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| LOCAL COMMISSIONERS MEMORANDUM |
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DSS-4037EL (Rev. 9/89)

Transmittal No: 93 LCM-16

Date: February 11, 1993

Division: Services & Community
Development

TO: Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: Family Unification Program

ATTACHMENTS: There are no attachments to this LCM

I am pleased to share with you that the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR), in conjunction with this Department, successfully applied to the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to participate in the federal demonstration program, the Family Unification Program. You were previously advised of the opportunity to join in the statewide application developed by DHCR and NYSDSS through 92 LCM-126, dated August 19, 1992.

The following local Departments of Social Services have been approved to participate in the Family Unification Program:

Chautauqua	Herkimer	Saratoga
Chemung	Madison	Suffolk
Dutchess	Ontario	Steuben
Essex	Orange	Sullivan
Franklin	Oswego	Wyoming
Genesee	Rockland	

Our statewide application was successful in securing 87 Section 8 certificates from the New York City HUD Regional Office to be targeted to participating Metropolitan Region districts outside of New York City. In addition, 59 Section 8 certificates were awarded by the Buffalo HUD Regional Office and will be targeted to the participating districts in the rest of the state.

We were also pleased to learn that several local applications were successful as well. The New York City Housing Authority received 101 Section 8 certificates which will be jointly administered with the Child Welfare Administration. The Spring Valley Housing Authority also received a grant of 20 certificates which they will be administering with the Rockland County Department of Social Services. Tompkins County Department of Social Services will be collaborating with the Ithaca Housing Authority to administer 22 Section 8 certificates under the Family Unification Program.

We are currently working with DHCR to identify responsibilities of each agency and suggested procedures to be used to implement the program at the local level. We anticipate that we will hold Regional Meetings in the spring for local district staff and Section 8 Administrators who will be jointly operating the demonstration program.

Congress has reauthorized the Family Unification Program for the 1993-1994 federal fiscal year for \$75.0 million, \$25.0 million more than the current year's demonstration appropriation. We intend to build on this year's experience to secure more Section 8 certificates for New York's families by again applying to participate in the Family Unification Program. We anticipate that the Notice of Funding Availability will be issued by June 1993 and will notify districts as soon as new information is available.

We encourage those districts which are not currently participating to explore collaboration with either local public housing authorities or Section 8 Administrators to participate in the next round of funding, either through a local application or as part of the statewide application. All districts should review local procedures to ensure that all clients with a need for affordable housing are referred for Section 8 housing. This is especially important for those preventive service and foster care families who potentially could be served through the Family Unification Program as families who are already on the Section 8 waiting list must be served first.

We will directly advise participating districts of next steps and specific procedures for the implementation of the Family Unification Program as they are developed. If there are any questions concerning the program, please contact Jayne Stillwell of the Office of Family and Children Services, Bureau of Policy Planning at (518) 486-3448 or (0fb090).

Frank Puig
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Services and
Community Development