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## Local Commissioners Memorandum

<b>Transmittal:</b>	08-LCM-06
<b>To:</b>	Local District Commissioners
<b>Issuing Division/Office:</b>	Office of Budget, Finance and Data Management
<b>Date:</b>	July 17, 2008
<b>Subject:</b>	Local Administration Fund (LAF) Base Allocations 2008-2009
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<b>Attachments:</b>	Attachment 1: 2008-09 Base Local Administration Fund Allocations
<b>Attachment Available On – Line:</b>	Yes

### I. Purpose

The purpose of this Local Commissioners Memorandum (LCM) is to publish the Local Administration Fund (LAF) base allocation for each local social services district. The LAF was appropriated as part of the budget enacted for State Fiscal Year (SFY) April 2008-March 2009. (See Chapter 53 of the Laws of 2008.) An allocation of the Work Incentive Funds of \$11.4 million will be issued separately.

### II. Background

The LAF replaced the State share administrative cap which had been in existence since State Fiscal Year 1989-90. The LAF is intended to provide local district flexibility, reward efficiencies, and eliminate the administrative cap exempt area plan process which was cumbersome and slow. The 2008-09 LAF is funded at \$322 million including the Work Incentive Funds.

The LAF applies to the State share of costs for the following functional areas: Public Assistance, Food Stamps, Employment (including Food Stamp Employment and Training), and Fraud and Abuse activities allocated to Public Assistance and Food Stamps. Please also note that Food Stamp Employment and Training includes participant reimbursement and dependent care costs. The LAF also includes the State share of Domestic Violence Liaison costs and Drug/Alcohol assessment and screening costs for Safety Net Assistance recipients. Medicaid administrative costs are not part of the LAF but are subject to the local share cap on Medicaid.

### **III. Program Implications**

The 2008-09 Local Administration Fund provides a total of \$322 million of State funds to local social services districts. Of this amount \$310.6 million is a “Base” allocation to provide reimbursement for the program categories identified above. As first instituted in 2005-06, county performance was considered in the development of the allocations and although a heavier weighting on that performance was considered, it was determined most appropriate for the 2008-09 time period to maintain allocations at the 2007-08 level, in order to provide local districts consistent funding for State Fiscal Year 2008-09 and to allow districts to focus on the work participation requirements imposed under TANF reauthorization.

Note: Counties should be aware that prospectively the integration of performance factors into the calculation of the LAF allocations may take on a greater weighting factor and seek to reward districts who have met higher performance standards.

#### Work Incentive Funding

Again this year the Budget includes \$11.4 million in Work Incentive Funds. In order to access any of the \$11.4 million appropriated for the Work Incentive Fund, districts will need to achieve at least a 50% work participation rate. Details related to the Work Incentive Funds including the local districts’ allocations will be issued in a separate Local Commissioners Memorandum.

### **IV. Additional Information**

The LAF covers local district claims for calendar year 2008 and any supplemental claims that are submitted by February 3, 2009. As in the past, the allocation will be paid as a bottom line payment on the districts’ State claims settlements.

#### **Issued By**

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