



Department of Human Resources  
311 West Saratoga Street  
Baltimore MD 21201

Family Investment Administration  
**ACTION TRANSMITTAL**

Control Number: #10-33

Effective Date: June 30, 2010

Issuance Date: May 25, 1910

**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: END OF THE DISABILITY ENTITLEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
(DEAP)**

**PROGRAM AFFECTED: TEMPORARY DISABILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
(TDAP), PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TO ADULTS (PAA), TEMPORARY  
CASH ASSISTANCE (TCA)**

**ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF PROGRAMS**

**SUMMARY:**

The Disability Entitlement Advocacy Program (DEAP) will end **June 30, 2010** and will no longer provide any services to customers receiving Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA), Public Assistance to Adults (PAA), or Temporary Disability Assistance Program (TDAP) benefits. All existing DEAP operating procedures are obsolete after **June 30, 2010** including the distribution of monthly DEAP reports to local departments. After June 18, 2010 do not call DEAP for updates on your customers or for a copy of the DHR/FIA Form 340.

**Note: The Family Investment Administration sent a notice to active DEAP customers advising them of the change (copy attached).**

**ACTION REQUIRED:**

Customers must now:

- File their own SSI/SSDI application with Social Security;
- Find their own representation or represent themselves during the SSI/SSDI claims process; and must
- Follow through all stages of the SSI/SSDI claims process until a final decision is rendered by Social Security.

Customers may choose anyone to represent them in the SSA disability process. There are many attorneys who represent customers in the SSA process. SSA can provide lists of names of approved representatives. Payment of the attorney's fee comes from the customer's SSI lump sum payment. SSA limits what attorneys can charge.

The 1696 form is the SSA Appointment of Representative form. With DEAP no longer representing customers, there is no reason for the customer to sign a 1696 form and return it to us. The customer's new representative, if they choose one, will need to sign the form and submit it to Social Security. The customer should tell you who their representative is but there is **no need for the customer to sign a 1696 and give it to the LDSS.**

Please refer to **Action Transmittals 09-37 and 09-38** and the policy manuals for more information and the policy requirements.

**Reminders:**

- CARES programming has not changed. Code the APPL Type Field on the UINC screen "DE" and "SI" with the date and status code of "P". Remember to remove the codes when the customer begins to receive SSI or SSDI.
- Do not take the customer's word that an application or appeal is filed or still pending. Check SDX, SOLQ or get a written statement from Social Security Administration or the customer's representative.
- The SVES/SDX/SOLQ manual is on FIPNET under manuals. The Bureau of Policy and Training will provide training on the SVES/SDX/SOLQ system and information when requested.
- Always review each page of the SDX and/or the SOLQ when you are completing an interim change or a redetermination on a disabled cash or Medical Assistance customer.
- If the customer's application for SSI is denied, the customer must file an appeal of the decision or file a new application. If the customer does not file an appeal or file a new application, the customer is no longer eligible for assistance. Send adverse action and close the case.

**INQUIRIES:** Please direct all TCA and TDAP inquiries to Marilyn Lorenzo at 410-767-7333 or [mlorenzo@dhr.state.md.us](mailto:mlorenzo@dhr.state.md.us) or Gretchen Simpson at 410-767-7937 or [gsimpson@dhr.state.md.us](mailto:gsimpson@dhr.state.md.us); direct PAA inquiries to Deborah Weathers at 410-767-7994 or [dweather@dhr.state.md.us](mailto:dweather@dhr.state.md.us).

**Attachment**

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

## FAMILY INVESTMENT ADMINISTRATION

April 29, 2010

Dear DEAP Customer,

This letter is to tell you about a change to the Temporary Disability Assistance Program (TDAP) and Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) disability program. The Disability Entitlement Assistance Program (DEAP) is ending and will no longer help you get your Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) benefits after June 30, 2010. After June 30, 2010, you must work directly with the Social Security Administration (SSA) to continue your claim for SSI or SSDI. You may also get someone, such as a lawyer, to help you. **Because DEAP is ending, you will need to decide who will help you with the SSA process and any hearings you may have scheduled.**

- If you have a hearing date scheduled with SSA on or before June 18, DEAP will still help you at the hearing.
- If you have a hearing date scheduled with SSA after June 18, 2010, you will need to represent yourself or get a new representative.
- If you have a representative assigned to you by DEAP, you may choose to keep that representative. DEAP will tell you what you must do. The State and DEAP will not be involved with your new representative, and you will need to pay the new representative.
- If you have been approved for SSI, SSA will schedule a meeting with you. If you, or your representative, do not go to the meeting, SSA will not pay you your SSI.

There are many lawyers who represent people in the SSA disability process. If you hire a lawyer, he or she will take their payment out of your SSI or SSDI when SSA approves your benefits. By law, we cannot give you the names of specific lawyers or law firms. When you choose a new representative, you must tell your case manager.

**Please remember: To get TCA or TDAP benefits you must continue to apply for all SSI or SSDI benefits. You must cooperate with SSA. If SSA denies your application, you must file an appeal at SSA. This requirement for receiving TCA or TDAP is not changing.**

If you have any questions about your TDAP or TCA benefits or information in this letter, contact your case manager in the local department of social services.

Sincerely,

Kevin M. McGuire