

NEW YORK STATE  
OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

**Attachment B**

**ATTESTATION OF USE OF FAMILY FIRST TRANSITION FUNDS**

**Instruction:**

This form must be completed to receive Family First Transition Funds. Please complete and return to [FamilyFirstNY@ocfs.ny.gov](mailto:FamilyFirstNY@ocfs.ny.gov) by **June 15, 2019**. Such funds will not be used to supplant any other state or local funds. Claims for reimbursement under this appropriation will not be submitted for the same type and level of funding covered by any other state or locally authorized appropriation.

**Section I**

This is to certify that Albany County Department for Children, Youth, and Families (insert LDSS name) plans to use the allocation of these funds authorized in the amount of \$ \$53,905 toward one of the purposes listed below. This plan is subject to change based on individualized technical assistance and strategy selection. How the funds were used will be documented in the *Family First Transition Fund Progress Report* (Attachment C). Outcomes resulting from such expenditures will be documented in the *Family First Transition Fund Outcomes Report* (Attachment D).

**Plan for use of funds: (Check all that apply.)**

- Additional/enhanced targeted technical support
- Family search and engagement
- Enhancing support for foster parents
- Supporting kinship foster parents in meeting approval/certification requirements
- Improving recruitment and retention of foster families, including kinship caregivers
- Establishing administrative review teams to review proposed placements in non-kinship and congregate care settings
- Other (describe)

**Section II**

The LDSS agrees to participate in OCFS administered centralized technical assistance, and may receive additional technical assistance which may include one or more of the following:

- OCFS administered LDSS-specific technical assistance to assist with data analysis
- Consultant administered strategy development, system improvements and monitoring progress toward target goals

The LDSS has already received technical assistance toward the goal of reducing children in congregate care and increasing children in kinship foster care settings:

- Yes    No

If yes, describe:

Albany County is scheduled to received technical assistance working with Redlich Horowitz Foundation and Jim Czarniak from Onondaga County. The scheduled date for the TA is June 27, 2019.

**Section III**

**Instruction:**

OCFS has set statewide target goals for the percentage of children in foster care living in congregate care and kinship foster care, to be achieved by September 30, 2021, as follows: **12% congregate care placements and 30% kinship foster care placements**. To assist the state in meeting these targets, the LDSS must identify target goals to reduce congregate care and increase kinship foster care to be achieved by September 30, 2021. Progress toward these goals, as of September 30, 2020, will be documented in the *Family First Transition Fund Outcomes Report* due November 1, 2020.

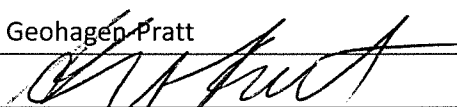
Utilizing the data provided on the next page, fill in the placement percentages as of December 31, 2018. Establish and fill in target goals<sup>1</sup> which may also be identified in the 3-year Retention and Recruitment Plan:

1. Reduce congregate care from 25 % (on December 31, 2018) to 18 % by September 30, 2021
2. Increase kinship<sup>2</sup> foster care from 6 % (on December 31, 2018) to 15 % by September 30, 2021

Describe below how the LDSS will engage kinship resources with direct custody orders (1017) to consider becoming certified or approved foster parents

Within 2 weeks of a kinship resource receiving 1017 custody, the assigned caseworker (along with a staff person well-versed on custodial options if needed) will follow-up with the kin resource to review custodial options utilizing resources such as "Having a Voice and a Choice" and "Know Your Options" to review in detail the various custodial options and the benefits of each. Should the kin decline to become a certified or approved foster parent at that time, there will be a follow-up discussion within 45-60 days. Caseworker will also provide information to the Kinship navigator resource program as an independent entity for the kin to speak with on the matter. All discussions with kin regarding custodial options will be documented in a progress note and detailed information provided should a relative decline to become certified/approved.

**Section IV**

Name and title of person completing the form: <u>Gail Geohagen-Pratt, Commissioner</u>	Date: <u>06 / 14 / 2019</u>
Name of commissioner: <u>Gail Geohagen-Pratt</u>	Date: <u>06 / 14 / 2019</u>
Commissioner's signature: 	

<sup>1</sup> Measured from an in-care sample of children in the care and custody of the LDSS in such setting on December 31, 2018 and September 30, 2021

<sup>2</sup> Kinship foster care includes both approved foster homes, and certified foster homes where the foster parent is a relative or a non-relative with a positive relationship to the child or child's family (i.e. godparent, neighbor, family friend).