

George E. Pataki Governor

NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE 40 NORTH PEARL STREET ALBANY, NY 12243-0001

Brian J. Wing Commissioner

Local Commissioners Memorandum

Section 1

| Transmittal: | 03 LCM 2 |
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| To: | Local District Commissioners |
| Issuing Division/Office: | Division of Program Support & Quality Improvement |
| Date: | March 3, 2003 |
| Subject: | New Hires Match |
| Contact Person(s): | Temporary Assistance – Alfred Bouchard @ (518) 474-4231 Medical Assistance – Local District Liaison |
| Attachments: | None |
| Attachment Av Line | 110110 |

Section 2

I. Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify for local districts the New Hires matching process, which is used in the verification of eligibility for Public Assistance and Medical Assistance programs.

II. Background

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) requires states to collect New Hire information and to maintain such information in an automated directory called the State Directory of New Hires for various purposes including the enforcement of child support and the verification of eligibility for programs specified in section 1137(b) of the Social Security Act.

Section 171-h of New York State Tax Law requires that employers submit to the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance (TAX) a report containing certain information with respect to each employee who has been newly hired or rehired. This notification is required within 20 calendar days of the hiring or rehiring and is accomplished by sending a copy of the W4 or equivalent form to TAX. TAX then sends OTDA a file of New Hires data on a daily basis, where it is used for both child support enforcement as well as program eligibility verification.

The match with the New Hires database is based on Social Security Number (SSN) only. The data received from this match is similar to that received from the Wage Reporting System (WRS). Information provided through the New Hires match includes:

Name of Employer Address of Employer SSN of Employee Name of Employee Address of Employee Date of W4 (Hire/Rehire Date)

The major advantage over WRS is that New Hires information is more timely. It reduces the notification time to local districts that a client may be employed to a potential one to two months from the three to six months currently experienced with WRS. The major difference is that New Hires data does not include a wage amount.

III. Program Implications

The New Hires match was instituted in three phases as follows:

Phase I (December 1999; May 2000)

A match has been in place since December 1999 in NYC and May 2000 for Upstate, in which a file of active Temporary Assistance, Medical Assistance and Food Stamp cases is matched with the New Hires Directory on a monthly basis. NYC receives a file and upstate districts receive a report (WINR9161) via BICS. The report contains matches from the most recent month of New Hire reports submitted to TAX. Prior to the initiation of the match, training was provided at the local district systems liaison monthly meetings. This same group received additional information regarding the match in May 2000 via e-mail.

Phase II (November 2001)

Applicants for Temporary Assistance, Medical Assistance and Food Stamps are matched on a daily basis with the New Hires Directory and the results are posted to Resource File Integration (RFI). Local districts were notified of this enhancement via GIS message 01MQI/AQC008.

Phase III (May 2002)

Active cases that are matched on a monthly basis, as stated above, were also added to RFI. Local districts were notified of this enhancement via GIS message 02MQI/AQC001.

Verification Required

As with WRS data, New Hires information alone may not be used to take action on a case. Verification is required with either the employer or the client to assure that the data is correct prior to taking any action.

Issued By

Name: Mary Meister

Title: Deputy Commissioner

Division/Office: Division of Program Support & Quality Improvement

2