



NEW YORK STATE
OFFICE OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE
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David A. Paterson
Governor

Local Commissioners Memorandum

Section 1

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| Transmittal: | 10-LCM-05 |
| To: | Local District Commissioners |
| Issuing Division/Office: | Office of Budget, Finance & Data Management |
| Date: | March 23, 2010 |
| Subject: | Temporary Assistance Basic Allowance Grant Increase – Payment to Local Districts |
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| Attachments: | |
| Attachment Available On – Line: | |

Section 2

I. Purpose

This Local Commissioners Memorandum (LCM) advises districts of the methodology to determine the amount by which districts will be reimbursed for the local share of the additional costs to provide the Temporary Assistance (TA) grant increases provided for in the enacted budget for State Fiscal Year 2009-10. Districts were advised of the grant increases in Administrative Directive (ADM) 09-ADM-13.

II. Background

Chapter 57 of the Laws of 2009 amended Section 131-a of the Social Services Law to increase the TA standard of need and Basic Allowance, as set forth in Schedule SA-1 of 18 NYCRR 352.1(a) and Schedule SA-2a of 18 NYCRR 352.2(d). The Basic Allowance was last increased by Chapter 77 of the Laws of 1989, effective January 1, 1990. Chapter 57 of the Laws of 2009 also provided for the State assumption of the local district share of incremental TA expenditures resulting directly from these benefit increases, through March of the year following the final budget increase.

III. Program Implications

The local share of the grant increase will be calculated offline using a methodology similar to the Automated Budgeting Eligibility Logic (ABEL) mass rebudget (MRB) implementing the grant increase. Budget data on all active cases with a budget deficit will be extracted from the Welfare Management System (WMS) and ABEL at the end of each month, and the Basic Allowance for each case subject to the grant increase will be recalculated using the grant levels in affect previous to July 2009. This recalculated amount will then be compared to the current Basic Allowance, and the difference between the current and recalculated amounts will constitute the cost of the grant increase (Room and Board cases will be treated slightly differently – see below). The appropriate local share percentage of that amount will then be calculated based on the claiming category of the case.

Specifically:

- Cases with Shelter Type codes indicating the case is eligible for the Basic Allowance increase will be included in the calculation. Factors such as case and household size, sanction status, and multi-case household status will be taken into account to determine the amount of any adjustments to the Basic Allowance. In essence, any prorationing applied to the current Basic Allowance will be applied to the recalculated amount.
- For room and board cases, where the room and board allowance is the sum of the statewide monthly basic allowance, the statewide monthly home energy payments, the statewide monthly supplemental home energy payments and the local district monthly shelter allowance schedule without children as set forth in 18 NYCRR 352.3(a)(1), the increase has the effect of raising this allowable maximum. In these cases, the amount of the grant increase, if any, will be the amount the sum of these factors exceeds the capped amount, as it existed previous to July 2009.
- Income and recoupments will not be applied to reduce the calculated difference between the old and new Basic Allowance.
- The amount by which districts will be reimbursed for the local share of the additional costs to provide the grant increase will be 50% of the difference for Federally Non-Participating (FNP) cases and 25% of the difference for Federally Participating (FP) cases, capped at the size of each case's budget deficit. In instances in which the local share of the calculated grant increase is greater than the deficit (i.e., capped), the district will receive the full deficit amount; the deficit will not be divided into state and local shares.

This process will be repeated monthly until the expiration of the local share reimbursement mandate.

IV. Claiming

No special claiming is needed to identify the grant increase.

The additional reimbursement is for the local share of the grant increase beginning the month of the first budget increase through March of the year following the final budget increase.

The first bottom line adjustment for the period July 2009 through September 2009 was scheduled to be included in the September 2009 settlement processed in December 2009. Subsequent bottom line adjustments will be processed monthly (e.g. October 2009 processed in January 2010) to reimburse the local share of the increase as determined above.

The bottom line adjustments for periods after September 2009 will be tracked on the FFFS (Flexible Funds for Family Services) ceiling report in the Local Share of Asst category (Schedule A, Line 7, Columns 3, 4, 5 and 11) to ensure that the FFFS allocation programmed is used for net local share after reimbursement for local share grant increase.

Issued By

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