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| LOCAL COMMISSIONERS MEMORANDUM |  
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OTDA-4037EL (Rev. 11/98)

Transmittal No: 01 LCM-4

Date: February 27, 2001

Division: Temporary Assistance

TO: Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: Food Stamp Error Rate for FFY 1998 and FFY 1999

ATTACHMENTS: Food Stamp Quality Control Data Analysis Report 10/1/97  
through 9/30/98 - not available on-line  
Food Stamp Quality Control Analysis Report 10/1/98 through  
9/30/99 - not available on-line

This memorandum transmits the twelve month reports of statewide FS/QC reviews for federal fiscal year (FFY) 1998 (10/97 to 9/98) and federal fiscal year (FFY)1999 (10/98 to 9/99).

The statewide food stamp payment error rate has increased from 9.4% for FFY 1997 to 12.4% for FFY 1998. Both New York City and upstate error rates increased: from 11.5% to 13.9% for NYC, and from 5.5% to 9.5% for upstate. Earned Income errors continue to account for the majority of error dollars, representing slightly over 24% of the total error dollars statewide. However, the combination of earned income, citizenship/alien status and household composition errors total 56% of the overall Statewide error rate.

The statewide food stamp payment error rate has decreased from 12.4% for FFY 1998 to 10.1% for FFY 1999. Both New York City and upstate error rates decreased: from 13.9% to 12.3% for NYC, and from 9.5% to 6.2% for upstate. Earned Income errors continue to account for the majority of error dollars, representing slightly over 37% of the total error dollars statewide. However, the combination of earned income, citizenship/alien status and household composition errors total 61% of the overall Statewide error rate.

The majority of all error dollars are caused by errors in the earned income element. Quality Control review findings attribute the errors to clients failing to report employment and earnings to the districts, or failing to

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report the termination of employment or reduction of wages, all resulting in countable payment errors. Earned income errors also result when agencies disregard reported information, fail to act on incomplete quarterly reports, or incorrectly interpret policy.

All general and technical questions should be directed to the Eastern Regional Team at 1-800-343-8859, extension 3-1469.

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Patricia A. Stevens  
Deputy Commissioner  
Division of Temporary Assistance