

**For Immediate Release
August 25, 2003**

Commissioner Eggleston Welcomes the Office of Child Support Enforcement to HRA

Human Resources Administration (HRA) Commissioner Verna Eggleston today announced that the Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) has officially been transferred to HRA from the Administration for Children's Services (ACS). The transition was completed on August 24, 2003.

The Office of Child Support Enforcement works to ensure that non-custodial parents provide support for their children. OCSE is responsible for establishing child support obligations, collecting support owed and making payments to families. OCSE serves more than 420,000 families and has collected \$488 million over the last year.

"This transfer is a huge plus for the families we serve --- many of whom are currently receiving services from both OCSE and HRA. The move immediately allows us to improve methods of meeting the needs of all families and to better coordinate services for clients who already receive HRA services," remarked HRA Commissioner Verna Eggleston.

"Additionally, with HRA's investigative resources behind OCSE, we will be able to aggressively pursue parents who neglect their financial responsibilities to their children," Commissioner Eggleston added. "Ultimately, this transfer will assist us in achieving the city's goal of helping families reach and maintain economic self-sufficiency."

The seamless transfer of OCSE from the Administration for Children's Services to HRA began in July. With the move, OCSE will now have additional resources to assist in enforcement of the most elusive cases and to enhance its existing processes.

OCSE has the ability to locate non-custodial parents and assist with establishing paternity and court-ordered child support. Once a child support order is established, OCSE collects and enforces payments, often through payroll deductions. Non-payment of child support may result in driver's license suspension; intercepting of tax refunds and lottery winnings; seizure of property and assets; as well as, arrest and criminal prosecution.

For non-custodial parents who cannot pay child support because they are unemployed or underemployed, OCSE partners with community based organizations to provide education, training and job placement.

To apply for services, visit an OCSE office located in the Family Court building in your borough of residence. For more information, contact the Child Support Help Line at (212) 226-7125.