

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 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 Monroe County DHS (insert LDSS name) plans to use the allocation of these funds authorized in the amount of \$ 117,901 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) Stabilizing and supporting kinship placements

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:

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 goals¹ which may also be identified in the 3-year Retention and Recruitment Plan:

1. Reduce congregate care from 19 % (on December 31, 2018) to 12 % by September 30, 2021
2. Increase kinship² foster care from 3 % (on December 31, 2018) to 30 % 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

In situations where out of home care is needed, kinship or relative foster care is the preferred option for a child as it preserves family, sense of belonging and reduces the trauma innate to placement. Relatives have a variety of reasons they choose to pursue 1017 verses foster care, most frequently cited include:

- fostering would damage or jeopardize their relationship with the child's bio parents,
- relative resource does not want the oversight of the child welfare agency,
- process and procedures are difficult, time consuming, complicated and intrusive

In order to better understand the lack of familial interest in becoming a foster parent Monroe County has engaged in a number of QA/QI initiatives including process mapping our removal process as well as utilizing the fishbone diagram to categorizing the potential causes of the problem in order to identify its root causes and create plans to address.

Some strategies we are considering are:

- Creation of a “Kin first” culture where kinship placement is promoted as the first and best option if determined safe for a child should out of home care be determined to be necessary.
- Identification of a child's extended family network from the moment the child comes to the attention of the child welfare system. Identify potential supports and possible placement resource options in all child welfare interactions.
- Dedicating a case aid(s) as a kinship specialist to provide potential kinship care givers with written information on all the permanency options with clear dedicated discussion re the benefits. Additionally, kinship care givers will be provided with information about available services and resources addressing the barriers of adding a child to his/her home. The case aide will provide intensive support services to a relative resource, stabilizing the new family unit by assisting the family through the processes and procedures involved in fostering up to conclusion of the CPS INV and transfer of family services to a caseworker on the CPS management team.
- Case aid will support caregivers if eligible, though the TANF process.
- Establishment of a more formal referral relationship with our Kinship Navigator Program that is seamless and timely.
- Increased emphasis on related and unique trainings for kinship caregiver/foster families. Trainings would emphasize family dynamics and the impact on family relationships when providing foster care for a relative child.
- Monroe County will explore alternate training curriculum unique to the relative resource and the challenges of fostering a relative child
- Establish protocols for securing and utilizing family finding resources- Contract for Family Finding resources and create protocol for eligibility and referral.

¹ 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

² 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).

Lastly we will create a project team to brainstorm and project plan engaging current kinship resources who have direct custody orders to consider becoming certified foster parents. Brainstorming will include representation from relative resources.

Section IV

Name and title of person completing the form: Anne Eichas Date: 06 / 12 / 2019

Deputy Commissioner Child and Family Services, Monroe County Department of Human Services

Name of commissioner: Corinda Crossdale Date: 06 / 12 / 2019

Commissioner's signature:



Number and Percentage of Children in LDSS Custody by Select Placement Setting Types on December 31st

