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CSSD Policy			
Subject:	Homeless Veterans Initiative	Number:	2011-1
Approval Date:		Pages:	
Approved By:	Benidia A. Rice, Director	Revision	FINAL
Signature:			

I. **PURPOSE**: Child Support Services Division (CSSD) has initiated a federally mandated pilot program to provide enhanced service delivery to District of Columbia non-custodial parents who have served in a branch of the armed forces. Under this initiative, CSSD will: (1) seek to modify the support order, upward or downward, when appropriate; (2) send a referral to an out-of-state agency to request a modification, when appropriate; (3) refer the non-custodial parent to CSSD and other social services; and (4) coordinate and offer outreach presentations to veteran-affiliated organizations.

II. **AGENCY IMPACT**: This policy impacts various units within the CSSD, including: the Enforcement Unit; the Interstate Unit; the First Response Unit; and, the Policy, Outreach and Training Section.

III. **REFERENCES**: 42 U.S.C. §666, Requirement of statutorily prescribed procedures to improve the effectiveness of child support enforcement; 42 U.S.C. § 657, Distribution of Collected Support; Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, P.L. 109-171; 45 C.F.R. §303.8, Review and adjustment of child support orders; The United States Code, containing the official federal definition of homeless. Title 42, Chapter 119, Subchapter I; Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors: 2009 Edition. United States Department of Veterans Affairs; 45 C.F.R. 302.50, Assignment of rights to support; D.C. Official Code § 16-916(r), Maintenance of spouse and minor children; maintenance of minor children; D.C. Official Code 46 § 306.11, Modification of child support order of another state; D.C. Official Code § 46-204. Amendment of order establishing alimony, child support or maintenance; award as money judgment.

IV. **INQUIRIES**: Direct all inquiries to the: (1) First Response Unit at (202) 442-9900; (2) Enforcement Unit at (202) 724-2316; (3) Legal Services Section at (202) 724-6529; (4) Interstate Unit at (202) 442-4651; (5) Policy, Outreach and Training Section at (202) 724-2131; (6) Intake Unit 1 (202) 724- 8541; (7) Intake Unit 2 (202) 724- 1592

V. **DEFINITIONS**

    A.   **DC OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**: The District of Columbia Office of Veterans Affairs (OVA) was created as an entity under the Executive Office of the Mayor in October 2001. OVA was established to provide veteran benefits, assistance, information, outreach, effective advocacy, claims processing assistance and service provider coordination to veterans and their families so that they can access their entitled resources and benefits. OVA also develops,

coordinates, and attends veteran commemorative events that recognize the military service and sacrifice of District of Columbia veterans. The office is located at 441-4th Street, N.W., Suite 570 South, Washington, DC 20001. The main telephone number at OVA is 202-724-5454. *This information was obtained from the official D.C. government website at www.dc.gov.*

B.   **HOMELESS**: (1) An individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and (2) an individual who has a primary residence that is either: [a] a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and, transitional housing for the mentally ill); or [b] a substance abuse rehabilitation residential facility; or [c] an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or [d] a public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

C.   **NON-CUSTODIAL PARENT (NCP)**- A parent who does not have sole custody of a child or who has custody less than 35% of the calendar year.

D.   **STATEMENT OF ORDER**: Detailed instructions for an operation given by a commander to their subordinates. This definition is relevant to this policy to the extent that only persons who have served in the United States Armed Forces in an active duty capacity are eligible to receive benefits subsidized and funded by federal government funds. If the active duty status of an individual ever comes into question, CSSD shall consult with the DC Office of Veteran's Affairs or the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

E.   **UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES** - The United States armed forces are the overall unified military forces of the United States. They consist of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard

F.   **VETERAN:** A person who served in the <u>active</u> military, naval, or air service. For purposes of this initiative, the discharge status of the veteran is not a qualifier or disqualifier to receive services. Reservists and National Guard members may also qualify if they were called to active duty (other than for training only) by a Federal order and completed the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty. Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents & Survivors, Department of Veteran Affairs, 2009 Edition.

VI.   <u>POLICY</u>:

The Homeless Veteran's Initiative shall assist eligible veterans who voluntarily seek CSSD's assistance with downward or upward modification of their child support obligations. If the requisite criteria have been met, CSSD shall petition the Superior Court to modify the child support obligation if the amount differs by 15% or more downward or upwards based on the guideline calculations.

CSSD staff will also refer the homeless veteran to CSSD programs and social services.

When applicable, CSSD will suspend the enforcement of certain administrative enforcement tools for a period of 6-month interval. CSSD staff will review the current financial circumstances of the homeless veteran to determine if and when the enforcement tools should be reinstated.

Members of the Policy, Outreach and Training Section will perform outreach services to various veteran and homeless affiliated organizations and facilities.