

Mass Workforce Issuance

Workforce Issuance No. 09-86

Policy Information

To: Workforce Investment Board Chairs
Workforce Investment Board Directors
Chief Elected Officials
Title I Administrators
Career Center Directors
Title I Fiscal Officers
DCS Regional Managers

cc: WIA State Partners

From: Michael Taylor, Director
Department of Workforce Development

Rebekah Lashman, Interim President
Commonwealth Corporation

Date: December 21, 2009

Subject: **Youth Summer Employment Income as Non-countable for TAFDC Eligibility, Revised**

Purpose: To provide updated information to Local Workforce Investment Boards, One-Stop Career Center Operators and local workforce investment partners of changes to Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance's (DTA) policy with regard to income earned through summer employment and its effect on TAFDC eligibility. This Issuance revises Mass Workforce Issuance No. 09-32, Youth Summer Employment Income as Non-countable for TAFDC Eligibility (5/20/09).

On May 15th, 2009, DTA State Letter No. 1350 (Attachment A) was sent to Department staff to transmit notification of changes to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Regulations (CMR) 106, Chapter 204, page 204.250 with regard to the status of income earned by youth during summer employment activities as it concerns the determination of continuing family eligibility for TAFDC benefits. As stated in the letter, the regulations regarding sources of income exempted from being counted in the determination of TAFDC eligibility has been changed to include:

“Summer employment income earned between May 1, 2009 and September 30, 2009, by recipients aged 14-24 is non-countable.”

This regulatory change addresses concerns that have been raised with regard to the participation of TAFDC eligible youth in ARRA funded Summer Employment activities.

On November 30 2009, DTA released an FAQ flier (Attachment B) outlining the impact of youth wages on a family’s DTA benefits. The FAQ flier describes when, depending on age and school status, a youthful DTA client’s own wages might affect his/her family’s DTA benefits. A chart highlighting the major points of the flier is included in Attachment C. For more specific information, local workforce system staff should confer with their local DTA representatives or call the DTA Recipient Services hotline at 1-800-445-6604.

In addition, please be aware that Youthbuild or Americorps allowances, earnings or payments to individuals participating in those programs have been previously exempted as income to be counted in TAFDC eligibility determinations and are included in the language at 106 CMR 204.250.

Action

Required: Please assure that all staff concerned with WIA youth eligibility determination and Youth Summer Employment activities are informed of this update.

Inquiries: For general inquiries regarding this Issuance please contact Samuel Martin at Smartin@commcorp.org or (617)-727-8158.