



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
SENIOR & DISABLED SERVICES DIVISION
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AUTHORIZED BY: _____

**SDSD Administrator/Deputy/
Assistant Administrator**

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

SDSD-IM-00-73

Date: July 20, 2000

TO: SDSD District and Unit Managers
AAA Directors and Program Managers

**SUBJECT: Poverty in Oregon: A Call to Action Conference
October 2-4, 2000 at the Hilton Eugene Conference Center**

INFORMATION: The Hunger Relief Task Force and the Interagency Council on Hunger are sponsoring a conference on October 2-4, 2000. Many Oregon state agencies, including the Department of Human Services (DHS) are participating in this event. The intent is to facilitate discussion between the poverty/hunger advocates and various state agencies to collectively venture beyond existing welfare reform programs. One priority is to consider realignment of policies that will champion long term outcomes rather than penalize initial achievements with abrupt benefit reductions. When families are yet to be adequately stabilized, untimely benefit reductions can be disillusioning.

For some time now, the hunger advocates have evidenced effectiveness in calling attention to their issues. These advocates assert a forceful influence on federal and state policy for assistance programs designed to cultivate self sufficiency. Included service programs are Food Banks, Food Stamps, Employment, Education, Housing, Energy Assistance and Transportation. Although the platforms of the hunger advocates may differ in perspective from state positions, the mission and goals are the same. This conference offers an opportunity to gain better understanding of the capabilities and limitations of each agency and capitalize on the distinctions of our separate functions. Through collaboration, both groups can generate a powerful agenda and increase the effectiveness of our programs.

At this time, Adult and Family Services meets regularly with the hunger advocates. To date, SDSD/AAA has not been prominently represented and misconceptions about SDSD/AAA services and client needs have resulted. Because of this and the extensive mutual client base, SDSD/AAA field offices are encouraged to associate more closely with these action groups. An ideal first step is to send at least one representative from each district to this upcoming October conference.

Incidentally, please note that this Poverty in Oregon Conference coincides exactly with the O4AD and Association of Senior Centers October 2000 Conference, also held in Eugene. Although inconvenient, any SDDS/AAA attendance at this Poverty Conference will be significant. When considering representation for the Poverty in Oregon Conference, perhaps travel arrangements can be coordinated with those attending the O4AD Conference.

In closing, the selected representative for the Poverty in Oregon Conference should be prepared that there may be some entities present that have less than positive profiles of state agencies and it is important to counter those images. When discussing service delivery, some negative experiences have expanded to include the umbrella of state agencies. This is an occasion to model SDDS/AAA's emphasis on client oriented and individualized customer service.

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Attachment Included: *Poverty in Oregon - A Call to Action* conference announcement

Poverty in Oregon: A Call to Action

October 2-4, 2000

Hilton Eugene Conference Center, Eugene, Oregon

Hosted by Community Action Directors of Oregon (and its 18 agencies) in partnership with Oregon Food Bank, OSU Extension Service, University of Oregon CSWS, Department of Human Services, Oregon Energy Coordinators Association, Association of Oregon Housing Authorities, Oregon Department of Education, Cascades West, Oregon Housing and Community Services Department
Sponsors: Hunger Relief Task Force & Interagency Coordinating Council on Hunger

ATTENTION: Service Provider Staff, Agency Leaders, Policy Makers

**Please plan to attend this comprehensive conference featuring
Housing Track ~ Energy Track ~ Root Causes of Poverty Track ~ Fiscal &
Technical Track ~ Case Management, Collaboration & Integration of
Services Track ~ Best Practices Presentations**

As well as:

An ACTION track, designed to facilitate discussion about Oregon beyond welfare reform, promote dialogues with policy makers, and collaboratively create a poverty agenda for Oregon for 2000 and beyond.

Cost: **Three Day Conference: \$125 (Includes all conference materials, speakers, workshops, luncheon each day, breakfast Tuesday and Wednesday, Opening Night Reception and the Awards Banquet.)**

One Day of Conference: \$75 (includes conference materials, workshops and luncheon)

Awards Banquet Only: \$35 (Tuesday, October 3)

Conference Registration: Registration materials will be mailed the week of July 10th. Please contact Bonnie Davidson at Community Action Directors of Oregon (CADO) (503)316-3951 or cado@open.org to request registration materials or for additional conference information.

Lodging Reservations/Information: The Eugene Hilton will be offering a special room rate of \$89.00 for conference attendees who make lodging reservations before September 1, 2000. Call the Eugene Hilton at 1-800-937-6660 for lodging information and reservations.