

BENEFIT UPDATE

July 2008

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Out of Focus: CSS Report Says Only a Fraction of the 163,000 Youth in NYC are being Served

There are an estimated 12,000 targeted education and employment slots for 163,000 disconnected youth in New York City, which represents only a 7 percent service capacity for the total disconnected youth population, according to a report released by the Community Service Society of New York (CSS). Disconnected youth are defined as young people, between 16 and 24 years of age, who are neither in school or working. The report, entitled, “Out of Focus: A Snapshot of Public Funding to Reconnect Youth to Education and Employment,” is the first description and analysis of the range of education and workforce funding resources available to reengage young people who are out of school and out of work. Seventeen programs, across education and workforce funding streams, were surveyed for this report. [Click here](#) for the full report.

Food Stamps Phone Recertification Pilot in NYS

New York State is implementing a phone recertification pilot under a waiver from USDA to test the recertification process via the telephone. Households will receive in the mail the notice of recertification, as well the application for recertification. The notice will include a telephone interview date and time. It also has a call time request form for the household to request alternative dates that are more convenient for them. The household is instructed to mail in their completed recertification form (preferably by certified mail, although it is not required), the call time request form and copies of any required documentation. The designated FS change center will review the recertification form and will call the household up to 4 times before the scheduled interview date to either confirm the date or conduct the interview, if the household is available at that time. If the FS center is unable to reach the household during these 4 phone calls, they will call the household at the originally scheduled date and time. If the center cannot reach the household during the scheduled interview, they will mail a *Notice of Missed Interview*. The household should contact the center to reschedule their interview if they want their recertification application processed. During the phone interview the worker will advise the household if any outstanding documentation is needed. The household will have 10 days from the date of the interview to submit missing documentation, if any.

Food Stamps: HRA Expands Roll Out of Change Centers

The Food Stamp Program in NYC is converting several of their centers into “change centers” where telephone interviews for Working Families and telephone recertifications for non-PA Food Stamp households will be conducted (see Benefit Update [February 2008](#) for details on WFFSI phone interviews). These change centers will no longer take walk-ins or conduct face-to-face interviews. The following FS centers have converted to change centers: Food Stamp office F-43 in Queens, Food Stamp office F-11, the Union Square office in Manhattan, F-22, Coney Island office in the South Brooklyn region and F-24 Greenwood office in the North Brooklyn region.

Medicaid News

There have been several positive changes in the Medicaid program. Changes on the income and resource are reflected in our [Eligibility Charts](#).

Income Guidelines

Income guidelines for singles and childless couples have increased significantly, as follows:

Medicaid Income Guidelines for Singles/Childless Couples	
Household Size	Income Limit
1	\$673
2	\$840
3	\$999
4	\$1,160

For additional changes in the income guidelines, see the Eligibility Charts.

Resource Guidelines

Effective April 1, 2008 the Medicaid resource guidelines increased significantly for the following Medicaid categories:

- Children under 21
- Parents with children under 21
- Singles/Childless Couples (S/CC)
- Those who are 65 and over, blind or disabled
- Family Health Plus (FHPlus)— with or without children
- The Medicaid Buy-In for Working People with Disabilities (MBI-WPD)

The new resource levels for these categories are as follows:

April 1, 2008	
Household Size	Resource Level
1	\$13,050
2	\$19,200

3	\$22,200
4	\$25,050
5	\$27,900
6	\$30,750
7	\$33,600
8	\$36,600
9	\$39,450
10	\$42,300
each addtl	\$2,850

This new resource guideline does not include those receiving Medicaid under the DAC (Disabled Adult Child) provision or the Pickle amendment. These individuals will continue to have a resource limit of \$2,000 or \$3,000 as applicable.

Elimination of Resource Guidelines for the Medicare Savings Program

Effective April 1, 2008 the Medicare Savings Program no longer has a resource/asset test. Individuals applying for or in receipt of QMB, SLMB or QI-1 no longer have to meet the resource guideline.

