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| LOCAL COMMISSIONERS MEMORANDUM |  
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Transmittal No: 90 LCM-132

Date: August 20,1990

Division: Family and Children  
Services

TO: Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: Teenage Services Act (TASA)

ATTACHMENTS: Attachment I: Chapter 49 of the Laws of 1990 (not  
available on-line)

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the provisions authorized by the attached Chapter Law, Chapter 49 of the Laws of 1990 amending the Teenage Services Act (TASA) which became effective March 31, 1990. The provisions of Chapter 49 of the Laws of 1990 make the Teenage Services Act permanent and create a new optional category of public assistance recipients eligible for services under TASA. These amendments are in recognition that the TASA program has been addressing effectively the service needs of pregnant, parenting, and at-risk adolescents in receipt of public assistance and that TASA participants are making substantial progress towards economic self-sufficiency and increased family stability.

Since statewide implementation of the Teenage Services Act in January 1988, social services districts have been providing case management services for pregnant, parenting and at-risk adolescents in receipt of public assistance who are under the age of eighteen years at the time of initial referral. In preparation for statewide implementation of the TASA program, social services districts were required to submit a plan for performance of case management activities under the Teenage Services Act to the Department for approval pursuant to Department Regulations, 18 NYCRR Part 361.

The Teenage Services Act was due to expire on March 31, 1990 pending the findings of the final report to the governor and the legislature on the effectiveness of the TASA program. In response to the findings of the final report, Chapter 49 of the Laws of 1990 amended Title 4-B of Article 6 of the Social Services Law providing permanent authority to the Teenage Services Act. Therefore, districts must continue performing case management activities pursuant to Department regulations, Part 361.

In addition, Chapter 49 of the Laws of 1990 amended Subdivision 4 of Section 409-j of the Social Services Law to give social services districts the option of providing TASA case management services for otherwise eligible adolescents who are eighteen, nineteen, or twenty years old at the time of referral. Previous to this amendment, all districts, whether they performed case management activities directly or purchased such activities from a community agency, were permitted to continue performing case management activities for TASA participants up to the age of twenty-one only if they were referred to the program prior to their eighteenth birthday. Only social services districts that purchased case management activities from a community agency had the option, under the Comprehensive Medicaid Case Management program, of performing case management activities for adolescents who were eighteen, nineteen and twenty years old at the time of referral. However, these case management activities were not considered technically to be part of the TASA program.

With this new provision, all social service districts, regardless of whether the district performs case management activities directly or purchases such activities from a community agency, now have the option of providing case management services under the TASA program for pregnant and parenting adolescents in receipt of public assistance who are under the age of twenty-one years at time of referral. This includes any otherwise eligible males and females under twenty one years of age who are designated payees of their own cases, payees of their children's cases or those at-risk public assistance recipients, as defined in Department regulations Section 361.4(b)(1)(iii), who are under twenty-one years of age.

Therefore, if your district performs case management activities directly and elects to expand eligibility for case management services to this additional population, or if your district purchases such activities from a community provider that performs or will be performing case management activities for this additional population, your district's TASA plan will need to be amended. Instructions for amending the plan

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are included in the guidelines and instructions for preparing the 1991-1993 Consolidated Services Plan Report.

Implications of the new Title 9-B Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training Program created by Chapter 453 of the Laws of 1990 for TASA recipients will be forthcoming.

Any questions concerning the provisions of Chapter 49 of the Laws of 1990 should be directed to your Regional Office.

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Joseph Semidei  
Deputy Commissioner  
Division of Family  
and Children Services