TO:       Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: Food Stamp Data Analysis Report with Upstate Case Detail for 10/1/92 through 9/30/93

ATTACHMENTS: Data Analysis Report: Final Report Statewide FS-QC Reviews (10/1/92-9/30/93) - not available on-line

The attached report details the FS Quality Control data for the annual 10/92 - 9/93 period.

In the Food Stamp program, the statewide error rate decreased slightly from 10.06% for the 1992 review period to 10.01% for the 1993 review period. The upstate error rate decreased from 9.98% to 9.92%, while the NYC error rate went from 10.11% to 10.06%. It should be noted that conclusions about this period's final error rate cannot be based on this report. This report should be viewed only as an indicator of problem areas and used for corrective action planning.

Upstate, earned income remains the principal error element accounting for 36% of the total error dollars, down from 38% for the previous reporting period. While there has been a decrease in agency caused errors, the client caused errors have increased correspondingly. Quarterly reporting was implemented in March of 1993. However, the impact of this implementation on the earned income errors cannot be adequately evaluated until 1994.

Both upstate and downstate experienced a substantial increase in the Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) errors from the previous QC period. Upstate SUA errors increased from 3% to 8%. For cases with errors in SUA, QC has found that eligibility workers are not properly coding shelter types, and clients fail to report their actual shelter expenses, causing inaccurate HEAP eligibility decisions and assignment of standard utility allowances. In an effort to address this error, regional training has been conducted statewide.
For Corrective Actions we suggest the following:

- Review with your staff the current Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) policy as outlined in 92 ADM-47, to ensure that they understand the correlation between SUA and shelter codes. In addition, workers should be instructed to pay particular attention to individual households that reside in Public/Subsidized housing. In cases involving prorated benefits, workers should be instructed to review the FS budget after storing the PA budget.

- Ensure that examiners understand the household composition rules as set forth in the Mickey Leland changes.

- For Earned Income cases, emphasize to examiners the importance of reminding clients of their responsibility to report changes.

Oscar R. Best, Jr.
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Economic Security