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TO: Local District Commissioners

FROM: Patricia A. Stevens, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Temporary Assistance; Betty Rice, Director, Division of Consumer and Local District Relations, Office of Medicaid Management

SUBJECT: Treatment of Census Income for Temporary Assistance, Food Stamps, Medicaid and the Home Energy Assistance Program

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

CONTACT PERSON: Temporary Assistance: Central Region at (518) 474-9344
 Food Stamps: Eastern Region at (518) 473-1469
 Medicaid: Local District Liaison - Upstate (518) 474-9062, New York City (212) 268-6855

This is to inform districts that earned income received from temporary employment through the United States Census will be exempt as income and resources through December 31, 2000 for the purposes of determining eligibility for Temporary Assistance (Safety Net Assistance, Family Assistance, and Child Assistance Program), Food Stamps, the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) and Medicaid. Temporary Census income is defined as earnings of an individual employed to assist in the period of the 2000 Census enumeration. The purpose of this exemption is to encourage TA, FS, HEAP or Medicaid recipients to avail themselves of this unique short-term opportunity and to help insure that an accurate Census count is made for New York State.

Any TA, FS, HEAP or Medicaid case that has had short-term Census earnings applied as income or resources since February 1, 2000 must be rebudgeted retroactive to the month that any adverse action was taken and supplemented if appropriate.

Districts must inquire when a TA, FS, HEAP or Medicaid applicant/recipient (A/R) reports Census earnings whether the employment is expected to be temporary or long-term. Temporary Census employment positions are expected to be primarily enumerators and crew chiefs. Most of these Census positions are expected to become available April 1, 2000. In most cases, Census employees will be paid by the Census Bureau, in which case, the Census pay statement will indicate that the employee is a temporary hire for Census 2000. If the Census employee is paid by the National Finance Center, which is the federal agency that pays all federal employees, the pay stub may not indicate temporary status and the district will have to ask the employee for a copy of their hire letter (SF-50) which will show their status as a temporary.

Created for NPA Day Care - per Eileen Mahoney (OCPS) on 4/2/00

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The acquisition of skills and experience along with a letter from the Census Bureau at the successful conclusion of this assignment could be the stepping stone from dependency to self-sufficiency for participants. A possibility exists of long-term employment following the termination of short-term Census employment. This would be facilitated through the Census contractor Goodwill.

Please note that for Medicaid, the disregard has been expanded to all Medicaid A/R's, and no longer excludes the SSI or S/CC populations.

If you have any questions regarding this GIS please contact the program staff listed above.