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| OCFS LOCAL COMMISSIONERS MEMORANDUM |
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Transmittal No: 99 OCFS LCM-1

Date: January 4, 1999

Division: Administration

TO: Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: 1998/99 Domestic Violence State Aid Rates
(DVSAR) for Domestic Residential Programs in
New York City

ATTACHMENTS: A: 1998/99 Domestic Violence Residential
Program Rate Chart

B: Agency Specific Listing of 1998/99 DVSAR's

(Attachments are available on-line)

The purpose of this memorandum is to advise you of the 1998/99 Domestic Violence State Aid Rates (DVSAR) for licensed Domestic Violence (DV) residential programs in New York City. The promulgated rates have been calculated using the approved Domestic Violence rate methodology. Local districts are required to pay these promulgated per diem rates to licensed Domestic Violence residential agencies for providing residential care to all eligible victims of domestic violence.

Rate reductions were applied to those programs that had 1996/97 surpluses. Surpluses were defined as 1996/97 government revenue in excess of spending for a given program.

The 1998/99 Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) Domestic Violence rate methodology includes the following features:

- o A Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) of 3.5% was applied to personal services and fringe benefit costs. This increase in the flat rate was based on State salary increases. A 2.8% COLA was applied to other than personal services (OTPS) costs. The aggregate COLA of 3.4% reflects the relative portion of personal services and OTPS costs in the original DV rate setting methodology. In addition, a 3.3% increase has been added to the food add-on component of the rate.
- o The flat rates are based upon the regulatory requirements contained in 18 NYCRR 408 and are intended to promote fiscal stability of Domestic Violence residential programs.
- o Different rate levels have been established for Domestic Violence programs located in New York City and the Rest of State.
- o Flat rates are also based on program type/size, Domestic Violence Programs/Shelters with bed capacity of 20 or less, Domestic Violence Programs/Shelters with bed capacity of 21 or more, Domestic Violence Safe Dwellings and Domestic Violence Safe Homes.
- o No rate adjustment increase will be allowed for any program which wishes to exceed the flat rate designated for a particular type of residential program in a specific geographical area. DV rate consultations will only be allowed if the promulgated state aid rate is not at the maximum flat rate level or the food add-on was inadvertently omitted.
- o New or expanding Domestic Violence residential programs will be allowed funding for start-up expenses if the resident county approves those expenditures. A start-up rate will be calculated and added to the program's DVSAR.
- o We continued to grandfather-in the per diem rates established by local districts prior to the establishment of the current State Domestic Violence rate methodology where those rates were higher than the applicable DV Flat Rate. Affected programs will continue to receive either the grandfathered-in rate or the Flat Rate, whichever is higher, as the basis for determination of the 1998/99 DVSAR, unless program surpluses occurred in the base year.

- o The Food add-on rate is to be negotiated between the residential program and the local social services district where the program is located. The OCFs will revise the DVSAR to include the food add-on when we have been formally notified in writing. Thereafter, the food add-on will be included until otherwise notified. Notification to the OCFs can be made by either the program (with documentation from the local district) or directly by the local district.

- o The OCFs will continue the DVSAR rate policy of reducing future year per diem rates by the amount equal to the program's government revenue surplus calculated as a per diem amount in the base year.

We suggest that copies of this information be shared with Economic Security and Services Staff and Accounting Supervisors. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Jack Spillan, at (518) 486-3437, (OA USER ID SV0060).

Melvin I. Rosenblat
Deputy Commissioner