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| LOCAL COMMISSIONERS MEMORANDUM |
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Transmittal No: 93 LCM-81

Date: July 14, 1993

Division: Services & Community
Development

TO: Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: Match of Foster Children Against the SDX

ATTACHMENTS: Attachment is not available on-line.

Attached is an updated report which matches all children in foster care against the State Data Exchange (SDX), for the purpose of identifying all children in foster care who are receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or who have received benefits at some time through the SSI Program, or have been terminated. A previous report had been issued via 92 LCM-192.

The purpose of this information is to assist local social services districts in identifying potential SSI payments which would be used to defray the cost of foster care, through a local district commissioner filing for representative payee status. The SSI payments would then be paid directly to a local social services district.

One important point is that the system matches can only be done for children with Social Security Numbers (SSNs) entered into WMS. Therefore, if a district does not enter a SSN for a child, there can be no match against the SDX tape.

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This list format is done by individual unit and worker. Also individual status codes have been used (e.g., N07, S08), so that further SDX research will not have to be done for code refinements. The codes and descriptions will be sent separately along with the SDX match report.

For those foster children in Pay Status C (currently receiving SSI benefits), a local district staff should verify if the Commissioner is receiving the benefits on behalf of the child, as Representative Payee. If not, then the local districts should file as Representative Payee for the SSI benefits.

If a district is filing for SSI benefits on behalf of a foster child, the child cannot also be eligible to receive Title IV-E foster care payments concurrently. Payments can only be received through one of these programs. It is important to note that an SSI payment for a foster child is currently \$457 per month, regardless of the cost of care. Title IV-E reimburses 50% of the care and maintenance, administrative costs, clothing, and any special items of need. The reimbursement differences between these two programs should be considered, when a child is eligible for both Title IV-E and SSI.

Children in all other Pay Status should have their SSI benefits status reviewed within your agency if the information is available, or if previous SSI activity is unknown, you may contact the Social Security Office in your region.

If an SSI payment is less than \$457 per month, or the foster child is only receiving an SSI Personal needs allowance, please contact the staff person listed below. Also, if SSI is denied by the SSA with the denial reason that the child is placed into an institution, or because SSA considers the foster care maintenance payments to be income available to the child, this should be reported also.

Additionally, it has come to our attention that some voluntary child caring agencies are receiving SSI benefits for foster children in their care. Districts should screen for such cases.

We would welcome your comments, or if you have any questions on the use of this report. We will produce these reports on a quarterly basis. Please call or send any comments/questions on the report to:

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Development