New York State Office for the Aging
Bldg. 2, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223

No.: 85-IM-139
Date: 12/20/85

Programs Affected: CSE IIHB IIC C
CAIV V RPE HEAP

Contact Person(s) - Phone Number(s)
Nicholas Rogone
(518)474-0505

For Your Information:

Purpose

The State Office for the Aging has been authorized to implement a statewide program to ensure expansion of training opportunities for informal caregivers. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide you with information on the subject legislation, Chapter 366 of the Laws of 1985.

Background

Consistent with the intent of the enabling legislation, implementation will result in the development of a comprehensive program of informal caregiving training through a Train-the-Trainer process. In consultation with the Departments of Health and Social Services, the Offices of Mental Health and Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, the State Office of the Advocate for the Disabled, and other appropriate public and private entities over the next 18 months, the SOFA will establish a statewide capacity to organize and conduct training sessions for potential trainers of informal caregivers. Potential trainees will include individuals that come in contact with family caregivers on a regular basis, for example, corporations, unions, individuals affiliated with local service organizations, religious groups and other local entities. The program is designed to ultimately enhance the ability of elderly frail and disabled persons to continue living in their homes and communities.

SOFA will subcontract with established organizations with the experience and/or expertise required to conduct the actual train-the-trainer sessions. An RFP will be issued early next year. We estimate that the total number of Train-the-Trainer programs will be between 30 and 40, reaching approximately 500 future trainers. The training sessions will be based on the SOFA curriculum Practical Help-Caring for the Elderly in the Community.

The SOFA program will also contain program development activities aimed at enhancing the existing curriculum. For example, the project will include a component that addresses an immediate need - special training for caregivers of Alzheimer victims. In addition, the program will include activities that will address other special needs, such as those associated with families caring for disabled individuals and caregiving situations unique to particular ethnic groups.

- AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER -
An advisory committee will be established to help guide the project. Members of this committee will include representatives from appropriate state agencies, area agencies on aging, statewide and local organizations involved in providing assistance to older and disabled individuals and their families, as well as advocacy organizations and the private sector.

Role of Aging Network

In implementing the Caregivers Training Program, SOFA staff anticipates working closely with area agency staff in locales expressing interest in Train-the-Trainer programs. Area agency knowledge of local needs, resources and potential program audiences will greatly facilitate planning for and conducting Train-the-Trainer programs. Visibility of area agencies, their positive image and acceptance in communities across the state and their closeness to the program's target audience on a regular basis provides a strong foundation for AAA involvement in local training activities.

One objective of the program will be to provide the opportunity for AAAs to be visible facilitators for informal supports training at the local level. In addition to serving as local sponsors, area agencies could act as local clearinghouses for scheduling and organizing local activities related to informal caregiving after the initial Train-the-Trainer sessions have been completed. Any AAA's participation will be voluntary. SOFA program staff will be in a position to provide varying degrees of support and back-up as warranted. Project staff will work with AAAs in arranging and marketing the Train-the-Trainer sessions on a demand responsive basis.

Program Implementation

SOFA is currently refining a plan of implementation for the program and is now taking steps to establish staff positions and begin recruitment. We envision start-up of the program early in 1986. As additional details become available, the SOFA will provide you with this information. Because assistance from AAAs will be very beneficial to the program, we look forward to continued interest from area agencies.