



Department of Human Resources
311 West Saratoga Street
Baltimore MD 21201

Family Investment Administration
ACTION TRANSMITTAL

Control Number: # 10-25

Effective Date: May 1, 2010

Issuance Date: April 1, 2010

**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS AND ELIGIBILITY STAFF**

FROM: KEVIN M. MCGUIRE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RE: ELIMINATION OF THE ASSET TEST

PROGRAM AFFECTED: TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE (TCA)

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF PROGRAMS

SUMMARY:

Family Investment staff continue to work to simplify TCA and other program eligibility requirements to make the program easier to implement and to reduce the work load on the local department staff. This recent change came at the urging of the advocate community.

TCA policy excludes all resources and assets except for cash on hand and money in a savings or checking account. After reviewing available data we found that very few TCA applicants or recipients have countable resources. Fewer still have resources that exceed eligibility limits and those that did, also have income that make their income over scale. The asset test requirement means case managers must request and the customer verify information about bank accounts. In most cases, this does not affect the customer's eligibility for assistance.

ACTION REQUIRED:

Effective May 1, 2010, do not count a customer's assets and resources for TCA when determining the customer's eligibility. Do not enter any assets or resources on CARES for TCA. **Do not request verification of any assets or resources for TCA.**

Exception: TCA policy for counting a sponsored immigrant's income and resources is established in federal law and cannot be changed. When deeming a sponsor's resources for a sponsored immigrant, continue to use the \$2,000 asset limit when determining the assets of a sponsored immigrant. See TCA Manual section 905.2.

We are updating the TCA manual and COMAR to reflect the change. We will advise you when this is completed.

Food Supplement Program (FSP). TCA recipients are categorically eligible. Do not count resources or assets as part of the FSP program eligibility determination for households that are categorically eligible. See the Food Supplement Program Manual sections 115 and 200.2 for additional information on the FSP. **Do not request verification of resources for a categorically eligible FSP household.**

INQUIRIES: Please direct all TCA inquiries to Marilyn Lorenzo at 410-767-7333 or mlorenzo@dhr.state.md.us or Gretchen Simpson at 410-767-7937 or gsimpson@dhr.state.md.us. Direct all Food Supplement inquiries to Phyliss Arrington at 410-767-7079 or Parringt@dhr.state.md.us or to Rick McClendon at 410-767-7307 or rmcclend@dhr.state.md.us.

cc: DHR Executive Staff
FIA Management Staff
Constituent Services
DHR Help Desk