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 | INFORMATIONAL LETTER |
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TRANSMITTAL: 90 INF-33

TO: Commissioners of
 Social Services

DIVISION: Income
 Maintenance

DATE: June 12, 1990

SUBJECT: Treatment of Income from Certain Senior Citizen
 Programs for Public Assistance, Medical Assistance
 and Food Stamps

SUGGESTED

DISTRIBUTION: Income Maintenance Directors
 Food Stamp Directors
 Medical Assistance Directors
 Staff Development Coordinators

CONTACT PERSON: Public Assistance - Carolyn Karins at 1-800-342-3715,
 extension 4-9343
 Medical Assistance - Eligibility Representative at
 extension 3-7581;
 in New York City (212) 587-4853
 Food Stamps - County Representative at extension
 4-9225

ATTACHMENTS: None

FILING REFERENCES

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
88 ADM-40		352.22(o) 360-4.6(a) (1) & (2) 387.11(g) 387.11(1)		PASB XVI-J-1.2 FSSB XII-G-5 XII-G-8 XII-G-9	

The purpose of this release is to clarify current policy regarding the treatment, for public assistance, Medical Assistance and food stamp purposes, of payments received by participants in certain volunteer and employment programs for senior citizens. These programs, and the treatment of income from them, are summarized as follows:

1. Volunteer programs under Title II of P.L. 93-113 (Domestic Volunteer Services Act of 1973): Included are the retired senior volunteer, foster grandparent, senior companion and senior health aide programs. These programs, which are often administered by Offices for the Aging or ACTION agencies, were formerly operated under the Older Americans Act of 1965 (P.L. 89-73). Volunteer participants are age sixty or older and may receive stipends, allowances or reimbursements for expenses incurred.

Payments received from programs under Title II of the Domestic Volunteer Services Act are exempt and disregarded when determining eligibility and benefit amount for both public assistance and food stamps. These payments are also disregarded in determining eligibility for all categories of Medical Assistance.

2. Volunteer programs established under Title III of P.L. 93-113: (These programs were moved to Section 8(b)(1) of the Small Business Act by P.L. 95-510.) Included are the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) and the Active Corps of Executives (ACE). Participants in these programs volunteer their business and management expertise, and may receive reimbursement for expenses incurred.

Payments made to SCORE and ACE volunteers are exempt and disregarded for purposes of determining both public assistance and food stamp eligibility and degree of need. These payments are also disregarded in determining eligibility for Medical Assistance.

3. Employment programs under Title V of the Older Americans Act: Senior Community Service Employment Programs (SCSEP): These programs are operated by the NYS or County Offices for the Aging, Green Thumb Inc. (Cortland, NY), or local affiliates of the National Council on Aging, National Council of Senior Citizens, American Association of Retired Persons or National Urban League. Employees under SCSEP are age 55 or older and low-income. They generally work part-time at minimum wage in public or private, non-profit community service jobs.

For public assistance and Medical Assistance purposes, Title V (SCSEP) income is not exempt and should be budgeted as earned income.

For food stamp purposes, SCSEP income is excluded.

4. Employment under NYS Green Thumb: The State-funded Green Thumb program is administered through Green Thumb Environmental Beautification, Inc. (Hobart, NY). State Green Thumb program employees work part-time at minimum wage providing contracted services in State facilities for the NYS Departments of Transportation, Parks and Recreation and Environmental Conservation.

For public assistance, Medical Assistance and food stamp purposes, NYS Green Thumb wages are not exempt and should be budgeted as earned income.

Questions regarding the statutory authority and funding source under which a specific senior citizen volunteer or employment program is operated can often be resolved by contacting the local office or organization which administers the program. Questions regarding public assistance, Medical Assistance or food stamp program treatment of income from such programs may be directed to the contact persons listed. The clarifications contained in this transmittal will be included in a future update of the Public Assistance Source Book (PASB).

Jo-Ann Costantino
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Medical Assistance

Oscar R. Best, Jr.
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Income Maintenance