

## North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Social Services

325 North Salisbury Street ● Raleigh, North Carolina 27603 Courier # 56-20-25

Michael F. Easley, Governor Carmen Hooker Buell, Secretary Pheon E. Beal, Director (919) 733-3055

August 3, 2001

## Dear County Directors:

The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services has been notified by the US Department of Health and Human Services that its Office for Civil Rights will be conducting a compliance review of the Department. A compliance review is a regular, systemic inspection designed to determine whether a recipient of DHHS funding is complying with certain civil rights laws and regulations that OCR is authorized to enforce.

This review is being conducted under the authority of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI). Title VI prohibits discrimination based upon race, color or national origin. Due to the large increase in North Carolina's Hispanic population, the Office for Civil Rights is focusing on this population and our ability to translate the English language into Spanish. While this is the primary focus, it does not exclude other language translation needs when necessary.

Under Title VI agencies such as Public Health and Social Services are required to take reasonable steps to ensure that their programs, benefits and services are being adequately provided to those LEP individuals. Therefore, as recipients of funding from DHHS, you are obligated to comply with Title VI. Your local social services department was selected by the Office for Civil Rights for the review.

Specifically, the Office for Civil Rights is requiring that these selected counties complete a survey involving programs, benefit, and services that are provided to "Limited English Proficient (LEP)" individuals.

Within 10 days of request of this letter please provide us with three copies of the completed data request including any attached information. If you will be using pamphlets, please photocopy them on standard size paper. The copies will be routed to OCR, the division and the Office of the Secretary (NCDHHS).

Please mail copies to Vicky Church, NCDSS, 2404 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2404.

All questions in regard to content may be directed to M. Terry Hodges at 919-715-7449.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Theon E. Beal

Attachments: Data Request Form:

