



Have you or has someone you know lost **SSI benefits** because of an outstanding **warrant**?

**The Urban Justice Center's Mental Health Project
wants to hear about it.**

We are developing a plan to combat Social Security's policy of terminating benefits of people with outstanding warrants.

Over 100,000 people have lost SSI benefits in the last few years because the Social Security Administration has found they have outstanding warrants. Most of the warrants were issued more than ten years ago – some are more than 30 years old! Most are for *minor* offenses. A very high percentage of those who lose these benefits were receiving them based on a diagnosed mental illness. All too often the person losing benefits has minimal ability to recall events leading up to the warrant. In almost all cases law enforcement authorities have *no interest in prosecuting*. This does not stop Social Security from terminating benefits.

SSA's practice has resulted in widespread deprivation and homelessness. It has even resulted in death. Yet the problem promises to get worse. President Bush has signed new legislation that will extend this policy to Social Security benefits beginning January 1, 2005. Some estimates are that up to three times as many people will lose benefits with this new provision! In addition many will lose Medicare coverage when they are unable to pay the premium.

Help us to combat this policy by telling us about what has happened to you or someone you know.

Please call Raymond Ortiz at **(646) 602-5666**
and tell him about your situation.

(You can also email him at rortiz@urbanjustice.org.)