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NEWS RELEASE

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GOV. CHRISTIE WHITMAN FILES REORGANIZATION PLAN TRANSFERRING RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUTH CORPS PROGRAM TO DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Gov. Christie Whitman today filed Executive Reorganization Plan 001-1998 with the legislature, which provides for the transfer of the New Jersey Youth Corps Program into the Department of Human Services.

The Youth Corps program provides young adults 16 to 25, who have dropped out of high school, assistance in obtaining high school diplomas by providing academic instruction, community service work and support services, including counseling and job placement.

Gov. Whitman said currently three state departments are directly or indirectly involved in the program. In 1984 the Department of Community Affairs was given legal authority to create the New Jersey Youth Corps and has retained its legal jurisdiction over the program.

The Department of Education assumed administrative and fiscal oversight of the program from the Department of Community Affairs in 1991. The Department of Education recently transferred administrative oversight of the program to the Department of Human Services through a memorandum of understanding, but retained fiscal management of the program.

"Citizens of this state will benefit from having one department in state government responsible for both the administrative and fiscal management of the New Jersey Youth Corps Program," Gov. Whitman said. "The Plan will ensure the coordinated delivery of services and simplify the process for providers to obtain program funds."

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