



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Transitional Assistance
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Field Operations Memo 2003-28
October 1, 2003

To: Transitional Assistance Office Staff

From: Cescia Derderian, Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations

Re: EA: Pregnant Women

EA Eligibility Reminders

Over the past few weeks, there have been a number of issues called into the Policy Hotline regarding clarification of a pregnant woman's eligibility for EA. Here are some of the eligibility facts about the EA Program.

1. Eligibility for EA is not contingent on eligibility for TAFDC or Food Stamps or any other federal or state program. EA is a separate program. A pregnant woman may be ineligible for cash or food stamps but still be eligible for EA.
2. A homeless pregnant woman with no other children living with her is eligible for EA regardless of the trimester of pregnancy. Unlike TAFDC, the woman does not have to be in the third trimester. Verification of the pregnancy is required.
3. EA eligibility includes certain relatives of the dependent child. In the case of a pregnant woman applying on her own, the unborn child is considered the dependent child.

If the pregnant woman is living with her mother, who the dependent child is depends on the pregnant woman's age – if she is under age 21 she can be her mother's dependent child. If she is age 21 or older, the unborn child is considered the dependent child. The designation of dependent child determines if the pregnant woman's mother may be included in the EA AU.

**EA Eligibility
Reminders
(continued)**

4. A man, living with the pregnant woman, claiming to be the father of the unborn child is not eligible for EA shelter placement unless he is married to the pregnant woman. If unmarried, until the child is born and the father signs the paternity acknowledgement form in the hospital to put his name on the birth certificate, he can not be included in the EA AU as a relative of the dependent child.

5. The first option pursued for a homeless pregnant teen eligible for TAFDC and TLP placement is placement into a Teen Structured Living Program (TLP). If the TLPs are full and she is age 18 or older, take an EA application and she will be placed in an EA shelter until a TLP opening becomes available or she is no longer homeless. An available TLP is considered feasible alternative housing and if she refuses the placement, she would be ineligible for placement in an EA shelter.

If she is not eligible for TAFDC, she will be placed into an EA shelter if EA-eligible.

If the homeless pregnant woman is not eligible for TAFDC but is under age 18, the TAO should contact the Central Office Teen Parent Liaison for further instructions.

Questions

If you have questions on the EA eligibility of a pregnant woman, have your Hotline designee call the Policy Hotline at 617- 348-8478.
