



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Charles D. Baker, Governor ♦ Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor ♦ Jennifer D. Maddox, Undersecretary

Public Housing Notice 2021-19

To: All Local Housing Authority (LHA) Executive Directors

From: Ben Stone, Director, Division of Public Housing

Date: August 23, 2021

RE: Treatment of One-time Benefit to Families Receiving TANF Cash Assistance or TAFDC

Governor Baker signed a supplemental budget that includes authorization for DTA to issue a federally-funded, one-time supplemental benefit to families receiving TANF cash assistance or TAFDC in Massachusetts. This benefit is funded through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 which is a direct response to the public health emergency and aims to support families who were hardest hit by the economic impacts associated with the pandemic.

On August 19, 2021, DTA issued the one-time supplemental benefit to Massachusetts families receiving TANF cash assistance or TAFDC. Families who received TAFDC in July, 2021 will receive \$683.02 per eligible child and pregnant individual.

Following previous DHCD guidance, due to the temporary, one-time nature of this benefit, DHCD deems that these payments are “gifts” under [760 CMR 6.05\(3\)\(a\)](#) and should be **excluded** from income for purposes of rent determination and eligibility for public housing. Residents do not need to report this income to LHAs.

Additionally, the [state budget](#) enacted July 16 included an upward adjustment to TAFDC benefits effective July 1st. These benefits, as per longstanding regulation, are included in income for purposes of rent determination and eligibility for public housing.