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MEDIA RELEASE

DSS AND SHERIFF'S OFFICE COLLABORATE TO COMBAT FRAUD AND SAVE TAXPAYER MONEY

The Rockland County Sheriff's Office and the Department of Social Services (DSS) have been working together to combat fraud and save taxpayer money. This joint effort enhances existing controls to prevent ineligible inmates from receiving benefits, by matching individuals incarcerated in the Rockland County Correctional Facility with those receiving benefits from the Department of Social Services.

In 2015, the Department of Social Services recovered or avoided payments totaling \$155,376.46 and since this collaboration was established in October of 2013 the Department has recovered or avoided payments totaling \$259,365.46.

The Rockland County Correctional Center provides a monthly report to the Department of Social Services, which identifies all inmates who have been incarcerated in the Correctional Center in excess of (30) days. In receiving this information, the Department of Social Services is able to terminate or suspend benefits to incarcerated inmates that are no longer legally eligible to receive them. Prior to receiving this information from the Sheriff's Office, the Department of Social Services had to rely on inmates self-reporting their change in status and then undertake efforts to recover these benefits.

Recipients of benefits, such as Medicaid, Temporary Assistance and SNAP (formerly Food Stamps) are mandated to notify DSS of any integral changes to the application they submitted, including any change in household composition, a key component in determining benefit amounts. Failure to notify or redeeming benefits while incarcerated will result in a fraud investigation.

"The Sheriff's Office is committed to working collaboratively to insure taxpayer dollars are only being used for their lawful purpose. This collaboration with the Department of Social Services is helping to reduce fraud in these essential and valuable Public Assistance programs," said Sheriff Louis Falco.

To report possible fraud, please call Information Rockland at 845-364-2020, you can remain anonymous. Or email relevant information to reportfraud@dfa.state.ny.us.

