

1990 ANNUAL REPORT

MADISON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

JAMES L. CARY  
COMMISSIONER



MADISON COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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IN REPLY  
PLEASE REFER TO:

May 7, 1991

Robert Kuiper, Chairman  
Members of the Madison County Board of Supervisors  
County Office Building  
Wampsville, New York 13163

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I hereby submit this Annual Report of the 1990 activities of the Madison County Department of Social Services. It is a detailed review of our efforts on behalf of children, low-income families, single adults, and disabled persons who are dependent upon this agency for financial support and social services.

I would like to make note of several DSS program changes that have had significant impact on the efficiency and effectiveness of the agency.

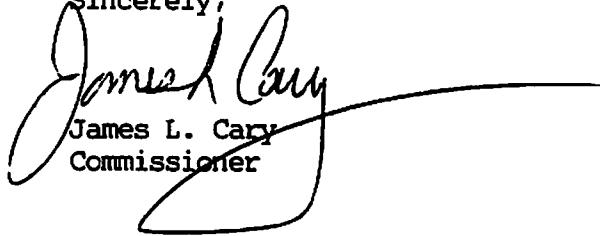
Our most challenging endeavor was the merger of the Public Assistance and Food Stamps units. This merger was implemented January 2, 1990, and involved a six-month planning and training effort to ensure a smooth and successful transition. The end result has been a more efficient application process for the program areas and the ability to provide a better service delivery system to our clientele.

Another program initiative we addressed in 1990 was the agency's "front-end detection" or validation process. This year we started validating every Public Assistance applicant. The results were an average monthly denial rate of thirty-four percent (34%). This relates to yearly Public Assistance/Food Stamps savings of approximately \$195,798.00.

In services, our concerns still revolve around the high number of Child Protective Services calls we are required to investigate and the ever-increasing number of residential placements. In addressing the placement issues, we started negotiating with the help of the House of the Good Shepherd around mid-year for a level of therapeutic foster care for Madison County foster care cases. Our goal by the end of 1991 is to have ten beds available to help avoid institutional placements of some of our foster care charges.

In closing, I wish to acknowledge and thank the members of my staff for their daily commitment and dedication to a very difficult job. Also, the continual support of the Board is appreciated and considered a vital part of our efforts to serve the residents of Madison County.

Sincerely,

  
James L. Cary  
Commissioner

JLC/et

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DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

PERSONNEL-STAFFING OVERVIEW

In 1990, a total of eighteen employees left the Social Services Department. Thirteen employees resigned, three retired, one temporary employee was laid off, and one employee was removed due to being unreachable on a Civil Service eligible list. Thirteen employees requested and were granted leaves of absence. Eight were for medical leaves and five were maternity leaves.

The vacancies which resulted from people leaving the department occurred at many levels. There were four Social Welfare Examiner vacancies, three Typist vacancies, two Account Clerk/Typist vacancies, two Clerks, two Caseworkers, two Parent Aides, one Senior Typist, one Transportation Aide, and one Case Supervisor vacancy. Two of the Social Welfare Examiner vacancies were filled by promoting clerical staff. One of the Typist vacancies was filled by promoting a clerk. One of the Account Clerk/Typist vacancies was filled by promoting a typist. The Case Supervisor vacancy was filled by promoting a caseworker. The remainder of the above-noted vacancies were filled by hiring new employees.

The vacancies resulting from the various promotions were either backfilled through promoting clerical staff, or by the hiring of new employees. There were a total of six promotions with the department during 1990, and a total of twenty new employees hired.

Three new positions were added in 1990 - a Caseworker in the Child Welfare area, a Parent Aide in the Child Welfare area, and a Social Welfare Examiner in the Medicaid (P-CAP) area.

The Caseworker position was added in order to be able to adequately handle the increased numbers of CPS referrals, Family Court referrals, and requests for preventive services which have occurred in our children's services areas.

The Parent Aide position was added in order to fulfill the increased demand for parent support and parenting skills training needed by neglecting and abusing parents.

The Social Welfare Examiner position was added in order to determine the Medicaid eligibility of individuals applying for P-CAP services under the new P-CAP program which is run by the County Health Department. This position is funded through the Madison County Department of Health.

One position was reclassified in 1990. An Account Clerk/Typist position was reclassified to Typist upon becoming vacant. This reclassification was the result of the 1987 job study done by the NYS Department of Civil Service which determined, upon reviewing this position, that the duties were more in line with the Typist title.

In 1990, sixteen employees of the department qualified for the attendance bonus of \$125 in accordance with Article 35.7 of the White Collar Bargaining Agreement.

At the end of 1990 there were a total of one hundred and two positions within the Department of Social Services, plus the Sheriff's deputies provided through a contract with the Sheriff's Department to conduct fraud investigations.

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT

A total of 1,239 hours of training was provided to the Department of Social Services staff during the year 1990. Employees participated in locally-arranged training, State-imposed training, and NYPWA conferences.

