INFORMATIONAL LETTER

TRANSMITTAL: 91 INF-52

DIVISION: Income

TO: Commissioners of Social Services

DATE: September 26, 1991


SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION:
Income Maintenance Staff
Medical Assistance Staff
Directors of Services
DCAP Coordinators
Staff Development Coordinators

CONTACT PERSON: Abe Anolik at 1-800-342-3715, extension 4-7218

ATTACHMENTS: Three copies of the SSI Handbook for Children - not available on-line

FILING REFERENCES

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91 ADM-35

| | | | | 90 LCM-133 |
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DSS-329EL (Rev. 9/89)
The purpose of this release is twofold:

1. inform social services districts of the availability of a new informational booklet - SSI Handbook for Children; and

2. to provide three copies of this Handbook to districts.

The SSI Handbook is designed to provide both professionals and lay persons with information that will enable them to assist children in obtaining SSI.

As districts were informed in several local commissioner memoranda and 91 ADM-35, a recent decision in a federal court case, Zebley v. Sullivan, has resulted in changes to the definition of disability for children in the SSI Program. These changes make it far easier for children to qualify for SSI.

It is advantageous for social services districts to have current clients become SSI eligible. It is especially worthwhile to pursue SSI for non-IV-E eligible children in foster care and for all Home Relief/PG-ADC recipients.

It is also highly advantageous for disabled children living with their families, or foster children being discharged home, to become eligible for SSI. Typically, when a disabled child living in an ADC household begins to receive SSI, the entire family will have approximately $300 more cash in the household each month. While this extra income is counted for food stamp purposes, the family still has considerably more income when the child receives SSI. In addition, because the child is now considered disabled, the household can qualify for a food stamp uncapped shelter deduction and/or medical deductions.

Additional copies can be requested by writing to:

NYS Department of Social Services
Office of Disability Determination
P.O. Box 1993
Albany, NY 12201

Attention: SSI Handbook

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