Local Commissioners Memorandum

Section 1

Transmittal:	09-LCM-19
To:	Local Social Services District Commissioners HEAP Coordinators
Issuing Division/Office:	Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance/Center for Employment and Economic Supports
Date:	December 30, 2009
Subject:	Discontinuation of SOLQ Access For HEAP Eligibility Workers and Alternate Certifiers Effective January 1, 2010
Contact Person(s):	SSI Questions – SSI Bureau (518) 473-0332; HEAP Questions – HEAP Bureau (518) 473-0332; Audit Questions (518) 402-0316
Attachments:	
Attachment Available On – Line:	

Section 2

I. Purpose

The purpose of this LCM is to inform Local Social Services District Commissioners and HEAP Coordinators that, effective January 1, 2010, HEAP eligibility workers and alternate certifiers will no longer be allowed access to the State Online Query (SOLQ) system for determining an applicant's eligibility for HEAP.

II. Background

The Social Security Administration (SSA) and the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) have renegotiated data exchange agreements that are effective January 1, 2010. Because SSA maintains that SOLQ may only be used for the TANF, Food Stamps, Medicaid and Unemployment Insurance programs, the data exchange agreements that take effect on January 1, 2010 no longer enable New York State to allow access to SOLQ for purposes of determining eligibility for HEAP.

III.   Program Implications

In the absence of SOLQ, the *SDX – SSI Individual Status* Screen on WMS may be used to verify SSI income for HEAP eligibility determination purposes. This screen allows local district staff to access timely, authoritative information on a person's SSI status, including appeal and denial status. The screen enables workers to access SSI information quickly and easily which has improved service, decreased errors and diminished calls to the Social Security Administration (SSA) for SSI information. The data is used to assist local workers in determining eligibility and benefits for Medicaid, Food Stamps, cash assistance, HEAP and other programs.

For more information on the *SDX – SSI Individual Status* screen please refer to Local Commissioner Memorandum 07-LCM-04.   The field names and codes on the screen are taken from the SDX Reference Guide. The SDX Reference Guide can be viewed at the OTDA intranet website under the Center for Employment and Economic Supports, under Manuals or at http://otda.state.nyenet/dta/Manuals/sdx.pdf.   For more information about the SDX Reference Guide please refer to General Information System GIS 08 TA/DC014.

Please be sure to communicate this information to your HEAP alternate certifiers.

Issued By
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