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 | INFORMATIONAL LETTER |  
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TRANSMITTAL: 94 INF-7

TO: Commissioners of  
 Social Services

DIVISION: Economic  
 Security

DATE: February 15, 1994

SUBJECT: Treatment of Payments from Youth Education, Employment  
 and Training Programs

SUGGESTED

DISTRIBUTION: Public Assistance Staff  
 Food Stamp Staff  
 Staff Development Coordinators

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 1-518-473-3170, extension 4-9349; County Food Stamp  
 Representative at extension 4-9225; Shari Niedbalec,  
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ATTACHMENTS: None

FILING REFERENCES

| Previous<br>ADMs/INFs | Releases<br>Cancelled | Dept. Regs.  | Soc. Serv.<br>Law & Other<br>Legal Ref. | Manual Ref. | Misc. Ref. |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|---|-------------|------------|
| 89 INF-45             | 89 INF-45             | 352.16       |   | PASB        |            |
|                       |                       | 352.20       |   | XVI-B-2     |            |
|                       |                       | 352.22       |   | XVI-I-2-3   |            |
|                       |                       | 360-4.6(a)   |   | XVI-J-1.3   |            |
|                       |                       | (1) or (2)   |   | FSSB        |            |
|                       |                       | 387.10(b)(1) |   | XII-B-1-2   |            |
|                       |                       | (v)          |   | XII-G-2-7,  |            |
|                       |                       | 387.11(c)    |   | G-12        |            |
|                       |                       | 387.11(g)    |   | MARG        |            |
|                       |                       | 387.11(i)    |   | pages 120,  |            |
|                       |                       |              |   | 121, 152    |            |
|                       |                       |              |   | and 180     |            |

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with updated information on the treatment of youth education, employment and training program (YEETP) payments. Some changes have been made to the Department of Labor (DOL) YEETP programs. The School to Employment Program (STEP in school) no longer exists. STEP out-of-school has been replaced by the Another Chance Initiative for Education Vocation or Employment (ACHIEVE) Program. The Structured Educational Support Program (SESP) has been replaced by the Progressive Adolescent Vocational Exploration Program (PAVE). Finally, the JOB Opportunity and Basic Skills (JOBS) for Youth Program has been added as a DOL YEETP program.

I. Description of YEETP Programs

A. Department of Labor

1. Another Chance Initiative for Education, Vocation or Employment (ACHIEVE) is designed to serve economically disadvantaged out-of-school youth between the ages of 16 to 21, with special emphasis on 18-19 year olds. Enrollment preference is given to youth who are homeless; teen parents; or from Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) families. The goal is to assist youth in defining career goals and developing career planning, decision making and job seeking skills. The program strives to develop essential foundation skills and competencies, the attainment of the GED certificate, improving attitudes and expanding career options through education, employment and training activities.
2. Adolescent Vocational Exploration Program (AVE) - The goal of this program is to assist economically disadvantaged youth, particularly youth ages 14-15, but including youth up to age 17, in defining and clarifying their career and educational goals.
3. The JOB Opportunity and Basic Skills (JOBS) for Youth Program is a youth apprenticeship program for 11th and 12th graders. This program will offer a program of study which integrates academic curriculum, work related instruction, and supervised on-the-job training. It will lead youth into entry of full-time, registered apprenticeships exclusively or in combination with post secondary studies.

4. The Progressive Adolescent Vocational Exploration Program (PAVE) is designed to meet the needs of economically disadvantaged in-school youth ages 14-21 with special emphasis on 15-18 year olds. PAVE seeks to expand career awareness, prevent dropout, develop foundations skills and competencies and provide alternative career paths especially for those youth interested in apprenticeship, entrepreneurship, and post-secondary education.
5. Youth Work Skills Program (YWS) - The goal of this "crisis intervention" program is to improve the basic educational skills, job seeking capabilities and overall employability of "out-of-school" economically disadvantaged youth; ages 16-21 with special emphasis on 18-19 year olds; with reading levels (measured by standardized achievement tests) at or below the fifth grade level.

B. Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

The Youth Opportunity Program (YOP) is a year-round part-time structured work experience program. This program emphasizes youth development and career direction for students between 16 and 21 years of age who are enrolled in high school or equivalency programs and who have a proven need for financial assistance and motivation.

C. Community Colleges

The Youth Internship Program (YIP) is currently administered at several community colleges located throughout New York State. The purpose of YIP, an employability training and work experience program, is to improve the employability of unemployed, out of school, economically disadvantaged youth between the ages of 16 and 21 years of age.

II. Treatment of YEETP Program Payments

A. Public Assistance

We remind you that all payments received by public assistance applicants/recipients under the YEETP programs described in this INF are completely exempt for all public assistance budgeting purposes under Department Regulation 352.16, 352.20 and 352.22. This exemption continues during semester or vacation breaks, provided the child's enrollment is intended to resume following the break.

B. Food Stamps

For purposes of determining food stamp eligibility and benefit level, YEETP payments are excluded as income only if the payments are:

1. Earned income of a child who is under age 18, under the parental control of another household member, and who is a student at least half-time. This exclusion continues during semester or vacation breaks provided the child's enrollment is intended to resume following the break;
2. Reimbursements for job or training-related expenses;
3. Vendor payments, as described in Food Stamp Source Book (FSSB) Section XII-G-2-4;
4. Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) payments. However, JTPA/On-the-Job Training (JTPA/OJT) payments are treated as food stamp earned income unless the recipient is under age 19 and is under the parental control of an adult household member.

C. Medical Assistance

For purposes of determining MA Only eligibility for SSI-related applicant/recipients, YEETP payments are excluded as income only if the payments are disregarded under Department Regulation 360-4.6(a)(1) or (2). In determining MA Only eligibility for all other applicant/recipients, YEETP payments are completely exempt.

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