

+-----+
| LOCAL COMMISSIONERS MEMORANDUM |
+-----+

DSS-4037EL (Rev. 9/89)

Transmittal No: 94 LCM-72

Date: June 23, 1994

Division: Commissioner's
Office

TO: Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: Jobs FIRST Waiver Application

ATTACHMENTS: Waiver Application "New York's Welfare Reform Agenda: A
Jobs FIRST Strategy" (not available on-line)

Attached is a copy of the Department's application to the federal Department of Health and Human Services for waivers to enhance our Jobs FIRST program. These proposals were developed by a cross-division work team of Department staff and refined through comments received by local district staff, the Welfare Reform Task Force, and staff from the four districts anticipated to participate in the demonstration.

Among the 17 waivers are requests to permit AFDC and FS applicants to be assigned to more than just job search activities to help move them more quickly into jobs; consolidate several PA and FS eligibility requirements to streamline administration; permit more flexibility in the use of one-time work-related expenses to prevent the use of PA; an easing of the marriage penalty; the elimination of the deprivation factor in eligibility determination; and, allow unemployed, noncustodial parents of children on AFDC to receive employment and training through JOBS.

As a condition of receiving approval for the waivers, New York will have to conduct the waivers on a demonstration basis and contract for an independent evaluation. The State will not be allowed to implement components of the waiver package in a variety of districts but must instead, implement the entire package in a small number of districts and conduct a comprehensive evaluation involving control groups and individual case tracking.

In order to meet the evaluation requirements, it was necessary to select districts that met certain criteria in terms of caseload size, office locations, and participation in the Child Assistance Program (CAP). Districts meeting this criteria include Broome, Onondaga, Erie, and New York City, and we anticipate developing a partnership with them for the demonstration. It has been proposed that the demonstration be implemented county wide in Broome and Onondaga, and in selected areas of Erie and New York City.

We will keep you advised of our progress in obtaining approval of our waiver application. Should you have any questions or need further information on any aspect of the application, please contact Diane Baillargeon at (518) 474-9475 user ID aw6900.

Michael J. Dowling
Commissioner