

## **NON-PARENT CAREGIVERS – CAN WE HELP?**

The Westchester County Department of Social Services appreciates the problems a non-parent caregiver can encounter. There are several programs available that may help. The programs that are available are:

### **Temporary Assistance**

- This is cash assistance. Eligibility for Temporary Assistance is based only on the income and resources of the child(ren). Although only the children are applying, regulations require that everyone living in the household be included on the application and that the entire application is completed. Therefore, information on the income and resources of all the individuals included on the application must be provided.
- The non-parent caregiver does not need to have court ordered custody of the child(ren) nor is legal guardianship required.
- Regulations do require that your relationship to the child(ren) be documented.
- In addition, you must assist Westchester County in getting child support for the child(ren) in your care. If you believe there is a good reason for not providing information or your knowledge is limited regarding the absent parents you must discuss this with your worker. Failure to cooperate will result in a sanction and reduce the amount of money that you can receive.

### **Food Stamps**

- Children and adults are normally included in the same Food Stamp case. Income and resources of the child(ren) and adult(s) who are included in the household must be used to determine the amount of food stamps you will receive. Some exceptions apply and will be explained when you file your application.
- The entire application must be completed when applying for Food Stamp benefits.

## **Medicaid**

- Children receiving Temporary Assistance also receive Medicaid.
- Non-parent caregivers can apply for Medicaid for children under the age of 21. Eligibility is based on the income and resources of the child(ren).
- As with other programs, pursuit of a child support order on behalf of the children with absent parent(s) is an eligibility requirement.
- The entire application must be completed.

**You can apply for the programs described above at the district office serving your area. District offices are located in:**

- **Yonkers, 137 Alexander St - 231- 2728**
- **Mt. Vernon, 100 E. First St – 813-6192**
- **White Plains, 85 Court St – 995-4681 or 995-5889**
- **Peekskill, 750 Washington St. – 862-5078**

\* The phone numbers are for information regarding office procedures such as how to obtain an application or how to schedule an appointment.

## **Child Care**

- Help with paying for child care may be available to employed non-parent caregivers earning at least the hourly minimum wage for children up to the age of 13. Under some circumstances a disabled child may be eligible for childcare up to the age of 19.
- Income (and not resources) of the child(ren) is used to determine eligibility. However, the entire application must be completed which means information regarding the caregiver and anyone else living with the child(ren) must be provided.
- The relationship between the caregiver and the child(ren) must be documented.
- You choose the child care provider. If the provider is approved, we can help with the child care cost. We can also help you locate an approved provider if you do not have one in mind.

**Child care applications are processed at 143 Grand Street, White Plains. For information or an application packet please call 995-6521 or 995-6522.**

### **HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program)**

- HEAP payments vary depending on the household's income and type of heating. Payments are also available for emergency fuel situations.
- **Applicants under the age of 60** can apply at the local Community Action Program office. If you are not sure where an office near you is located, you can call WestCop Central, 592-5600 ext 100 for information.
- **Applicants over the age of 60** can apply through the Office for Senior Programs and Services. For information call 813-6300.

**Additional information on how this program works and where applicants of any age can apply is available by calling the Westchester HEAP office at 995-5534.**