One in-house initiative for 1990 included further training on Public Assistance rules and regulations for all Income Maintenance staff as follow-up to the merger of Public Assistance and Food Stamp caseloads. This was accomplished with a review of such topics as categorical determination and filing unit. New York State DSS provided on-site training in the topic of specialized budgeting. The on-site training allowed us to invite neighboring counties to participate.

Tension among Income Maintenance workers was high due to the merger that took place January 1, 1990, and due to the increase in the application rate. To help the examiners deal with the additional stress, Jeff Ferris of The Tuning Fork was contracted to provide on-site stress management training.

Two other Income Maintenance initiatives that required a concerted training effort included the Welfare Reform program consisting of JOBS and transitional child care, and the Alternate Food Stamp Issuance (AFSI) program. Each of these new programs required several training sessions by the State level. Those participating in the State trainings were responsible for training other local staff. The AFSI training started in July, 1990, for an implementation date of January, 1991. Numerous State trainings were given regionally, locally, and at Albany. Along with the implementation of both of these new initiatives came the task of educating the clients to these new programs. This is accomplished in part by the use of a video machine that has been installed in the client waiting room.

Another locally-arranged training was provided through a joint venture with the Madison County Probation Department. Sylvia DeFrancisco-Skinner was contracted to provide four hours of training on interviewing skills. Eleven people attended from this Department, including caseworkers, welfare examiners, and parent aides.

Once again, a limited training budget allowed us to participate in only one course offered through the Central New York Coalition of Local Governments. This course was titled, "Proposal and Grant Writing".

The State-sponsored trainings continued to require a \$7 per day fee to be withheld from our State reimbursement for each trainee who participates. This fee is charged regardless of whether the training is mandated, deals with new rules and regulations, or to just further one's understanding. As of December 1, 1990, the training fee increased to \$14 per day. With this increase it is often more cost effective to contract locally for general training topics such as stress management or dealing with the difficult public.

Participation in the two-week Child Protective Core Curriculum provided through Cornell University is still mandated for all new CPS (Child Protective Services) workers. Two CPS workers attended this training in 1990.

Various staff members participated in the New York Public Welfare Association's summer and winter conferences. Due to State budget problems, two conferences planned for November - the annual Staff Development conference and the Welfare Reform conference - were cancelled at the last minute.

Three employees were able to take advantage of a graduate course titled, "Administrative Issues in Human Welfare", offered through SUNY-Albany and given at Mohawk Valley Community College. Tuition was paid by NYSDSS. Knowledge of this program was gained by one of our workers networking with an Oneida County employee at a State training. We are hoping to explore more State-funded career development and tuition assistance programs.

The future in Staff Development will be a challenge to provide the best possible training while remaining within our budget. Many changes in rules and regulations are foreseen due to Federal and State budget problems. These changes will provide a busy year of training ahead.

#### INCOME MAINTENANCE UNIT

The unrecognized recession was made apparent by the increased Public Assistance and Food Stamp caseloads in 1990.

The year began with 368 Aid to Dependent Children (ADC), 53 PG-ADC (same reimbursement as Home Relief), and 64 Home Relief (HR) for a total of 485 Public Assistance cases. The caseloads continued to increase in the first three months of the year and reached a total of 540 cases at the end of March. Between the end of March and the end of September it stayed fairly stable, fluctuating only within 10 cases. But for the last three months of the year, the increase continued and the year closed with 460 ADC, 76 PG-ADC, and 85 HR for a total of 621 Public Assistance cases. The last time the PA caseload was this high was April of 1986.

There were 912 non-Public Assistance Food Stamp (NPA-FS) cases at the beginning of 1990. They increased to 972 at the end of February and then began a continual decline to the lowest point of 887 cases at the end of June. A slow but continual increase immediately began and at the end of December there were 977 Food Stamp cases.

The combining of the Public Assistance and Food Stamp units actually became effective on January 2, 1990. This was done in order to streamline operations and to better serve the clients. The Income Maintenance (IM) division now consists of an eligibility unit and a recertification/undercare unit. Both units function in both the PA and FS areas, but the eligibility unit handles applications for assistance. The recert/undercare unit manages the case once it has been opened. Both areas continue to be very difficult in light of the sheer numbers of clients that are served and the myriad of regulations that must be applied to each case. The difficulty of mastering the regulations is compounded by their constant change.

New York State was compelled to implement Welfare Reform by October 1, 1990, or face federal sanctions. Part of the Welfare Reform package was transitional child care and transitional Medicaid. Both programs were effective April 1, but full information on implementation was not provided until September. These transitional programs involve some

clients having an automatic period of eligibility for Medicaid and child care reimbursement if their PA case closes due to employment and they have received PA for three of the past six months.

Other Welfare Reform changes were implemented effective October 1 under the JOBS (Job Opportunities and Basic Skills) legislation. Changes involved making parents employable whose youngest child was three years old (previously the age was six); sanction periods for non-compliance were completely revamped, as was the computer coding.

Preparations were begun in 1990 for the elimination of the ATP (authorization to participate) in the Food Stamp program. The ATP was a pink paper (much like a check) which FS recipients received each month, took to the bank, and exchanged for their food coupons.

