

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

Transmittal No: 90 LCM-25

Date: February 15,, 1990

Division: Family and Children  
Services

TO: Local District Commissioners

SUBJECT: Preventive Housing Services

ATTACHMENTS: Attachment A: Agency Executive Letter - available on-line.

The purpose of this memorandum is to make you aware of the attached letter to voluntary foster care and preventive services agencies which we are sending this week. It represents one effort to ensure that service providers and others are fully aware of the preventive services housing services (rent subsidy) program. Other efforts will include a similar letter to inform Family Court judges about the program and its requirements.

As you know, the program, which was established by Chapter 542 of the Laws of 1988, has been in effect for just over one year. To date a small number of families have been served and it is my belief that there are more families who could benefit from the program. Those eligible are families whose children are remaining in foster care due primarily to the family's lack of adequate housing.

While the main target areas of this law were New York City and other large cities, it is clear that there are eligible families throughout the state, and it is pleasing to see that a number of small and medium size local districts are providing the services.

Date February 15, 1990

Trans. No. 90 LCM-25

Page No. 2

I would like to hear from you regarding any concerns, questions or problems with the implementation of this program.

---

Joseph Semidei  
Deputy Commissioner  
Division of Family  
and Children Services

Attachment A

January 26, 1990

Dear Agency Executive,

The purpose of this letter is to respond to questions and concerns raised by some of you in relation to preventive housing services (rent subsidy), and to invite you to contact your local social services officials or the appropriate Family and Children Services Regional Office representatives should you wish to discuss your role in implementing this program.

Housing services, as we call this new program, was established by Chapter 542 of the Laws of 1988. That law requires local social services commissioners to provide, as a mandated preventive service, rent subsidy, rent arrears and any other assistance necessary to secure adequate housing to families whose children remain in foster care due primarily to the family's lack of adequate housing. Such housing services are to be provided for the purposes spelled out in the law and in Department Regulation in amounts up to a maximum of \$300 per month per family for a period not to exceed three years.

The law has been in effect since December 9, 1988. This Department filed implementing regulations on an emergency basis on that date. Some of you commented on those regulations. A copy of the final regulations, which were filed on September 5, 1989, is attached. An Administrative Directive will soon be available.

Since the effective date housing services have been provided to only about 60 families throughout the state, although our original estimate of the number of potentially eligible families was considerably higher. If you are experiencing difficulty working with the requirements of this program, I am interested in knowing your concerns and I encourage you to communicate them to the people mentioned above.

Sincerely,

Joseph Semidei