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Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) Work Participation Report

July 2017

Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance



**Report on Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC)
Work Participation Requirement
July 2017**

OVERVIEW

In accordance with MGL Chapter 18 Section 2 (o), the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) is pleased to provide this report on the TAFDC work requirement.

BACKGROUND

DTA's mission is to assist and empower low-income individuals and families to meet their basic needs, improve their quality of life, and achieve long-term economic self-sufficiency. DTA offers a comprehensive system of programs and supports to help individuals and families achieve greater economic self-sufficiency, including food and nutritional assistance, financial assistance, and employment supports. DTA serves one out of every eight people in the Commonwealth including working families, children, elders, and people with disabilities.

TRANSITIONAL AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN (TAFDC)

TAFDC is a state and federally-funded program that provides financial assistance to families with children, and pregnant women, with little or no assets or income. TAFDC is operated under the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant. In addition to assistance with job training, participants also receive child care and transportation support, and other supportive referrals. As a part of TAFDC, participants may be required to perform a work-related activity as a condition of eligibility.

However, many, if not all individuals receiving TAFDC, face challenges to employment and long term economic self-sufficiency. These challenges include the need for: job training, a high school diploma/equivalency, English as a Second Language services, child care, transportation and/or mental health services.

UPDATE ON TAFDC WORK PROGRAM REQUIREMENT

As of June 2017, a total of 33,347 households (comprised of 51,878 recipients) received TAFDC. Of this total, 6,089 households (comprised of 6,143 recipients) were subject to the work program requirement; and 27,258 households (comprised of 45,735 recipients) were exempt from the work program requirement. Exemptions are granted based on 106 CMR 203.100.

Each of the 6,143 individuals subject to the work requirement reports a need for additional support such as education, training or other barrier-removal service. In fact, many of those subject to the work requirement report multiple barriers.

As of June 2017, DTA has granted extensions to 272 current TAFDC recipients who applied for additional benefits beyond their initial 24 month period. These individuals have been granted an extension because they have made substantial progress toward self-sufficiency and continuing benefits will ensure they continue this progress.

On average recipients receive benefits for approximately three years and receive an average of approximately \$19,700 in TAFDC benefits over that time.