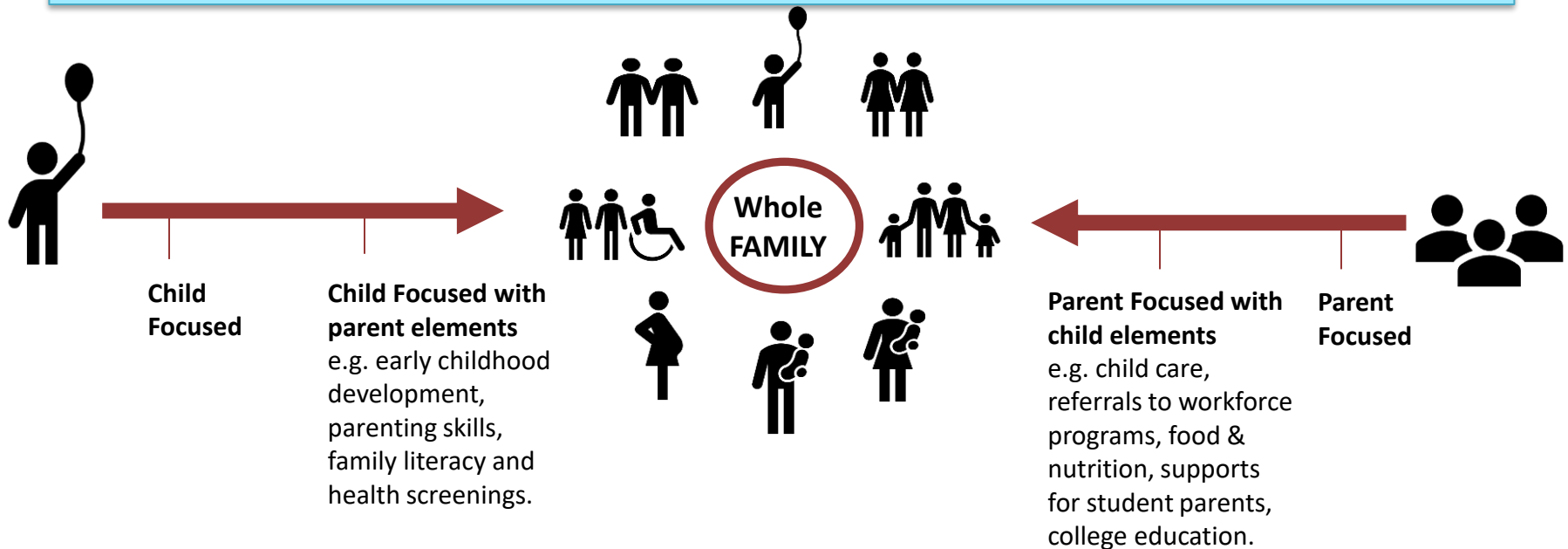
Brief History of Our Program

With the passage of The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunities Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), a number of comprehensive welfare reforms occurred. The most significant of these reforms was the elimination of the federal entitlement program, Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), and the implementation of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grants as the program's replacement.



Addressing Multigenerational Poverty

- The Department is taking a two-generation (2Gen) approach to increasing economic security for families. The 2Gen approach recognizes that outcomes for parents and children are intertwined and cannot develop independently of one another. Research has documented the impact of a parent's education, economic stability and overall health on a child's trajectory. Similarly, children's education and healthy development are powerful catalysts for parents.



Pathways to Work

- Emphasis on economic mobility by assessing individual roadblocks, strengths and goals.
- Offering supports such as food assistance, cash assistance, domestic violence services, housing assistance, employment services programs and referrals to other public/private safety net programs.
- Commitment to continually monitor and adjust our programs and initiatives to ensure they meet the changing needs of our clients.

Methods of Application

TAFDC

- Online – DTACConnect.com
 - Local DTA office kiosk
- Phone – local switchboard



TAFDC Eligible Persons

- Parents and certain caretakers of dependent children who are under 18 or will graduate before turning 19
- Pregnant individuals without children (once within 120 days from their due date)
 - This rule does not apply to teens. Teens (pregnant individuals aged 18 and under) are exempt from this requirement.
- Pregnant and parenting teens who are meeting school attendance and living arrangement requirements.

TAFDC Benefits

- Cash Assistance
- Child Care Referral
- MassHealth
- SNAP Benefits
- DTA Works Stipend

- Transportation Funds
- Transitional Child Care
- Transitional Support Stipends
- High School Equivalency Voucher
- Crib & Layette Benefit
- Relocation Voucher
- Clothing Allowance



TAFDC Basic Requirements

- Must meet non-financial and financial requirements
- Teen parents must also meet specific educational and living arrangements

TAFDC Categorical (Non-Financial) Requirements

- Dependent Child (under age 18 living with the applicant)
- Pregnancy (within 120 days of due date)
- Relationship
- Living Arrangement
- Residence
- Citizens, certain Qualified Noncitizens and American Indians born in Canada or Mexico
- Teen parent who is pregnant and meeting school and living arrangement requirements

TAFDC Categorical (Non-Financial) Requirements

- Social Security Number
- Cooperation with DOR/CSEU
- Learnfare
- Immunization

TAFDC Countable Income

- **Earned Income**

- Wages or Salary
- Self-Employment
- Non-Federal Work Study

- **Unearned Income**

- Social Security (RSDI)
- Unemployment Compensation
- Portion of DOR/Child Support
- Dividends
- Interest
- Pensions

TAFDC Non-Countable Income

- SNAP benefits
- Reimbursement payments
- Housing subsidies
- Earned Income Tax Credits
- Energy Assistance Program Payments
- Earned Income of children under age 18 and enrolled in school

