The final federal rules governing the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Program (45 CFR Parts 98 and 99) indicate that all providers of child care services funded by CCDBG funds must be provided with information regarding minimum health and safety standards and training. Such information must include: (1) the prevention and control of infectious diseases, including immunization; (2) building and physical premises safety; and (3) minimum health and safety training appropriate to the provider setting.

This LCM is being released in order to provide social services districts with the information needed to develop local procedures for providing such information to caregivers of informal child care and caregivers of legally exempt group child care. A comprehensive Administrative Directive relative to the CCDBG program will be issued in the future.

Day care center providers, family day care providers, group family day care providers and school-age child care providers receive information regarding minimum health and safety standards and training as part of the regulatory process. However, caregivers of informal child care and caregivers of legally exempt group child care currently do not receive such information from the Department. Social services districts which elect to participate in the CCDBG program must develop procedures to ensure that newly enrolled caregivers of informal child care and caregivers of legally exempt group
child care who will be paid with CCDBG funds receive the required information. Consistent with Department efforts to achieve seamless funding of child care services, social services districts are encouraged to provide health and safety information to all such providers, regardless of funding source.

The Department has developed the attached health and safety information letter which must be used for providing caregivers of informal child care and caregivers of legally exempt group child care with the required information regarding minimum health and safety standards and training opportunities. Upon receipt and review of the enrollment form, the social services district must provide all newly enrolled caregivers of informal child care and caregivers of legally exempt group child care with the health and safety information letter. Such letters may be included with other information which the social services district sends to the child care provider (i.e. billing and attendance procedures) or may be mailed to the caregiver separately.

The health and safety information letters currently are being reproduced. As soon as they become available, social services districts will be provided with an initial supply of the health and safety information letters. Additional copies of the health and safety information letter may be requested by contacting:

Ms. Cheri Doolittle  
NYS Department of Social Services  
Bureau of Early Childhood Services  
40 North Pearl Street - 11B  
Albany, New York 12243

If you have questions regarding the information in this LCM, please contact Dee Woolley at 1-800-342-3715, extension 474-9324 or dial direct (518) 474-9324 or on-line, Userid #89A786.