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| INFORMATIONAL LETTER |
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TRANSMITTAL: 00 INF-10

TO: Commissioners of
Social Services

DIVISION: Office of
Transitional
Supports and
Policy

DATE: May 22, 2000

SUBJECT: Welfare Reform Community-Based Organization Resource
Guide (Publication No. 4663)

SUGGESTED

DISTRIBUTION: MA Supervisors
PA Supervisors
FS Supervisors
Staff Development Coordinators

CONTACT PERSON: Theresa Wescott (518) 474-9516

ATTACHMENTS: 24-page full color booklet (offline)

FILING REFERENCES

Previous | Releases | Dept. Regs. | Soc. Serv. | Manual Ref. | Misc. Ref.
ADMs/INFs | Cancelled | | Law & Other | |
| | | Legal Ref. | |
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The purpose of this memorandum is to notify local social services districts and other interested parties of the availability of a new publication, "Putting It All Together to Create Changes." This is a resource guide to welfare reform for community-based organizations who work with our mutual clients, but who may have little background information on temporary assistance programs, eligibility requirements and the impact of welfare reform in general.

Background

With the passage of New York's Welfare Reform legislation, the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance's (OTDA) created an informational campaign to focus on our change in philosophy, from long-term dependency to "temporary assistance for permanent change." In the first year of this campaign, an 11-minute video, three posters and a brochure were developed and distributed. The "Self-sufficiency Supports" brochure was developed as part of the second year of the Campaign to continue to educate applicants and recipients as they transition off assistance. Many not-for-profit organizations and other community organizations requested copies of the year one materials to educate their clients who in many cases are also served by our programs. The welfare reform community-based organization resource guide was developed in the second year of the campaign to fill a need for basic information for these non-DSS organizations. These organizations are your partners in your communities who also strive to help people overcome their barriers to self-sufficiency. A coordinated effort will be more effective in achieving this common goal.

Action

Although OTDA plans to do an initial mailing to community-based organizations across New York State, each social services district office can order a supply (on an 876 form for ordering publications) to provide directly to various community-based organizations in their counties. It is an educational tool that will be helpful for organizations that may not know all of the varied assistance programs are available, what the eligibility requirements are for individuals they are trying to help and what is expected of our mutual clients. For example, a drug and alcohol counselor working with a client mandated to treatment should be aware of work requirements so that the two requirements work in conjunction with each other. The guide can also be a way of getting your community's organizations to think of themselves as part of the solution and think about how they might help others to become self-sufficient. (Example: becoming a work experience sight)

Any questions regarding this memorandum should be directed to Theresa Wescott (518) 474-9516.

Brian J. Wing
Commissioner
Office of Temporary and
Disability Assistance