

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 [signature]
Chief Financial Officer

DATE: December 29, 2003

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement: “Interim Disability Assistance
Second Emergency Amendment Act of 2003”

REFERENCE: Bill Number 15-586

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2004 through FY 2007 budget and financial plan to implement the proposed legislation.

Background

The proposed legislation would amend portions of the District of Columbia Public Assistance Act of 1982 to authorize assistance payments to individuals who have applied for supplementary security income and are awaiting the processing of their application. The bill would require “reasonable promptness” during Interim Disability Assistance (IDA) application processing, adjust the monthly IDA grant amount the individual can receive, and require applicant cooperation with case management staff during the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) application and appeal process.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds have already been budgeted to provide the additional administrative support needed to satisfy the “reasonable promptness” requirement for processing IDA applications. In addition, funds have already been budgeted to contract case management and legal advocacy for IDA recipients to help them with their SSI application and appeal process.

Current regulations provide an IDA grant equivalent to the monthly Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) grant amount for a family of one (\$239). This bill proposes that the monthly IDA grant be equivalent to the monthly TANF grant amount for a family of one (\$239) or two (\$298). According to DHS, a negligible portion of the eligible population would qualify for the larger IDA grant amount.