Elimination of Drug/Alcohol Requirement for Medicaid

In addition to the changes in the Medicaid resource guidelines Medicaid has eliminated the Drug/Alcohol requirement as an eligibility factor. Therefore effective April 1, 2008 Drug/alcohol screenings, assessments, mandated drug and alcohol treatment, and monitoring of compliance with such treatment **are no longer a condition of Medicaid eligibility.**

Public Assistance (PA) Earned Income Disregard (EID)

The PA earned income disregard (EID) for families with dependent children has increased from 48% to 50 % effective June 1, 2008. The Office of Temporary Disability Assistance adjusts the EID annually on June 1st of each year to reflect the most recently released federal poverty guidelines. Below is a chart outlining how the EID is applied to PA applicants and recipients.

Earned Income Disregards for Public Assistance Households		
	Determining Eligibility	Determining Grant Amount
PA Applicants	Can only be applied when the household was on PA in any of the four months preceding application	If a household is eligible for PA without the earned income disregard, HRA will calculate the grant amount using the earned income disregard, even if it was not used when determining eligibility.
PA Recipients	Will be applied to all PA households when they begin to work. Household must pass PA's gross income test to be eligible for an ongoing PA grant.	Will be applied to all PA households when they begin to work to determine grant amount.

If you would like more information about PA Budgeting ; subscribers to the *PBRC Manual* online or print version may go to: *Income: Needs Based, Public Assistance, Public Assistance Budgeting*.

For those who are non subscribers a FREE TRIAL of the *PBRC Manual* online is available at:
<http://pbrcmanual.cssny.org/>

Increases in Stabilized Rent

The City's Rent Guidelines Board have approved an increase for rent-stabilized apartments in New York City. Beginning on or after October 1, 2008 and on or before September 30, 2009, there will be an increase of up to 4.5% for a one-year renewal lease and up to 8.5% on a two-year renewal.

The board authorized a supplemental rent increase, which will affect tenants who have lived in their apartments for six years or more. Owners of buildings with these tenants have the option of charging the above approved increases or a \$45 monthly increase for one-year leases or \$85 for two-year leases, whichever is greater.

Last year the Rent Guidelines Board approved rent increases of up to 5.75% on two-year leases and 3% on one-year leases.

Clarification on Child Care and Immigration Status

Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum recently challenged NYC Children's Services on their practice of denying parents, with a questionable immigration status, child care services when their children are U.S. citizens. . The response from John Mattingly, Commissioner, NYC Children's Services stated that parents do not have to be a U.S. citizen or a legal permanent resident in order for their children to be eligible for care. The law does state that the child must be a U.S. citizen or a legal permanent resident. The letter gives reassurance that the Children's Services, Child Care Information and Referral Unit will be "knowledgeable" on this policy and will be able to provide parents with accurate information. [Click here](#)



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for a copy of the letter.([20080714141126531.pdf](#))

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Resilience Advocacy Project

The Resilience Advocacy Project invites youth service organizations to take advantage of three free programs for youth this summer:

- Holistic preventive legal services for youth on civil legal issues relating to education, family law, teen parenthood, foster care, child care, public benefits, and employment. Their staff will be available on site to provide valuable legal guidance, legal information about available supports and resources, and/or advice and individualized advocacy plans for youth on a one-on-one basis.
- Law-based peer-advocacy workshops for youth that address various legal issues that impact their lives. Currently two workshops are offered: The Access to a College Education (ACE) workshop is for youth who are interested in attending a vocational or college program after high school. The *Getting it Right!* workshop helps teen fathers access the legal and community resources they need in

order to be successful parents. Youth learn about their rights and responsibilities as fathers, and about how to understand and navigate the child support and family court systems.

- Action research community-mapping project. Through a short-term policy action project, youth will have an opportunity to become policy experts about an issue in their community that concerns them through the creation of a Youth Community Resource Guide.



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For more information about these services and programs, [click here](#)

to see descriptions.

To request a workshop, legal clinic, or to involve your youth in our action research project, please fill out



FORM.Summer08.pdf

and fax the [Request Form](#).

NY State Physician Profile

This Web site was created after Governor George Pataki signed the New York Patient Health Information and Quality Improvement Act of 2000 to make it possible for all citizens of New York to get information about physicians (doctors).

Certain information is required to be available on all physicians. Such information includes:

- Information about the doctor's medical education
- Information about interpretation services at the doctor's office
- Information about legal actions taken against the doctor

<http://www.nydoctorprofile.com/>