

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

**Eliot Spitzer** Governor

**David A. Hansell** Commissioner

## **Informational Letter**

# **Section 1**

Section 1							
Transmittal:	07-INF-08						
To:	Local District Commissioners						
Issuing Division/Office:	Bureau of Audit and Quality Improvement (A&QI)						
Date:	June 25, 2007						
Subject:	Lottery Intercept Reporting to Local Districts						
Suggested	Temporary Assistance Directors						
Distribution:	Accounting Supervisors						
	Fraud Investigators						
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Attachmanta	Attachment 1 - Benefit Issuance Control System Cover Letter						
Attachments:	Attachment 2 - Lottery Intercept Summary Report						
	Attachment 3 - Lottery Intercept Payment Detail Report						

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Attachment Available On –	ves
Line:	

## **Filing References**

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
96 LCM-85		18 NYCRR 306 & 369	SSL § 131-r & 20(3)(d) & 34(3)(f) & 104		

#### **Section 2**

## I. Purpose

The purpose of this Informational Letter (INF) is to inform local social services districts of the newly-developed format for the monthly reporting of lottery intercepts.

## II. Background

The Lottery Intercept Match program began in April 1996 in accordance with Social Services Law, Section 131-r. The law states, "Any person who is receiving or has received, within the previous ten years, public assistance pursuant to the provisions of this article and who wins a lottery prize of six hundred dollars or more shall reimburse the department from the winnings, for all such public assistance benefits paid to such person during the previous ten years; provided, however, that such crediting to the department shall in no event exceed fifty percent of the amount of the lottery prize."

On a monthly basis, a tape containing the Temporary Assistance (TA) obligation of everyone who received TA within the past ten years is sent to the State Lottery Office. The Lottery Office uses this tape to match lottery winners, as well as winners at State-run gaming facilities, and intercepts prize winnings to offset their TA obligation. The Lottery Office will withhold from the lottery or gaming prize up to one half of the gross prize amount during a calendar month and send a tape to the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) that contains all the individuals who had prize money intercepted.

Currently, each district receives an initial report of the intercepts through the Benefit Issuance Control System (BICS). This report contains the amounts and the names of individuals having lottery funds intercepted that affect their district. Local districts also receive a follow-up report from the OTDA Bureau of Audit & Quality Improvement/Program Integrity Unit. The follow-up report is to adjust, when appropriate, the amount reported through BICS. The adjustments reflect the amount of the intercepted dollars that were credited to another county because the client received assistance in the other county prior to the lottery intercept. Intercepted dollars are credited based on the oldest TA debt first.

### **III.** Program Implications

Beginning with the June 2007 lottery report that you will receive in July 2007, the format of the BICS report will change. Your district will no longer receive a separate report from the Bureau of Audit & Quality Improvement/Program Integrity Unit. The new BICS format will reflect the proper offset to pay back the oldest TA debt first to the appropriate district.

The lottery information will be sent to you via the district's BICS queue and will include a cover letter and two reports.

The cover letter (Attachment 1) will indicate the number of intercepts for your district. Each district will receive this letter. If your district had zero intercepts this letter will reflect the zero intercepts and no other reports will be included.

The Lottery Intercept Summary Report (Attachment 2) will contain two lines of information for each individual with a lottery intercept that affects your district.

Line one will contain the individual's:

- Social Security Number
- TA obligation
- Gross dollars intercepted
- Net proceeds (the gross dollars intercepted less amounts transferred to other district(s))
- Dates of applied payments
- Amount intercepted for other districts
- Net paid to client
- Total prize
- An indicator for previous lottery intercept(s)
- A Cash Management System (CAMS) indicator

Line two of the report will consist of the offset by case type(s).

If there is a CAMS indicator on the Summary Report, there may be overlapping dates between CAMS and the payments being offset by the lottery intercept. Each district will need to review the CAMS Report. If there is an overlapping period and the CAMS case has been repaid, partially or in full, contact Leonard Tremblay to discuss the overlapping repayments.

Individuals may also reference the CAMS manual at: http://otda.state.nyenet/bfdm/finance/CAMS\_Manual.asp

The Lottery Intercept Payment Detail Report (Attachment 3) will consist of a complete payment history within your district for each individual from the current Lottery Intercept Summary Report. The payment history report will indicate which paylines are being offset by this intercept.

The report should be available monthly on the first Monday morning that falls from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>. This will replace the BICS report that you currently receive on or about the 5<sup>th</sup> of every month. For upstate districts, the report will be titled "LOT130." For NYC, the new reports will be delivered and titled as they are currently.

Each local district must create its own internal distribution list for those people who need or are interested in the monthly report.

Our current process of notification on the status of client appeals remains unchanged. Your district will be notified at the beginning of each month of any individual who has won an appeal and received a refund of their intercepted lottery winnings. This report will be sent to the lottery coordinators in your district as is currently being done.

**Issued By** 

Name: James White Title: Director

Division/Office: Bureau of Audit & Quality Improvement

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