In September, all recipients were mailed a new plastic Common Benefit (CBIC) card. This replaced their Medicaid card, their Public Assistance identification card, and their Food Stamp identification card. In 1991 this card is to be used in an electronic transaction for the client to receive their food coupons without an ATP.

A massive client education campaign was undertaken by NYS Social Services, and by the local office as well, for the last three months of the year. Along with educating the clients, the examiners were trained in the new procedures and forms that this change would necessitate.

A couple of mass changes occurred which resulted in higher food stamp benefits for most recipients. Effective April 1st, the standard deduction for heat, utilities, and telephone increased from \$133 to \$137, \$104 to \$114, and \$30 to \$34 respectively.

Effective October 1st, food stamp allotments increased. The maximum benefit for a single individual increased from \$99 to \$105. The maximum benefit for a household of four increased from \$331 to \$352.

A total of \$11,973.35 was collected on food stamps claims for overissuances. This amount represents cash collections, returned food coupons, and recoupment from monthly allotments.

Again this year, the regular component of the HEAP program for

1989-90 ended March 31st, and the emergency component ended September 30th.

The 1990-91 program year began on November 15th and is expected to continue through March and September as before for the regular and emergency components.

Income guidelines for eligibility increased slightly but benefit levels decreased.

### MEDICAL ASSISTANCE UNIT

In 1990 the Medical Assistance unit was once again faced with many new and revised regulations. New or revised Medical Assistance regulations for 1990 included:

1/1/90: Expanded Eligibility for Pregnant Women and Children to Age One. This regulation expanded eligibility limits to 185% of the federal poverty level for this group. Resources are not considered. Also included was the provision to designate qualified providers who may authorize 45-day presumptive Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women. The Madison County Public Health Department is the qualified provider in Madison County.

4/1/90: Transitional Medicaid. This regulation extends Medical Assistance coverage for Public Assistance cases closing because of increased/new earnings or the ending of earned income disregards. The medical assistance is extended for six months; an additional six-month period may also be available for certain cases.

10/1/90: Expanded Eligibility for Children Ages One Through Five. This regulation authorized expanded Medicaid eligibility limits to 133% of the federal poverty level for this age group. Also, resources are not considered.

Caseload statistics reflected the implementation of the above-mentioned regulations. January began with 985 cases and steadily increased with an all-time high of 1,134 cases in December.

## ADULT & FAMILY SERVICES

During 1990, the Adult Services unit provided services as illustrated in the Service Chart. Delivery of service has remained stable.

The Employment section was very active. New JOBS legislation, effective October 1, 1990, has increased the employable individuals from an average of 48 to 120. This number is expected to continue to increase due to JOBS and the economic situation. Activities in which recipients participate are supervised job search, work experience, Job Club, career exploration groups, training and educational programs. There were a total of 42 work sites available throughout the county with an average of 40 recipients assigned monthly. Five individuals were transitioned into full-time employment at their work site; an additional 11 were hired elsewhere. Ten Job Club sessions were held during 1990. A total of 55 recipients participated. Of this number, 20 individuals obtained employment. To attempt to reach those individuals not yet considered employable, Project Advance groups were conducted. These groups are designed to assist individuals plan for future self-support by solving barriers to employment. A total of 29 individuals attended the four groups. All participants had educational or employment plans by the end of the sessions. The department plans to continue to work with this population in the coming year.

Coordination with JTPA through their outstationed worker continued in 1990. All individuals attending groups were interviewed by JTPA staff for training and employment opportunities.

A total of 277 individuals were placed on Food Stamp Job Search. Eighteen individuals were enrolled in employment-related training. Forty-seven entered employment; 57 were sanctions. The total savings was \$25,279.

Also related to employment is the provision of day care. Eighty-one families were provided day care through the income eligible programs. Services are available to eligible families throughout the county. Also, two families received transitional day care. This is a new program for people leaving public assistance for employment.

Another area active in the unit was in-home care programs. A total of 184 individuals received services under the Long Term Home Health Care and Personal Care programs. The Long Term Home Health Care with its waivered services continued to provide an alternative to institutionalization. Sixty-nine individuals were placed on the program. The average age was 76 with a range of 49-95. The average DMS-1 score was 162. These clients were maintained in the home at 43% of the cost of placement. With more individuals in need of care wishing to remain at home and the cost of institutional placement increasing, it is felt this program continues to be an effective approach to the problem.

<u>SERVICES PROVIDED</u>	<u>ADULT</u>	
	<u>NO. RECIPIENTS</u>	<u>NO. HOURS</u>
EMPLOYMENT	25	250
FAMILY PLANNING	0	0
FOSTER CARE - ADULTS	18	275
HEALTH RELATED	30	534
HOME MANAGEMENT	46	2117
HOMEMAKER	0	0
HOUSEKEEPER/CHORE	0	0
HOUSING	0	0
INFORMATION & REFERRAL	2345	1513
PREVENTIVE - ADULT	23	773
PROTECTIVE - ADULT	7	364
INVESTIGATION PROTECTIVE	0	0
TRANSPORTATION	1	4
PERSONAL CARE SERVICES	0	0
SERVICES TO VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	0	0

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES

### Foster Care & Institution Placements

The number of children in foster care has shown an increase throughout 1990. In January there were 64 children in foster care. By December we had 71 children in foster care. However, during May, June and July we had 84 to 85 children in placement.

