



Department of
Job and Family Services

Ted Strickland, Governor
Helen E. Jones-Kelley, Director

OFFICE OF FAMILY STABILITY LETTER #78
September 15, 2008

TO: Directors, County Departments of Job and Family Services

FROM: Paul Fraunholtz, Deputy Director
Office of Family Stability

SUBJECT: SFY 2009 TANF Educational Awards Program

The purpose of this letter is to introduce the TANF Educational Awards Program (TEAP) for the school year 2008/2009 (hereinafter referred to as "TEAP II") and to explain the new impact on public assistance benefits for students in receipt of TEAP II incentive payments.

In SFY 2007, the Ohio Board of Regents operated a program known as TEAP which provided for a series of incentive-based payments throughout a school semester or quarter. We issued Office of Family Stability Letter #58 to explain the program, and Letter #58A to explain the impact of TEAP payments on public assistance benefits.

In SFY 2009, in conjunction with MDRC, a non-profit, non-partisan education and social policy research organization, the Ohio Board of Regents is operating another TEAP program (TEAP II) which is a very limited demonstration project in four schools. The schools at which TEAP II will be offered are: **Sinclair Community College, Lorain County Community College, Owens Community College and Hocking College.**

The TEAP II pilot program provides **one** performance based incentive payment **at the end of a school term** to students who:

- are TANF-eligible;
- have an Expected Family Contribution of \$0.00 based on financial aid application;
- are the custodial or noncustodial parent of a minor child who is an Ohio resident;

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- attended at least 6 credit hours; and
- have completed graded coursework with a grade of C or better and pass any coursework designed as pass/fail.

For students attending 12 or more credit hours, the payment is \$900 if attending a semester school, or \$600 if attending a quarter school. For students attending 6 to 11 credit hours, the incentive payment is \$450 if attending a semester school, and \$300 if attending a quarter school.

Attached is an overview of the TEAP II program from the Ohio Board of Regents website.

The Impact of TEAP II on Public Assistance Benefits: Changes

The first TEAP II incentive payments will not be issued until mid-December. Another round of incentive payments is expected to be issued in February or March 2009, and a final round of payments is expected to be issued in May or June 2009.

Because TEAP II payments are one-time incentive payments, the impact on public assistance benefits is different than the SFY 2007 TEAP program. The following sets forth how TEAP II payments are to be treated for Ohio Works First, Disability Financial Assistance, Food Stamps, child care and Medicaid.

Ohio Works First: Each incentive payment is to be treated as a non-recurring lump sum in accordance with rule 5101:1-23-20 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

Disability Financial Assistance: Each incentive payment is to be treated as a non-recurring lump sum in accordance with rule 5101:1-5-40 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

Food stamp benefits: Each incentive payment is to be treated as a non-recurring lump sum in accordance with rule 5101:4-4-07 of the Ohio Administrative Code, and therefore as a resource in the month received. Please note that assistance groups categorically eligible pursuant to rule 5101:4-2-02 are not subject to resource limits. Effective October 1, 2008, categorical eligibility will be expanded to include nearly all food stamp assistance groups.

Subsidized child care: Each incentive payment is to be treated as a non-recurring lump sum in accordance with rule 5101:2-16-34 of the Ohio Administrative Code, and therefore shall not be included as part of the applicant's/recipients family's gross monthly income calculation.

Medicaid: The payment will have no impact on Medicaid benefits for the month it is received pursuant to rules 5101:1-40-20.1 and 5101:1-39-18 of the Ohio Administrative Code. However, each incentive payment must be treated as a non-recurring lump sum as

described in rules 5101:1-39-27.5 and 5101:1-40-20 of the Ohio Administrative Code. If it is retained in a savings account it would be considered a resource for households subject to resource limits; these households must report receipt of the payment and review the impact with their caseworker. Please note that Healthy Families and Healthy Start recipients are not subject to resource limits.

This letter is not intended to change, replace, or obsolete any portion of applicable federal law, Ohio Revised Code (ORC) sections, Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rules, regulations, or departmental rules. For a complete explanation of the policies, please reference the ORC, OAC, relevant public assistance manuals, and/or other applicable federal regulations.

For further assistance regarding TEAP II and impact on benefits, please contact the following:

OWF/DFA/Food stamps questions: Office of Family Stability, County Technical Assistance – email TANF_FSTA@jfs.ohio.gov or 1-866-886-3537 (option 6).

Child Care questions: Office of Children and Families help desk - 1-866-886-3537 (option 4).

Medicaid questions: Office of Ohio Health Plans, County Eligibility Technical Assistance – email Medicaid_Eligibility_TA@jfs.ohio.gov

PF: bk

Attachment

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