NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
40 NORTH PEARL STREET, ALBANY, NEW YORK 12243-0001

MARY JO BANE
Commissioner

(518) 474-9475

LOCAL COMMISSIONERS MEMORANDUM

DSS-4037EL (Rev. 9/89)

Transmittal No: 92 LCM-196

Date: December 29, 1992

Division: Commissioner's Office

TO: **Local District Commissioners**

SUBJECT: Public Hearing on the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training (JOBS) Program

ATTACHMENTS: Attachment I - Subjects for Testimony with Reply Form (available on-line)

The Assembly Committee on Social Services and the Assembly Committee on Education are holding a public hearing to obtain public input on the effectiveness of the JOBS program and hear suggestions for improving the program. The hearing will be held in New York City :

Friday, January 8, 1993
11:00 A.M.
Assembly Hearing Room
11th Floor, 270 Broadway
New York City

Local social services districts wishing to present testimony to the Committees at the above hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form as soon as possible to:

Kristin Proud
Legislative Associate
Assembly Program and Counsel Staff
Room 520, State Capitol
Albany , New York 12248
(518) 455-4371

It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified in the event of emergency postponement or cancellation.

Oral testimony will be limited to 10 minutes duration. In preparing the order of witnesses, the Committees will attempt to accommodate individual requests to speak at particular times in view of special circumstances. These requests should be made on the attached reply form and called into the Committees' staff as early as possible. In the absence of a telephone request, witnesses will be scheduled in the order in which reply forms are postmarked.

Ten copies of any prepared testimony should be submitted at the hearing registration desk. The Committees would appreciate advance receipt of prepared statements.

In order to further publicize this hearing, you may wish to inform interested parties and organizations in your county that may wish to present testimony.

I encourage you to present testimony at this hearing or submit written testimony so that local district input is provided to these committees of the Assembly.

for Mary Jo Bane
Commissioner

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY
STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES
STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

In 1988, the Federal Government passed the Family Support Act (FSA) of 1988, which required all states to reform their job-related education and training programs for recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) by October 1, 1990. The reforms provided a new emphasis on shared responsibility by the client, the state, and the Federal Government. The goal of FSA was to help the client achieve economic independence through education and employment training activities in conjunction with necessary support services.

Chapter 453, Laws of 1990, implemented the FSA by creating the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS) Training Program. The provisions of this legislation were designed to enable public assistance recipients to achieve self-sufficiency. State and local social services agencies are required to provide a variety of education, training and support services to assist participants in the JOBS program. Each participant is assessed for educational and employment skills, as well as child care and other supportive needs. An employment plan is then developed by the district and the client. Child care is guaranteed for custodial parents participating in education and job training activities.

It has been two years since the implementation of JOBS in New York State, and the Assembly Social Services Committee and the Assembly Education Committee are examining the effectiveness of the JOBS program. These public hearings will provide all interested parties with an opportunity to address the Committees regarding the successfulness of the program and recommend changes to improve its operation.

Selected Subjects to Which Witnesses May Direct Their Testimony

1. What impact has the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS) Training Program had since its enactment into law in New York State in 1990? How have recent increases in public assistance (PA) caseload affected JOBS?

2. How many participants are enrolled in JOBS in a year. In education programs? Have you encountered any difficulty in meeting participation rates? What are the major barriers to participation of clients in JOBS programs?

3. Has the emphasis given to the supportive service needs of JOBS participants and their children increased as a result of the JOBS legislation?

4. What steps, if any, have the New York State Department of Social Services (DSS) and/or local social services districts taken to increase the supply of child care for JOBS participants? Is the availability of child care services adequate?

5. What results have developed out of local collaborative efforts between social services and education agencies? To what extent do local social services districts contract with other public agencies for JOBS services?

6. How are the JOBS-related functions and activities of DSS coordinated with those of other State agencies.

7. How are JOBS and EDGE funds appropriated across the State? Is the availability of education and training services consistent across the State or is it driven by local need?

8. To what degree has the New York State Education Department (SED) increased and redesigned educational services for AFDC recipients in response to JOBS?

9. Is JOBS effectively reaching the target population? Are there any sub-populations not being served or difficult to serve? What is the profile of the participant population?

10. Has the State's continuing education infrastructure been affected by EDGE?

11. To what degree is training education or education self-initiated by PA recipients? How do education and training agencies ensure that these participants are enrolled in JOBS and receive the services to which they are entitled?

12. How is the State monitoring JOBS program participation? To what extent is the monitoring of program participation being left to local social services districts? To the providers?

13. How are the programs being evaluated to determine their effectiveness? Do you have a sense of the effectiveness of the JOBS and EDGE programs?

14. What job placement rates have been achieved by the various types of education and training programs? What efforts have been made to work with business and industry to identify and develop potential employment opportunities for participants?

15. What are the critical issues facing the State and local social services districts at this point in the implementation of the JOBS program?

16. How should the JOBS program be enhanced or modified to more effectively serve the target population?

The Job Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS) Training Program

Public Hearing Reply Form

Persons wishing to present testimony at the public hearing on The Job Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS) Training Program are requested to first call the contact person listed below. The reply form should be completed and mailed to the same contact person:

Kristin Proud
Legislative Associate
Assembly Program and Counsel Staff
Room 520, State Capitol
Albany, NY 12248
(518) 455-4371

Please check the appropriate boxes and return this form as soon as possible prior to the scheduled hearing. Complete information is essential so that persons may be notified in the event of emergency postponement or cancellation.

Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training Program Hearing

☐ I plan to attend the January 8, 1993 hearing on The Job Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS) Training Program in NYC.

☐ I plan to make a public statement at the hearing.

☐ I plan to submit written testimony only.

Name: _____

Organization: _____
Address: _____
Telephone (Area Code): _____