

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Linda W. Cropp
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

DATE: April 25, 2003

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement: “Choice in Drug Treatment”

REFERENCE: Draft Regulations – Bill Number Not Available

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2003 budget and the proposed FY 2004 through FY 2007 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed regulations because the requirements could be performed with existing resources.

Background

The proposed regulations would establish requirements for certification and participation in substance abuse treatment programs. They also would establish qualifications of individuals for treatment in the Drug Treatment Choice Program. The underlying law was enacted on October 1, 2002.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2003 budget and the proposed FY 2004 through FY 2007 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed regulations because the requirements could be performed with existing resources.

The stated impact is contingent on the ability of the Department of Health to reassign existing staff and hire new employees for current departmental vacancies to staff the 19 positions required to implement these proposed regulations. The positions fall into three categories reflecting the requirements of the regulations: financial management functions, central intake division functions, and financial assessment functions. Nine of the

necessary positions are funded through redeployment and the remaining ten would be funded by filling existing vacancies. According to DOH, the positions identified from the vacancy listing are federally funded positions that will not be affected by any personnel freezes in FY 2004. The department expects that those positions they are unable to fill with permanent District employees, would be temporarily filled with contract personnel and funded out of the department's available contract funding.

The proposed regulations would also necessitate the acquisition of a computer database at an estimated cost of \$500,000; however, because no funding is available, DOH would continue to use existing systems until such funding is available. According to DOH, an application for grant funding for the database will be filed and may be awarded to cover the cost of the required database. The likelihood of such funding cannot be estimated at this time.