

DSS ID # _____

AGENCY FISCAL ESTIMATE OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS

AGENCY SUBMITTING REGULATION Department of Social Services DATE 09/26/12

SUBJECT MATTER OF REGULATION Rental Assistance Program

REGULATION SECTION NO. 17b-812-1 to 17b-812-14 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 17b-3 and 17b-812

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED _____

EFFECTIVE DATE USED IN COST ESTIMATE Jan 1, 2013

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY Tom Rice

QUESTIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO Lee Voghel TELEPHONE 424-5842

SUMMARY OF STATE COST AND REVENUE IMPACT OF PROPOSED REGULATION

Agency Department of Social Services Fund Affected General

	SFY 2013	SFY 2014	SFY 2015
Number of Positions	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Personal Services			
Other Expenses			
Equipment			
Grants (Medicaid)			
Total State Cost (Savings)			
Estimated Revenue Gain (Loss)			
Total Net State Cost (Savings)			

EXPLANATION OF FEDERAL IMPACT OF REGULATION:

The impact is to amend the regulations of the Rental Assistance Program to conform with Public Act 09-118 which requires that any person aggrieved by a decision by the Department shall have the right to an administrative hearing in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 54 of the Connecticut General Statutes and to make other technical changes.

Section 17b-812-14 (New) provides the process for notices, appeals and hearings for the Rental Assistance Program. Below is an outline of the process.

- A) The State must give written notice to deny assistance to program applicants and written notice to program participants of decisions to change the terms of rental assistance or the discontinuance of assistance.
- B) Program applicants (not receiving assistance) have 60 days to request an administrative hearing from the date printed on the notice of decision issued by the Department or its agent.
- C) Program participants (receiving assistance) have 10 days to request an administrative hearing from the date printed on the notice of decision issued by the Department or its agent.
- D) An administrative hearing must be scheduled by the Office of Legal Counsel, Regulations and Administrative Hearings not later than thirty days from the receipt of the request for an administrative hearing.
- E) Not later than sixty days from the date of the administrative hearing, the Office of Legal Counsel, Regulations and Administrative Hearings shall issue a written report of its findings which may order a change to the original decision.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There will be minimal fiscal impact as the regulations included defining the appeals and hearing process as well as minor technical changes.

DSS does have an estimated 2-month back-log of administrative hearings. The hiring of an additional Fair Hearings Officer would help alleviate the back-log. Additional expenditures are incurred as well, as a result of the back-log, as additional housing subsidies are required to cover the time period between an administrative hearing request and the actual hearing date. This back-log is not a result of the revision to the regulations.

MUNICIPAL IMPACT: None.