Note: *All income must be reported to determine whether or not used to determine household's eligibility and benefit level*

Services After Closure

- Extensions
- Transitional Child Care (TCC)
- Transitional Support Stipends (TSS)
- Transitional Benefit Alternative (TBA)

Promoting Economic Independence

- Pathways To Work
 - Ongoing client/case manager engagement to promote economic mobility
 - Identify and develop a client's strengths while overcoming roadblocks
 - Identifying client centered goals and outcomes that lead to career paths
- Full Engagement Worker (FEW)
 - Work one-on-one with TAFDC clients to help them identify and achieve the identified goals

TAFDC Earned Income Disregard

- For most working TAFDC clients, DTA will not count earned income for 6 months from the employment start date.
- Clients will receive a 100% disregard for earnings up to 200% FPL. This means earnings will not be deducted from the TAFDC grant amount.
 - SNAP amounts will be effected by the income
- Initial eligibility rules for TAFDC have not changed.

Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children

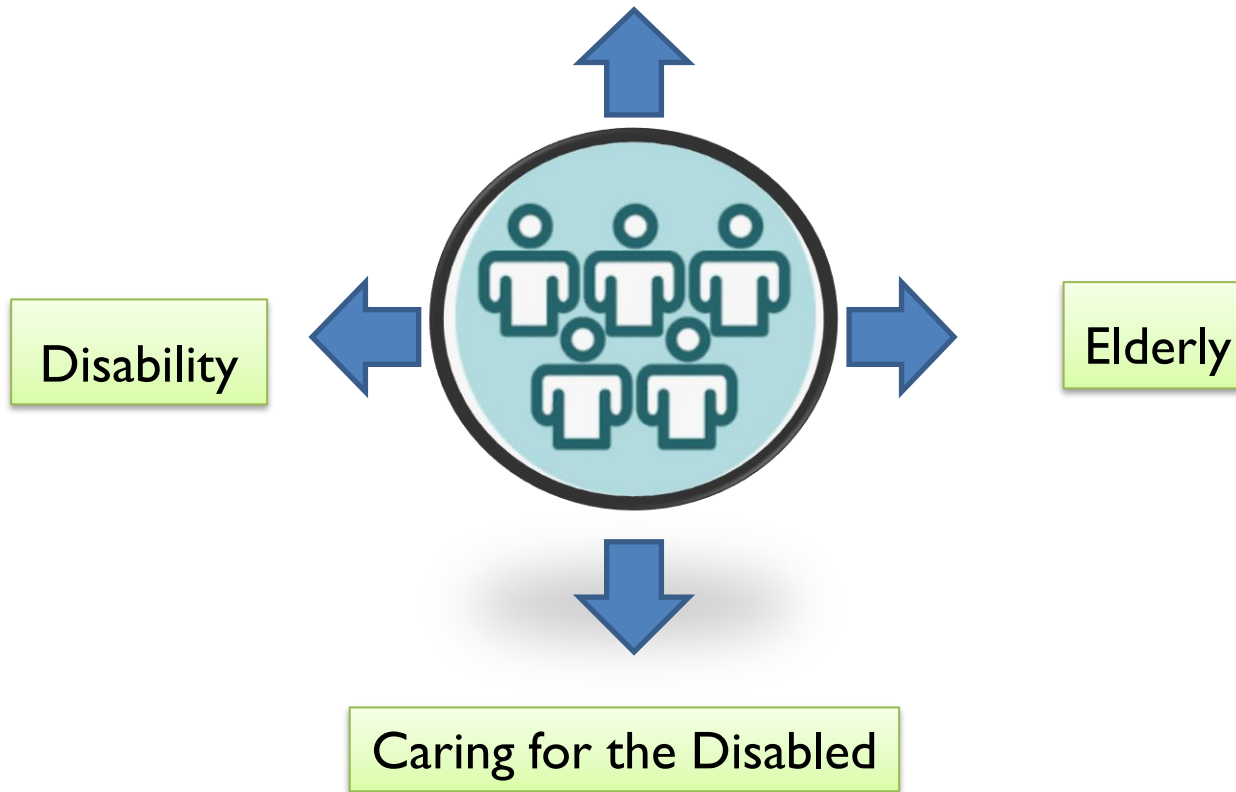
EAEDC

An Overview



EAEDC Eligibility

Certain Caretaker Families with Children



EAEDC Benefits

- EAEDC cash grant
- Medical coverage
- Transportation assistance (via MassHealth)
- Probable SNAP benefits
- Burial expenses

Methods of Application

EAEDC

- Online – DTACConnect.com
 - Local DTA office kiosk
- Phone – local switchboard



EAEDC Categorical (Non-Financial) Requirements

- Citizens
- Certain Qualified Citizens/Noncitizens
- American Indians born in Canada or Mexico
- Residence
- Age
- Identification
- Social Security Number

EAEDC Countable Income

- **Earned Income**

- Wages or Salary
- Tips or Commission
- Self-Employment

- **Unearned Income**

- Social Security (RSDI)
- Veterans' Benefits (Federal)
- Pensions
- Contributions
- Income-in-Kind
- Dividends
- Interest
- Real Estate

EAEDC Non-Countable Income

- SNAP benefits
- DET/MRC Stipend (The first \$130.00 per month)
- Lump sum income up to \$600
- Housing subsidies
- Energy Assistance Program Payments
- Earned Income Tax Credits

Note: *All income must be reported to determine whether or not used to determine household's eligibility and benefit level*

Important Points to Remember

- Certain qualified non-citizens are eligible for SNAP, TAFDC and EAEDC.
- Income may be either countable or non-countable for TAFDC, EAEDC and SNAP Benefits



Thank You!