

# SOCIAL SERVICES -

**6010, 6055, 6070, 6100, 6109,  
6140, 6141, 6142, 6101**

self-sufficiency to the greatest degree possible.

- DSS will vigorously assist all adult recipients capable of working with pursuing employment. Failing a bona fide effort in such pursuit, benefits will be reduced within the context of regulatory authority.
- DSS will pursue every available administrative means to maximize revenues (child support collections, fraud repayments, chronic care co-payments recovery, liens, etc.) and offset County costs.

## **2010 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

In December 2009, the Department of Social Services initiated an HPRP Rapid Rehousing Program, to assist homeless single individuals and families to secure and maintain permanent housing. This initiative is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Community Development's Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program (HPRP), as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Through subcontracts with Albany Housing Coalition, Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York, St. Catherine's Center for Children and St. Peter's Addiction Recovery Center, eligible individuals and families are provided with up to 18 months of housing assistance and supportive services. During the first 10 months of the program, the Albany County HPRP Rapid Rehousing Program has been successful in rehousing 209 single individuals and families, assisting them to more rapidly transition from homelessness to housing permanency than would otherwise have been possible.

The Care Coordination Program, which expands the capacity of NY Connects-Point of Entry has begun operating. So far this year, the Care Coordination Program has provided intensive, in-person assistance to 25 consumers. A majority of these individuals have significant needs and are unable to understand or manage the linkage to long term care services without direct assistance. Consumers have needed linkages to programs and services to assist with activities of daily living, accessing medications, home modification programs, adult day care programs, respite in a facility, caregiver support services, transportation to medical appointments, mental health services, legal services, financial and budgeting issues, entitlement programs. Meeting clients' needs requires intensive work to assist these individuals and their caregivers to navigate the long term care system, access services, and prevent a crisis from occurring.

## **DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS**

- DSS is using the Early Retirement Incentive to undertake a significant reorganization of the Department. Twenty-two individuals were offered the ERI and their positions eliminated. At the same time, 16 new positions were created, primarily entry-level front line staff. Of the positions added, half are direct client service in-take staff that assist clients and conduct benefit eligibility determinations. Reducing the proportion of middle and top level positions while increasing the number of front-line staff will better position the Department to properly serve the needs of residents in an ever-changing fiscal and regulatory environment.
- Long term care assessment services have been consolidated within the Point of Entry. Four nursing and one support position are added to DSS to carry out the responsibilities associated with conducting assessments for long term care and Aging services.
- The net number of positions in DSS decreased by five.
- The enhanced Federal contribution to New York State for Medicaid costs continues through the first 6 months of 2011, with a two-tiered reduction in the rate of enhancement taking effect in January and April. The appropriation for Medicaid payments to the state is reduced from what would otherwise be required by almost \$3.8 million. After June 30, this extra aid is discontinued.
- While the Family Assistance caseload is expected to be relatively stable in 2011, the need for Safety Net is expected to increase. The need for emergency shelter for the Safety Net populations continues to drive up expenditures. The Safety Net appropriation is increased by just under \$1 million.

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