Financial Assistance Resources for Families:

Transitional Aid for Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC)

- Time-limited cash assistance, with work requirements
- Families with a child under age two (on the grant) or a parent who meets DTA’s strict disability criteria are not subject to the work requirements or time limits
- Automatic eligibility for MassHealth
- You can do a joint TAFDC and SNAP application at the same time
- Access to education, training and child care

Eligibility:
- You must have at least one child under age 18 in your family
- Extremely low income (income limits depend on the number of eligible people in your family)
- Your assets (such as savings and other bank accounts) cannot be more than $2,500
- The fair market value of your car does not exceed $15,000 (unless DTA allows a higher value for a car necessary for employment or other family circumstances)

Options to increase your cash assistance benefit:
- Transportation reimbursement: If you work, are in job training or other approved work-related activities, you are eligible for reimbursement of your transportation costs up to $80 per month.
- Non-subsidized rent: If you live in private market rent or pay any other type of rent that is neither subsidized nor in public housing, you are eligible for a $40 increase in your monthly grant.
- If the other parent of your child is absent, DTA will require that you cooperate with the Department of Revenue’s Child Support Enforcement unit (DOR). If the DOR collects child support from the absent parent, you will receive $50 of those payments. If pursuing child support would put you or your child at risk of emotional or physical harm, you can claim “good cause” so that DOR will not pursue child support.
- Children born under the “family cap rule” do not increase the family’s TAFDC grant, however they are eligible for SNAP, MassHealth and child care vouchers.
- Annual clothing allowance ($150 in September for each child on the grant).

Apply for TAFDC Benefits in person at a local DTA Office:

Dudley Square DTA
2201 Washington Street
Roxbury MA, 02119
617-989-6000
Mon-Fri 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Newmarket Square DTA
1010 Massachusetts Avenue
Boston MA, 02118
617-989-2200
Mon-Fri 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
WHAT VERIFICATION DOCUMENTS WILL I NEED TO APPLY?

• You will be required to verify the information you provide to DTA such as: the identity of all family members, age, income, Massachusetts residency and non-citizen status (if applicable for the person seeking benefits).
• You have a right to begin your application even if you don’t have all the documents on hand.
• If you have trouble gathering any of these documents, your DTA caseworker has a legal obligation to assist you in gathering documents that prove your eligibility, but you need to ask him or her for that help.
• If your verifications are incomplete, you will be asked to mail or fax your verifications to DTA’s central verification processing location in Taunton. Do not mail original documents.
• You also have a right to submit your verifications in person at your local DTA office. If you are turned away, ask to speak to a DTA supervisor to submit your documents.
• By mail or fax to:

DTA Document Processing Center
PO Box 4406
Taunton, MA 02780-0420
Fax: 617-887-8765

*It is best to use a cover sheet with your documents so DTA can properly file the paperwork you submit by mail or fax:
• English cover sheet: http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dta/dta-vg-edm-fax-coversheet-english.doc
• Spanish cover sheet: http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dta/dta-vg-edm-fax-coversheet-spanish.doc

HOW CAN I CHECK THE STATUS OF MY APPLICATION, REPORT ANY CHANGES, OR REACH MY ASSIGNED DTA WORKER?

• Call your caseworker directly: You may call in to report a change to your case worker. Ask your assigned case worker for their direct phone number.
• In person at your local DTA office.
• Call the DTA Assistance Line 1-877-382-2363 from 8:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m for general information about your case such as:
  • the status of your application
  • the amount of your benefit and the next payment
  • the date DTA last received a document from you
  • reporting a change of your address or phone number
  • requesting an “income verification letter”
  • requesting an “accommodation” for persons with a disability who need help meeting DTA requirements

I DISAGREE WITH A DECISION DTA MADE. WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?

DTA sends you a notice or letter explaining every decision it makes, and on the back of those notices is a form to appeal this decision. You have up to 90 days to appeal a decision.