

Dated: September 30, 2003.

Herbert L. Mitchell,

Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

[FR Doc. 03-25369 Filed 10-6-03; 8:45 am]

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SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Disaster #3552]

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

As a result of the President's major disaster declaration on September 26, 2003, I find that Chester County in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania constitutes a disaster area due to damages caused by Tropical Storms Henri and Isabel, and related severe storms and flooding occurring on September 15 through September 23, 2003. Applications for loans for physical damage as a result of this disaster may be filed until the close of business on November 25, 2003 and for economic injury until the close of business on June 28, 2004 at the address listed below or other locally announced locations:

U.S. Small Business Administration,
Disaster Area 1 Office, 360 Rainbow
Blvd., South 3rd Fl., Niagara Falls, NY
14303-1192.

In addition, applications for economic injury loans from small businesses located in the following contiguous counties may be filed until the specified date at the above location: Berks, Delaware, Lancaster and Montgomery in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; New Castle County in the State of Delaware; and Cecil County in the State of Maryland.

The interest rates are:

	Percent
For Physical Damage:	
Homeowners with credit available elsewhere	5.125
Homeowners without credit available elsewhere	2.562
Businesses with credit available elsewhere	6.199
Businesses and non-profit organizations without credit available elsewhere	3.100
Others (including non-profit organizations) with credit available elsewhere	5.500
For Economic Injury:	
Businesses and small agricultural cooperatives without credit available elsewhere	3.100

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is 355208. For economic injury the number is 9X2100

for Pennsylvania; 9X2200 for Delaware; and 9X2300 for Maryland.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008)

Dated: September 29, 2003

Herbert L. Mitchell,

Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

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SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Youth Transition Process Demonstration (YTPD)

AGENCY: Social Security Administration.

ACTION: Notice of youth demonstration and SSI waivers.

SUMMARY: The Commissioner of Social Security announces the following demonstration project relating to the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program under title XVI of the Social Security Act. Under this project, the Social Security Administration (SSA) will test the effectiveness of altering certain SSI program rules as an incentive to encourage SSI recipients with disabilities or blindness to work or increase their work activity and earnings. This project, called the Youth Transition Process Demonstration (YTPD), is being conducted under the authority of section 1110 of the Act. SSA is conducting this project in six states for the purpose of helping youth with disabilities maximize their economic self-sufficiency as they transition from school to work. The projects will work with youth aged 14-25 who receive SSI, Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), or Childhood Disability Benefits (CDB) and those at risk of receiving such benefits, including those who have a progressive disability, who have a prognosis for decreased functioning, or who have existing disabling conditions prior to age 18 that would render them eligible except for deemed parental income. SSA is publishing this notice in accordance with 20 CFR 416.250(e). **DATES:** The demonstration project will begin with cooperative agreement awards on September 30, 2003. Subject to the availability of funds, the demonstration project will end September 29, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Leola Brooks, Social Security Administration, Office of Program Development and Research, 6401 Security Blvd, 3673 Annex, Baltimore, MD 21235-6401; Phone (410) 965-2219

or through E-mail to leola.brooks@ssa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

SSI is a federal program administered by SSA. The program is financed from general federal revenue and provides monthly benefit payments to aged, blind, and individuals with disabilities who have limited resources and income. In 2003, the federal benefit rate for an individual is \$552 per month and \$829 per month for a couple. In addition, many states supplement the federal benefit. The supplementary benefit amounts and the categories of persons eligible for these benefits vary from state to state. In most states, eligibility for SSI means eligibility for Medicaid; the extent of the Medicaid coverage package varies by state. SSI recipients may also be eligible to receive Food Stamps in all states but California and Wisconsin, where the state's supplementary payments are considered to include the value of Food Stamps.

To be eligible, a person must be age 65 or older, or have a severe disability and have limited resources and income, and meet certain other requirements. A person is considered to have a disability if a physical or mental impairment or combination of impairments prevents the person from doing any substantial gainful work and is expected to last for at least 12 months or to result in death. Children, as well as adults, may be eligible. SSA works cooperatively with the states, who are responsible for making disability and blindness determinations through their disability determination services (DDS). SSA takes a detailed medical history from the applicant during the initial interview and sends that information to the DDS. The DDS then secures medical records and, if needed, arranges an additional medical examination. Based upon this evidence, a disability or blindness determination is made.

In addition to age, disability or blindness, an individual or couple must meet resource, income, and residency requirements. In 2003, the resource limits are \$2,000 for an individual and \$3,000 for a couple. However, not everything that a person owns is counted.

An individual or couple may have earned or unearned income and still may be eligible for the SSI program. A certain amount of income is disregarded in determining eligibility and computing the SSI benefit amount. People who live in a state that supplements the federal payment may