Placements in higher level of care have also increased. We began the year with 35 in placement and ended the year with 43. The placement of teenagers in the JD/PINS category was fairly stable while the bulk of the increase was with younger children.

Madison County youth placed with the New York State Division for Youth is gradually increasing. January saw seven youths in placement. By December we had nine in placement.

The increase in institutional placements is due in part to more difficult children being referred to the Department of Social Services by the court for placement in higher levels of care. For the majority of these children, psychiatric and psychological evaluations are obtained to determine the need for service and the level of placement which is more appropriate. In addition, the lack of foster parents willing and able to foster children and teenagers with severe problems remains a factor.

With an increase in the number of extremely difficult children to be placed, the Department continues to work with the House of Good Shepherd to provide intermediate levels of care at a lower cost. Currently we have placed two children in therapeutic foster care at the House. In addition, the House of Good Shepherd is providing diagnostic evaluations. Children may be placed in Group Emergency, House of Good Shepherd foster care, Department of Social Services foster care, or may remain at home while receiving a thorough psychological evaluation. This allows the Department to obtain diagnostic evaluations at lesser costs, depending on the supervision needs of a particular child.

### Preventive Service

During 1990 the number of children served who were not in placement ranged between 180 and 200. This number is basically consistent with services provided in 1989.

The Children's Services unit continues to provide case management to court-ordered foster care diversion services which are contracted out to Madison County Catholic Charities. In addition, we have referred several cases for intensive after-care services following a discharge from an institution. Case management of this contracted service has necessitated the use of approximately one-half of a caseworker position but continues to provide the agency with substantial reimbursements from the State. Forty-one children have received diversion service in 1990. During the year, 26 cases were terminated, 15 cases completed the program successfully, 7 were placed with the Department of Social Services for placement, 3 cases were terminated by court, and 1 was placed on probation.

### Morrisville Project

Last year a new program was instituted at Morrisville Elementary School to identify families in need of preventive service. During the last half of the 1989-90 school year, 20 referrals were accepted from teachers and staff. Of these families, 20 were assisted and/or referred. Seven cases have yet to have a disposition. Due to staff on leave we suspended the program for the first semester of 1990-91.

### Parent Skills Training

The Department has continued to contract with a private contractor to facilitate a parent skill training group. This parent group deals with the problems of multi-problem families and continues to decrease the time their children spend in foster care. Additionally, the group has assisted in preventing placement of children who have not been placed. Many of the parents who are actively participating in this group are parents of teenagers and young adolescents.

During 1990, 29 families were serviced by the parent group. These families included 72 children.

The group has been led by David Blaisdell and co-taught by Children's Services personnel. The parents who are active in this group continue to make great personal strides which will help them cope with their children's behavior. Work in this area will continue during the coming year.

#### Adoption Services

During 1990, five persons were certified as prospective parents for hard-to-place children. These persons were trained and certified in conjunction with the training and certification of foster parents. The basis for combining adoption and foster parent certification has to do with the fact that most of the older, hard-to-place children who are freed for adoption have come through the foster care system and many of the issues that need to be dealt with are the same.

The Department currently has 11 children in its charge who have been freed for adoption. One of these children is in an adoptive home and finalization should occur in the next few months. Of the remaining children it is anticipated that three will not be placed due to age and emotional problems and will have their goals changed to independent living. The placement of three children is currently being delayed by a court appeal. One child will be beginning pre-placement visits soon. The other ones are either newly freed or have severe emotional or physical problems which are delaying arrangements for placement.

Due to the fact that we have had no infants surrendered in several years, our policy continues to be that we will not accept application for certification of prospective parents for healthy infants.

#### Day Care Service

At the beginning of 1990, we had nine certified day care homes. Throughout the year we lost all but three. This was due primarily by the request of the day care mothers. We were unable to do any recruiting due to unavailability of staff.

### TASA (Teenage Services Act)

The provision of TASA services to pregnant and parenting teens continues to be slow in being accepted by the teens it is meant to serve. The worker who acts as case manager to help these teens work toward the goal of self-sufficiency spends up to half her time in the service area.

### Independent Living Services

We continue to contract with Programs and Domiciles to provide independent living group sessions to those children in foster care who are at least fourteen. These sessions are held once each month on Saturday. During these sessions, children learn interpersonal skills, cooking, budgeting, shopping, job hunting and other skills of interest to them in preparing to live independently in the future. There are currently 10 children participating.

