

Willowbrook Chief Expects Extra Grant

By MARY ENGELS

Willowbrook Developmental Center's new acting director, James A. Forde, yesterday announced that \$200,000 in state money would be made available for community-based programs for Willowbrook residents during the first three months of next year, with perhaps \$800,000 more due later in the year.

Forde said he had received assurances from the state Department of Mental Hygiene that the money would be allocated.

However, Forde stressed that the funds may be used only if suitable plans for the support of released patients can be developed by the city Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services, working with appropriate voluntary agencies.

Discussions Sought

To encourage rapid implementation of the program that the fund involves, Forde has asked members of his staff to begin discussions with representatives of the various voluntary agencies in the city.

"At this rate of funding for only three months," Forde said, referring to the \$200,000, "a full annual commitment could amount to almost one million dollars for the fiscal year beginning in April, 1975."

The law under which the money is allocated provides state funding of social services for former patients and residents of state facilities who return to the community.