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| INFORMATIONAL LETTER |
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TRANSMITTAL: 95 INF-11

TO: Commissioners of
Social Services

DIVISION: Economic
Security

DATE: March 31, 1995

SUBJECT: Crime Victims Compensation

SUGGESTED

DISTRIBUTION: Public Assistance Staff
Food Stamp Staff
Employment Staff
Medical Assistance Staff
Staff Development Coordinators

CONTACT PERSON: Pat O'Shea, Income Support Programs at
1-518-473-3170, extension 6-5123;
County Food Stamps Representative at ext. 4-9225;
Sharon Burgess, Medical Assistance at
1-800-343-8859 extension 3-5531

ATTACHMENTS: None

FILING REFERENCES

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
					Federal P.L. 103- 322

The purpose of this informational letter is to inform local social services districts about the recently enacted Federal Crime Bill (P.L. 103-322), as it relates to public assistance, food stamps and medical assistance programs.

This bill prohibits the payment of crime victims compensation when another federally participating program will cover the same costs. It requires that such other program shall pay without regard to the existence of the crime victim compensation program. Therefore, our federally participating programs must pay their benefits to eligible persons without requiring recipients to utilize crime victims compensation.

This requirement will primarily affect payment of ADC burial allowances and other special needs grants, EAF and federally participating medical assistance. HR burial allowances and non-federally participating medical assistance should continue to treat crime victims compensation as an available resource for two reasons: crime benefits are frequently more generous than these programs and because crime benefits receive some federal reimbursement.

Food Stamp Implications

There is no requirement under the Food Stamp Program to apply for this benefit.

Medical Assistance Implications

Medical Assistance will generally follow PA treatment of Crime Victims Compensation payments. Federally-related applicants/recipients (A/Rs) are not required to apply for Crime Victims Compensation benefits.

Crime Victims Compensation should not pay for medical bills of an MA eligible crime victim. To avoid possible duplication of MA and Crime Victims payment of a medical bill, A/Rs who receive Crime Victims payments should be advised to report such payment to the district.

Robert N. Seaman
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Economic Security