

DTA Fact Sheet for Relative Caregivers

Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) is an economic assistance (cash benefit) program that helps pregnant individuals, families, and caregivers meet their basic needs, improve their finances, and reach their economic stability goals.



Special Information for Grandparents and Caregivers

As a relative caregiver, you can apply for TAFDC for yourself and the child(ren) or only the child(ren) in your care. If your case is approved, you get:

- Two cash payments per month
- Enrollment into MassHealth coverage
- A case manager who can refer you to other resources and supports
- A one-time payment of \$300 for infants under 6 months
- An annual payment to cover the costs of clothes for each child
- If you work, you will get free childcare

Do I Need to Have Guardianship or Legal Custody of the Child(ren) Under My Care to Get Benefits?

If the child's parents do not live with you, you do not need to have guardianship or legal custody to get TAFDC for the child(ren) under your care. You just need to show you are related to the child(ren). You can be related by blood or marriage, even if the marriage has ended.

If You Apply Only for the Child(ren)

To help support you, DTA offers a TAFDC child only grant, for the child(ren) in your care. DTA will not look at your income when you apply, even though the application is in your name. If the child(ren) in your care has income, that may affect eligibility. This cash benefit is to help support relative caregivers who provide day to day care, custody, or guardianship of a child(ren) that is not their biological or adopted child.

If You Apply for Yourself and the Child(ren)

If you choose to apply for yourself, DTA will consider any income that you and the child(ren) receive. You may also need to meet work rules if you apply for yourself. DTA will help you find a free program to help you meet your goals.

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Do I Need to Seek Child Support?

Most people who apply for TAFDC must cooperate with child support enforcement activities but there are exceptions to this rule.

As a relative caregiver, you are not required to seek child support from one or both parents if it is not in the best interest of the child(ren) to do so. DTA calls this good cause for relative caregivers.

When receiving TAFDC, you cannot accept child support from the child's parent(s). If child support was paid it will need to be given to the state. The state of Massachusetts must keep most child support paid for children while receiving TAFDC. You will get \$50 per month of child support that is paid.

What About SNAP?

You may get SNAP but there is no child only option for SNAP. DTA will check to see if your household is eligible for SNAP when you apply for TAFDC.

Can I Get Free Childcare?

If you have a job, DTA will give you a referral for free childcare.

If you want to apply or have questions about the TAFDC program:

- Visit DTAConnect.com to fill out an online application;
- Call 877-382-2363 (Monday – Friday between 8:15 am – 4:45 pm);
- Visit a local DTA Office



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