### Foster Parent Orientation and Status

We have continued to use MAPP (Model Approach to Partnership in Parenting) orientation for certification of prospective foster parents. We began the year with 35 certified homes and closed the year with 43, 7 of which are relative homes for specific children. Although we have not increased our numbers as we might have hoped, we have found that our MAPP-trained parents appear to be better prepared as foster parents than in the past and appear to be better able to manage difficult problems. Unfortunately, we will lack enough foster homes for teenagers.

The creation of a position of foster home finder/recruiter is helping in this area. It is anticipated that this position will continue to enhance and improve our foster home program.

### CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

During 1990 there were 671 calls received from the Child Abuse Register, an increase of 77 over 1989. In addition, we received 22 requests for service in situations where an SCR report was not made but an investigation or other assistance was requested by the Court, another agency, or an individual.

The rate of indicated reports decreased from 39% to 28%.

There were 109 petitions filed in Family Court. This included 33 neglect, 4 abuse, 30 extensions, 5 violations, 1 termination of parental rights, 5 permanent neglect, 10 approvals of voluntary placement, 1 PINS, 5 amendments, 3 foster care reviews, 2 termination of visitation, 1 modification of disposition, and 7 applications to restore cases to the Court calendar.

Foster care placements numbered 47, a decrease of 10 from 1989. This included 8 voluntary placements, some of which were later converted to neglect. Twenty-eight of these children remained in foster care at the end of the year. Of those children discharged from the total child protective foster care caseload, 21 were discharged to the same parent, 10 were discharged to another relative/caretaker, 1 was freed for adoption, 1 was discharged to DFY and 1 was discharged to her own responsibility.

There are now 6 children placed in therapeutic foster care at Hillside Children's Center and 2 in therapeutic foster care at the House of the Good Shepherd. Five children are in residential treatment.

The Madison County Mental Health Department remains our primary provider for evaluations and treatment for both children and parents. STEP classes this past year have been provided by our parent aides. They are currently developing a curriculum that will better meet the needs of our developmentally delayed clients. Evening classes for employed clients were held in 1990 and will continue on a limited basis if needed in 1991.

Staff turnover numbered three. One position was filled with a worker who had CPS experience, and a second position was filled with a worker who had a great deal of experience working with children in other related areas.

**1990 CHILD ABUSE AND MALTREATMENT REGISTER REFERRALS**

MONTH	IND.	UNF.	TRANS.	REPEAT CALLS IND.	UNF.	SECONDARY RESPONSIB.	ADD'L INFO.	DUPLICATE	PENDING
JANUARY	13-21	27-40	1-1	5-9	6-10	3-8	0	0	0
FEBRUARY	5-10	21-36	2-6	1-2	8-17	5-8	0	1-1	0
MARCH	10-18	34-69	5-5	6-10	4-5	10-22	1-2	2-2	0
APRIL	9-12	34-70	4-7	7-13	3-4	2-3	0	0	0
MAY	15-33	40-63	4-7	3-6	6-10	6-8	1-2	1-1	0
JUNE	9-18	20-32	3-5	0-0	4-8	5-8	0	0	0
JULY	9-18	24-38	2-3	2-4	4-8	1-1	0	2-2	0
AUGUST	10-21	34-67	3-4	4-6	2-4	6-11	0	4-5	0
SEPTEMBER	7-9	37-73	0	1-1	5-9	5-8	0	0	0
OCTOBER	7-9	18-36	2-4	3-8	1-4	2-3	1-2	2-2	17-29
NOVEMBER	4-9	9-16	4-1	2-4	1-2	6-7	1-4	1-1	25-49
DECEMBER	1-2	3-5	4-8	0	2-7	1-2	0	0	46-66
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>99-180</b>	<b>301-545</b>	<b>34-51</b>	<b>34-63</b>	<b>46-88</b>	<b>52-89</b>	<b>4-10</b>	<b>13-14</b>	<b>88-144</b>

First number in each column - families  
Second number in each column - children

IND. - Indicated  
UNF. - Unfounded

TRANS. - Transferred out of county

SECONDARY RESPONSB. - Secondary responsibility. Part of the family resides in our county.  
(Primary responsibility rests with the county where the child resides)

CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTION UNIT

1990 collections totalled over \$2,265,000. This is a 7.2% increase from 1989. Foster care reimbursement has continued to grow with a 31% increase. Another area that has increased is the collection of administrative charges. This increased 114%. This mainly represents the collection of legal fees.

Our caseload has also increased 7.2%, for a total of 2,310 open cases at the end of 1990. Our ADC (Public Assistance) cases have experienced the largest increase at 10.6%.

Two bills were passed by the State Legislature that impact upon our unit. One bill allows the New York State Office of Child Support Enforcement to create a pilot project for centralized collections. The State will be attempting to establish one collection site in New York, thereby eliminating this service at the local level. This action raises concerns on accuracy and the local departments' credibility with the courts and the general public. The other bill amends the Domestic Relations Law, Family Court Act, and Social Services Law. Many of the changes impact the court's process and decisions. Several impact this unit directly. The law now requires (with some exceptions) that an immediate income execution be issued on all orders. Previously, this was processed only if the payor defaulted in payments. The application for our services has been redefined. The law now requires an application for our services before the court can direct monies through our office.

### SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

The Special Investigations unit consists of two full-time deputy sheriffs and one account clerk/typist. The unit deals with overpayments, fraud investigations, validations, security, arrests, and other types of investigations where a police officer is needed.

#### REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS:

<u>Month</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Open</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Closed</u>	<u>Total</u>
January	9	\$ 25,001	8	\$ 2,345	\$ 27,346
February	5	2,058	10	1,646	3,704
March	4	1,945	3	630	2,575
April	4	2,769	5	1,984	4,753
May	4	1,533	4	701	2,234
June	1	282	5	1,298	1,580
July	0	0	8	2,378	2,378
August	6	4,372	16	4,383	8,755
September	4	1,732	7	2,887	4,619
October	0	0	4	883	883
November	1	269	7	1,885	2,154
December	5	2,375	7	1,685	4,060
<b>GRAND TOTALS:</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>\$ 42,336</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>\$ 22,705</b>	<b>\$ 65,041</b>

VALIDATION PROCEDURE: No fraud arrests were made in 1990. The front-end detection system known as the validation procedure has enabled us to "catch" a potential fraud and stop it before it starts. This procedure is saving the county time and money in court costs, appointed attorney fees, and examiners' time which is needed to figure the amount of overpayment. We are currently validating every Public Assistance case that applies in Madison County. This procedure enables us to deny a case before it opens, therefore stopping any monies from going out to clients to which they are not entitled.

The following schedule is based on a one-month savings.

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VALIDATIONS:

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
ADC Cases	31	24	27	21	24	31	27	33	43	67	43	35
ADC Denied	4	8	9	8	6	5	6	12	13	26	9	12
ADC-U Cases	6	3	6	6	7	4	3	5	5	6	7	10
ADC-U Denied	4	1	1	2	6	4	1	2	2	3	3	3
HR Cases	36	32	26	26	24	32	34	30	29	51	47	28
HR Denied	13	10	7	11	12	12	10	9	7	22	22	13
Total Cases	73	59	59	53	55	67	64	68	77	124	97	73
Denials	21	19	17	21	24	21	17	23	22	51	34	28
Denial Rate	29%	32%	29%	40%	44%	31%	27%	34%	29%	41%	35%	38%

DENIAL REASONS:

Resources/ Income	4	5	4	6	5	4	3	7	4	9	7	4
Incorrect Address	2	3	1	2	1	3	4	2	2	10	3	2
Failed to Contact Unit	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	3	8	1	4
No Show For Appointment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
Withdrew as Validation	9	8	3	4	9	5	4	5	7	12	10	5
Other	4	1	7	7	6	6	3	7	6	11	11	10

APPROX. SAVINGS:

PA  
Savings 8675 7436 7381 10257 9931 8877 7380 10952 10523 25692 14968 13088

FS  
Savings 4485 3734 2950 5062 4530 4106 2884 4538 4596 11632 6371 5830

**TOTAL  
SAVINGS:**

January	\$ 13,160	July	\$ 10,264
February	11,170	August	15,490
March	10,331	September	15,119
April	15,319	October	37,324
May	14,461	November	21,339
June	12,983	December	18,838

**YEARLY TOTAL:**      \$ 195,798

**ABSENT PARENT REFERRALS:**

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
	43	39	56	65	64	47	38	41	31	44	42	35

**1099'S:**

Referrals	13	2	19	0	0	2	6	1	1	11	5	0
Reports												
O.K.	6	0	4	6	0	4	4	2	0	1	2	3
Pending	7	9	24	18	18	16	18	17	18	28	30	27

**CONVICTIONS RECEIVED FROM PRIOR FRAUD ARRESTS:**

3 convictions received (2 Grand Larceny 4th Degree and 1 Petit Larceny).  
The following amounts are court-ordered restitution:

	P.A.	PA-FS	NPA-FS	TOTAL
1)	\$ 1,002.00	0	0	\$ 1,002.00
2)	5,692.89	1,325.00	0	7,017.89
3)		454.00		454.00

Both cases involving food stamps will also result in a six-month disqualification from the Food Stamp Program for further savings.

MEDICAL AUDIT UNIT

Transportation services provided in 1990 totalled 3,289 through taxi, ambulance and wheelchair van. Transportation aides provided 1,727 rides.

Nine new Medicaid providers in Madison County were enrolled in 1990.

### RESOURCE DEPARTMENT

The Resource Department has the responsibility of assessing and collecting monies due the agency, including mortgages, accident liens, estates, fraud and non-fraud repayments, and third-party health insurance claims.

The following is a breakdown of monies received by the Resource Department in 1990:

Excess resources	\$ 10,289.41
Accident liens	14,735.00
Satisfactions of mortgages	7,866.62
Estates	98,779.27
Fraud repayments	9,632.07
Non-fraud repayments	9,343.62
Retroactive SSI	41,467.34
Rx reimbursement/insurance refunds	4,742.17
Assignments of proceeds	137,959.50
Miscellaneous	53,637.94

Burial applications are taken by the Resource Department and totalled 35 for 1990.

