

Transitional Aid to Families and Dependent Children (TAFDC)

Resources/Community Assistance Fact Sheet 2026

How can TAFDC help me?

[Transitional Aid to Families and Dependent Children \(TAFDC\)](#) is a program administered by the Massachusetts (MA) Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) that offers temporary cash benefits to families or pregnant women who have little or no assets or income. TAFDC recipients are granted annual clothing allowances for children, free childcare and work-related transportation, and have access to programs such as Graduate Equivalency Diploma (GED), High School Equivalency Test (HiSET), English as a Second Language (ESL), and English for Employment.

Who qualifies for MA TAFDC benefits?

You must have little or no income; be a resident of MA and live with your child or live with and take care of a child related to you; or be at least 5 months pregnant. **Note:** If you are working when you apply, \$200 of your gross earnings will be excluded when determining eligibility. You must also be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen. **Note:** If your immigration status prevents you from getting TAFDC, your children may still be eligible.

What are the TAFDC monthly benefit amounts?

TAFDC monthly cash benefits are based on how many people live in your household, your monthly household gross income (before taxes), and whether you have a housing subsidy.

Is there a time limit to my cash benefits?

Yes. In a five-year period you can only get a total of 24 months of TAFDC benefits, unless you are receiving benefits because of health problems, disability, domestic violence, or pregnancy.

What is the TAFDC work requirement?

Participants may be required to perform a work-related activity to qualify for TAFDC. The work requirement depends on the age of your youngest child who lives with you, and does not fall under the [TAFDC work rules](#). **Note:** Those with a disability are exempt from the work requirement.

How can I meet the work requirement?

The work requirement is met if you are either working, going to school, participating in a vocational program and/or an internship, searching for a job, or doing community service.

Will work income impact my TAFDC benefits?

Yes. TAFDC has a gross monthly income limit for eligibility. If you exceed those limits due to work earnings and/or other income you receive for the month, then you will not be entitled to a cash benefit.

Do I have to report my work income?

Yes. You must report all income changes right away to DTA. Doing so will help you avoid unnecessary overpayments that you must pay back to the state. This is critical, so you don't jeopardize your eligibility for future benefits, should you need them.

For more info on TAFDC, visit or call:

- [Economic Assistance \(cash benefits\)](#)
- [Mass Legal Help](#)
- DTA Assistance Toll-Free Line 1-877-382-2363

For more information about **Work Without Limits Benefits Counseling** call toll-free

1-877-YES-WORK
(1-877-937-9675)

or visit

[WorkWithoutLimits.org](https://www.mass.gov/workwithoutlimits)