

Linda Weight

**Authorized Signature**

**Number:** SS-IM-04-039

**Issue Date:** 11/10/2004

**Topic:** Other

**Subject:** PARIS (Public Assistance Reporting Information System)

**Applies to (check all that apply):**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees                        | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services                                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Children, Adults and Families | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seniors and People with Disabilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD Program Managers               | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):                         |

**Message:**

Currently there are 25 states participating in this federally managed data-matching system, of which Washington state is one.

This system matches data, submitted by participating states, against three data systems:

- Inter-state (TANF, Medicaid and food stamp recipients)
- Veterans Administration (to see if clients are eligible for VA benefits)
- Federal database (to see if client is currently receiving military benefits).

DHS has been asked to evaluate the potential for savings, as well as the added integrity to our programs. We are preparing to do a test run, and submit an initial data file, to evaluate the potential benefits of participating in PARIS. We will send our data file in November and receive the resulting matches in December. We will spend the next couple of months exploring the feasibility of this project for DHS. This will include a determination of how to prepare the matches we receive, and how we manage the information once we receive it.

We may see an increase in contacts from other states after we submit our initial data as others follow up on matches they receive through the system. The phone number that will be provided as a single point of contact is the second floor reception at Central office. There is currently a process in place for responding to requests for verification of public assistance. Requests that are specific to program eligibility or case actions are referred to the caseworker.

DHS staff are allowed by state and federal law to verify client benefit information with other state and federal agencies for the purpose of administering our programs, which includes assuring clients are actually eligible and that they are receiving the correct benefit amount. A written authorization is not required for this purpose. Disclosures mentioned here are not required to be recorded on the DHS 2097 (Disclosures of Protected Health Information).

DHS staff should take reasonable efforts to assure the identity of callers from other state and federal agencies before disclosing client benefit information. Staff should only disclose the amount of information necessary to verify benefit amount received.

Reasonable efforts to assure identity of other agencies may include:

- Requesting a call back number, and name of agency employee.
- Request on agency letterhead by mail or fax.

Please direct any questions regarding this memo to:

Linda Weight, CAF Field Services, Operations Analyst, (503) 945-6119

For specific Policy/Program questions, please contact the appropriate Analyst :

Joyce Clarkson, Medicaid Analyst, (503) 945-6106

Anne Hilgers, Food Stamp Analyst, (503) 945-6105

Jeff Stell, TANF Analyst, (503) 945-6542

Rhonda Prodzinski, Child Care Analyst, (503) 945-6087

*If you have any questions about this information, contact:*

<b>Contact(s):</b>	Linda Weight, CAF Field Services, Operations Analyst		
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