The Resource Department also conducts resource clearances, which are reports sent to area banks to detect unreported accounts. In 1990, 136 resource clearances were completed.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

FISCAL

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Disbursements:

Personal Services	\$1,730,874	
Equipment	11,266	
Contractual	406,116	
Employee Benefits	<u>443,792</u>	
		\$2,592,048

Credits:

State Reimbursement	\$ 872,500	
Federal Reimbursement	1,136,600	
Refunds	<u>13,200</u>	
		\$2,022,300

NET LOCAL COST		\$ 569,748
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	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
Gross Cost	\$2,281,742	\$2,592,048	\$310,306	
Net Local Cost	\$ 237,163	\$ 569,748	\$332,585	

OLD AGE, BLIND, DISABLED

(SSI)

Disbursements:

None

Credits:

None

NET LOCAL COST -0-

	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
Average Caseload	840	844	4	
Gross Cost	-0-	-0-		
Net Local Cost	-0-	-0-		

AID TO DEPENDENT CHILDREN

Disbursements:

Cash Grants	\$2,039,221	
Vendor Payments	<u>813,509</u>	
		\$2,852,730

Credits:

State Reimbursement	\$ 706,774	
Federal Reimbursement	1,016,409	
Refunds	<u>394,600</u>	
		\$2,117,783

NET LOCAL COST		\$ 734,947
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	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
Average Caseload	404	480	76	
Gross Cost	\$2,258,422	\$2,852,730	\$594,308	
Net Local Cost	\$ 438,483	\$ 734,947	\$296,464	
Average Cost Per Case	\$ 5,590	\$ 5,943	\$ 353	

HOME RELIEF

Disbursements:

Cash Grants	\$211,537	
Vendor Payments	<u>98,766</u>	
		\$310,303

Credits:

State Reimbursement	\$140,551	
Federal Reimbursement	-0-	
Refunds	<u>40,200</u>	
		\$180,751

NET LOCAL COST		\$129,552
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	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
Average Caseload	93	69		24
Gross Cost	\$396,554	\$310,303		\$86,251
Net Local Cost	\$168,199	\$129,552		\$38,647
Average Cost Per Case	\$ 4,264	\$ 4,497	\$233	

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE & MMIS

<u>Disbursements:</u>	<u>Gross MMIS</u>	<u>Local Share MMIS</u>	<u>Local MA</u>
Nursing Home Care	\$ 7,711,036	\$1,141,233	
Hospital Care	4,327,092	1,182,162	\$ 136
Physicians' Services	494,174	135,008	1,536
Pharmacy and Drugs	904,505	247,361	7,971
Dentists	130,207	35,573	10
Optical	13,744	3,755	5
Clinics	568,815	155,400	
Home Health Aides	702,617	99,069	
Home Nursing	359,986	40,654	
Personal Care	7,454	2,036	
Other Practitioners	149,532	40,852	
Child Care Per Diem	72,382	19,775	
Rehabilitation Services	31,268	8,542	
Sick Room Supplies	136,720	37,352	
Lab and X-Ray	102,439	27,986	
Abortions	5,604	1,531	
Therapists	1,501	410	
Transportation	183,566	50,150	
Health Insurance Premiums			34,980
Medicare Buy-In			58,323
Hospice Services	3,619	989	
Waived Services	60,107	16,421	
DME and Appliances	47,075	12,861	
Other	13,828	3,778	
Total Cost	\$16,027,271	\$3,262,898	\$ 102,961
Total Paid from Local Funds			\$3,365,859

Credits:

State Reimbursement	\$ 115,000	\$ -51,000
Federal Reimbursement		-91,100
Refunds		317,000
	<u>\$ 115,000</u>	<u>\$ 174,900</u>

NET LOCAL COST \$3,075,959

	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
Average Caseload (MA Only)	890	1,075	185	
Gross Combined Cost	\$13,433,891	\$16,130,232	\$2,696,341	
Local Funds Expended	\$ 2,548,423	\$ 3,365,859	\$ 817,436	
Net Local Cost	\$ 2,333,028	\$ 3,075,959	\$ 742,931	
MA Only + PA + SSI:				
Average Caseload	2,221	2,469	248	
Average Cost Per Case	\$ 6,049	\$ 6,533	\$ 484	

PURCHASE OF SERVICES

Disbursements:

Title XX	\$ 20,427	
Day Care NPA Underemployed	105,653	
Catholic Charities	<u>73,797</u>	
		\$199,877

Credits:

State Reimbursement	\$121,848	
Federal Reimbursement	52,600	
Refunds	<u>-0-</u>	
		\$174,448

NET LOCAL COST		\$ 25,429
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	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
Gross Cost	\$164,704	\$199,877	\$35,173	
Net Local Cost	\$ 31,014	\$ 25,429		\$5,585

CHILD WELFARE

(Foster Care)

