**COMMUNITY/ ADVOCACY PEDIATRICS ROTATION**

**Understanding Government Programs**

**Goal:**

The goal of this assignment is for you to develop a basic knowledge of government assistance/ entitlement programs and how these programs affect the health and well being of the families that you serve.

**Define entitlement program.**

**What is considered the current poverty line or level by the federal government?**

**Government Assistance Programs**

1. Section 8 Housing
2. Public Housing
3. Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
4. SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Plan) formally called Food Stamps
5. SCHIP (in New York- Child Health Plus)
6. Medicaid

**Answer the following questions for each of the above programs:**

1. Who pays for the assistance (state, federal, etc.)?
2. Who is eligible?
3. What services are provided?
4. Where can someone go in Suffolk County (in your CCC area) to get assistance?
5. Where can someone go if they feel they have been denied services unfairly?
6. Entitlement program? Yes or No

**Websites:**

[www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/SocialServices](http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/SocialServices)

[www.mybenefits.ny.gov](http://www.mybenefits.ny.gov)

[www.otda.ny.gov/legal/](http://www.otda.ny.gov/legal/) (OTDA-Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance)

This assignment was adapted from the Community Pediatrics Curriculum Training Initiative of the American Academy of Pediatrics (2004 copyrighted to Children’s Hospital Boston) - specifically the section on Community and Public Health and modeled after an assignment provided by Columbia University Department of Pediatrics.

**Reflection:** Why is this information important for you to be familiar with as a pediatrician? How might it help you be a better advocate for your patients (be specific)?