

January 14, 1999

TO: The County Board of Arlington, Virginia

FROM: William T. Donahue, County Manager

SUBJECT: Appropriation of State Funds for Food Stamp Program Error Rate Reduction

RECOMMENDATIONS: 1. Appropriate \$53,842 from revenue from the Commonwealth (001.0647) to the Department of Human Services (001.411) for Food Stamp error rate reduction.

2. Reauthorize two temporary Human Service Aide V positions (2.0 FTEs) in the Department of Human Services (001.411) for Food Stamp error rate reduction activities.

ISSUE: None.

BACKGROUND: The Commonwealth of Virginia was allowed by the Food and Consumer Service Division of the Department of Agriculture to reinvest funds, in lieu of paying a federal sanction, for activities to reduce the State's Food Stamp error rate. In September 1997, County staff developed an error reduction plan and requested funding to hire two Human Service Aide V positions to assist existing staff in error reduction activities. A one year grant for \$53,842 was awarded by the State and approved by the County Board on December 13, 1997. _

Although Arlington successfully reduced its error rate to below the tolerance level, the State notified the County in October that additional funds would be available to extend its efforts; notification has been received that an additional \$53,842 has been approved by the State.

The Bureau of Assistance Programs will continue utilizing two Human Services Aide V positions to screen automated systems for wage and asset information, obtain information from recipients on circumstance changes and route this to the appropriate eligibility worker, follow up for case action, initiate contacts with collateral sources of information and verify reported information. The duration of this effort will be approximately one year or until funds are exhausted.

FISCAL IMPACT: None. The grant will fully fund the activity outlined above. Funding is entirely from State revenue and no local funding or match is required. When the funds are exhausted, the temporary staff will be eliminated.

STAFF:Walter Zaumseil, Department of Human Services