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| LOCAL COMMISSIONERS MEMORANDUM |
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Transmittal No: 92 LCM-7

Date: January 8, 1992

Division: Income Maintenance

TO: Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program

ATTACHMENTS: None

The purpose of this memorandum is to advise local social service districts that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has made funding available to Public Housing or Indian Housing Authorities (PHA/IHA) to develop a comprehensive program which combines housing assistance with appropriate services to help families become self-sufficient and economically independent.

The Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program promotes the development of local strategies which include job training, child care and transportation, through a cooperative effort with private and public resources to assist those families eligible for or receiving benefits through the Section 8 certificate or voucher programs. In federal fiscal years 1991 and 1992, the program is voluntary. However, this program must be implemented by fiscal year 1993.

To promote the concept of Family Self-Sufficiency, HUD is providing public and Indian housing development grants (must be applied for by PHA's/IHA's) as an incentive. The application must include a commitment of public and private resources, including commitment of resources from private industry, for profit and not-for-profit entities, and local public agencies to provide services and assistance appropriate to a FSS program.

Services include: child care; transportation; remedial education; secondary or post-secondary education; job training, preparation and counseling; substance abuse treatment and counseling; training in homemaking and parenting skills; training in money management; training in household management; counseling in home ownership responsibilities and opportunities available for rental and home ownership in the private housing market; job development and placement.

Section 8 administrators/local housing authorities who wish to apply for the incentive grants will be required to form a Program Coordinating Committee through which commitments of public and private resources to provide supportive services to participating families must be obtained. An important component to the success of this program will be the coordination with local social services districts, especially with regard to services available through the Job Opportunity and Basic Skills Training Program and Job Training Partnership Act Programs.

Families that may become involved in this program are low-income or in receipt of public assistance. A successful effort in this endeavor will be beneficial to the local housing administrator, the local social services district and most importantly to the recipient family. I am requesting that you cooperate with the local housing authorities/section 8 administrators to the fullest extent possible in this endeavor. It is important that all local social services districts communicate with these administrators to ensure that appropriate employment and training mechanisms are fully utilized.

If you have any questions regarding this memorandum, please contact your technical advisor from the Bureau of Employment Programs at 1-800-342-4100, extension 3-8377.

Your anticipated cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Oscar R. Best, Jr.
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Income Maintenance