Disbursements:

Boarding Homes	\$361,874
Institutions	683,235
Independent Living	<u>7,522</u>
	\$1,052,631

Credits:

State Reimbursement	\$406,600
Federal Reimbursement	269,876
Refunds	<u>47,400</u>
	\$ 723,876

NET LOCAL COST	\$ 328,755
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	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
Average Caseload	87	88	1	
Gross Cost	\$1,050,055	\$1,052,631	\$2,576	
Net Local Cost	\$ 429,781	\$ 328,755		\$101,026
Average Cost Per Case	\$ 12,070	\$ 11,962		\$ 108

BURIALS

Disbursements:

Cash Payments to Funeral Directors	\$44,225	\$44,225
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Credits:

State Reimbursement	\$13,020	
Refunds	<u>-0-</u>	\$13,020

NET LOCAL COST		\$31,205
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	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
Number of Burials	29	31	2	
Gross Cost	\$46,029	\$44,225		\$1,804
Net Local Cost	\$30,564	\$31,205	\$641	
Average Cost Per Burial	\$ 1,587	\$ 1,427		\$ 160

## JUVENILE DELINQUENTS

### Disbursements:

Boarding Homes	\$ 35,407
NYS Division for Youth	176,138
Other Institutions	<u>707,558</u>
	\$919,103

### Credits:

State Reimbursement	\$456,748
Federal Reimbursement	500
Refunds	<u>8,100</u>
	\$465,348

NET LOCAL COST	\$453,755
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	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
Average Caseload	29	32	3	
Gross Cost	\$737,668	\$919,103	\$181,435	
Net Local Cost	\$487,567	\$453,755		\$33,812
Average Cost Per Case	\$ 25,437	\$ 28,722	\$ 3,285	

EMERGENCY AID TO ADULTS

Disbursements: \$1,354

Credits:

State Reimbursement	\$800	
Refunds	<u>200</u>	\$1,000

NET LOCAL COST \$ 354

	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
Gross Cost	\$42	\$1,354	\$1,312	
Net Local Cost	\$21	\$ 354	\$ 333	

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

<u>Disbursements:</u>		\$596,613		
<u>Credits:</u>				
Federal Reimbursement	\$579,000			
Refunds	<u>1,000</u>	\$580,000		
 NET LOCAL COST		\$ 16,613		
	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
Gross Cost	\$436,458	\$596,613	\$160,155	
Net Local Cost	\$ 9	\$ 16,613	\$ 16,604	

TITLE IV-D PROGRAM

Disbursements:

None

Credits:

	Incentives	\$65,643
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NET LOCAL REVENUE		\$65,643
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	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
Net Local Revenue	\$65,184	\$65,643	\$459	

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
**Net Local Cost**  
**Budget vs. Actual**

	Budget	Actual	Surplus or (Deficit)
General Administration	\$ 574,755	\$ 569,748	\$ 5,007
Aid to Dependent Children	562,000	734,947	(172,947)
Home Relief	277,300	129,552	147,748
Medical Assistance and MMIS	2,377,900	3,075,959	(698,059)
Purchase of Services	20,935	25,429	(4,494)
Child Welfare (Foster Care)	477,500	328,755	148,745
Burials	45,600	31,205	14,395
Juvenile Delinquents	464,310	453,755	10,555
Emergency Aid to Adults	2,500	354	2,146
Energy Assistance Program	-0-	16,613	(16,613)
Title IV-D Program	<u>(60,000)</u>	<u>(65,643)</u>	<u>5,643</u>
	<u>\$4,742,800</u>	<u>\$5,300,674</u>	<u>\$(557,874)</u>

### FISCAL SUMMARY

#### Disbursements:

General Administration	\$2,592,048
Assistance to Aged, Blind, & Disabled	-0-
Aid to Dependent Children	2,852,730
Home Relief	310,303
Medical Assistance & MMIS	3,365,859
Purchase of Services	199,877
Child Welfare (Foster Care)	1,052,631
Burials	44,225
Juvenile Delinquents	919,103
Emergency Aid to Adults	1,354
Energy Assistance Program	596,613
Title IV-D Program	-0-
	<u>\$11,934,743</u>

#### Credits:

General Administration	\$2,022,300
Assistance to Aged, Blind, & Disabled	-0-
Aid to Dependent Children	2,117,783
Home Relief	180,751
Medical Assistance & MMIS	174,900
Purchase of Services	174,448
Child Welfare (Foster Care)	723,876
Burials	13,020
Juvenile Delinquents	465,348
Emergency Aid to Adults	1,000
Energy Assistance Program	580,000
Title IV-D Program	<u>65,643</u>
	<u>\$ 6,634,069</u>

NET LOCAL COST				\$ 5,300,674
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	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
Combined Gross Costs	\$21,043,928	\$24,699,116	\$3,655,188	
Gross Local Funds	\$ 9,920,097	\$11,934,743	\$2,014,646	
Net Local Cost	\$ 4,090,645	\$ 5,300,674	\$1,210,029	