	12/31/2016					12/31/2017					12/31/2018				
	Total Children In LDSS Custody ¹	Approved Relative Home ²		Institution/Group Care ³		Total Children In LDSS Custody ¹	Approved Relative Home ²		Institution/Group Care ³		Total Children In LDSS Custody ¹	Approved Relative Home ²		Institution/Group Care ³	
	#	#	%	#	%	#	#	%	#	%	#	#	%	#	%
Total	19,126	3,693	19%	3,334	17%	18,623	4,095	22%	3,173	17%	18,081	4,505	25%	2,971	16%
ALBANY	228	8	4%	75	33%	239	12	5%	70	29%	232	13	6%	58	25%
ALLEGANY	58	8	14%	11	19%	57	12	21%	9	16%	47	14	30%	10	21%
BROOME	269	13	5%	67	25%	275	13	5%	71	26%	291	12	4%	65	22%
CATTARAUGUS	75	4	5%	13	17%	65	3	5%	20	31%	54	10	19%	11	20%
CAYUGA	68	1	1%	20	29%	66	1	2%	12	18%	71	1	1%	5	7%
CHAUTAUQUA	111	5	5%	20	18%	112	19	17%	22	20%	116	14	12%	22	19%
CHEMUNG	90	2	2%	17	19%	101	10	10%	16	16%	97	18	19%	11	11%
CHENANGO	60	16	27%	8	13%	54	9	17%	6	11%	67	9	13%	4	6%
CLINTON	78	5	6%	12	15%	79	3	4%	13	16%	85	13	15%	17	20%
COLUMBIA	59	3	5%	22	37%	41	2	5%	15	37%	47	0	0%	20	43%
CORTLAND	53	7	13%	4	8%	55	5	9%	5	9%	61	11	18%	7	11%
DELAWARE	66	0	0%	3	5%	44	0	0%	2	5%	37	0	0%	1	3%
DUTCHESS	312	33	11%	106	34%	288	34	12%	92	32%	227	48	21%	60	26%
ERIE	979	84	9%	238	24%	942	139	15%	199	21%	837	150	18%	178	21%
ESSEX	40	9	23%	4	10%	53	10	19%	9	17%	67	8	12%	14	21%
FRANKLIN	136	15	11%	9	7%	191	54	28%	7	4%	171	52	30%	9	5%
FULTON	39	2	5%	17	44%	32	0	0%	13	41%	27	1	4%	10	37%
GENESEE	80	6	8%	19	24%	59	6	10%	11	19%	69	3	4%	13	19%
GREENE	72	26	36%	20	28%	59	11	19%	19	32%	57	5	9%	15	26%
HAMILTON	1	0	n/a	1	n/a	2	0	0%	1	50%	2	0	0%	1	50%
HERKIMER	81	1	1%	23	28%	94	3	3%	23	24%	90	5	6%	15	17%
JEFFERSON	108	5	5%	6	6%	112	2	2%	8	7%	134	20	15%	9	7%
LEWIS	16	1	6%	1	6%	5	0	0%	1	20%	13	0	0%	0	0%
LIVINGSTON	51	0	0%	9	18%	36	0	0%	7	19%	37	2	5%	7	19%
MADISON	37	4	11%	15	41%	31	1	3%	8	26%	34	5	15%	10	29%
MONROE	424	8	2%	103	24%	437	13	3%	98	22%	482	15	3%	91	19%
MONTGOMERY	59	1	2%	19	32%	70	1	1%	17	24%	56	1	2%	18	32%
NASSAU	187	16	9%	56	30%	156	12	8%	48	31%	192	19	10%	70	36%
NEW YORK	11218	3007	27%	1378	12%	10903	3234	30%	1390	13%	10309	3389	33%	1333	13%
NIAGARA	184	7	4%	41	22%	179	9	5%	37	21%	185	17	9%	35	19%
ONEIDA	225	27	12%	60	27%	215	24	11%	68	32%	223	41	18%	63	28%
ONONDAGA	378	6	2%	94	25%	385	25	6%	80	21%	437	84	19%	79	18%
ONTARIO	83	9	11%	10	12%	66	11	17%	9	14%	59	11	19%	10	17%
ORANGE	392	48	12%	81	21%	409	70	17%	81	20%	387	78	20%	59	15%
ORLEANS	40	0	0%	8	20%	41	2	5%	5	12%	33	0	0%	5	15%
OSWEGO	64	3	5%	18	28%	110	12	11%	21	19%	157	17	11%	17	11%
OTSEGO	34	0	0%	5	15%	33	2	6%	5	15%	36	3	8%	3	8%
PUTNAM	23	2	9%	4	17%	17	2	12%	4	24%	22	4	18%	5	23%
RENSSELAER	97	1	1%	50	52%	83	0	0%	37	45%	81	2	2%	37	46%
ROCKLAND	58	3	5%	22	38%	64	4	6%	15	23%	68	14	21%	10	15%
SARATOGA	57	0	0%	24	42%	61	1	2%	21	34%	54	2	4%	18	33%
SCHENECTADY	249	29	12%	61	24%	219	24	11%	76	35%	237	31	13%	65	27%
SCHOHARIE	53	1	2%	12	23%	50	1	2%	12	24%	59	0	0%	11	19%
SCHUYLER	24	1	4%	0	0%	22	0	0%	5	23%	25	3	12%	8	32%
SENECA	45	3	7%	8	18%	50	3	6%	9	18%	43	3	7%	9	21%
ST. LAWRENCE	192	7	4%	30	16%	186	15	8%	22	12%	239	34	14%	23	10%
ST. REGIS	18	2	11%	1	6%	18	11	61%	2	11%	20	10	50%	3	15%
STEUBEN	105	2	2%	20	19%	93	3	3%	12	13%	112	6	5%	21	19%
SUFFOLK	605	95	16%	175	29%	604	113	19%	172	28%	535	136	25%	154	29%
SULLIVAN	84	1	1%	24	29%	101	1	1%	35	35%	133	2	2%	36	27%
TIOGA	31	4	13%	6	19%	25	5	20%	5	20%	30	6	20%	7	23%
TOMPKINS	124	35	28%	12	10%	96	32	33%	13	14%	73	26	36%	8	11%
ULSTER	143	33	23%	38	27%	168	49	29%	38	23%	191	67	35%	45	24%
WARREN	48	2	4%	13	27%	32	0	0%	9	28%	26	0	0%	6	23%
WASHINGTON	56	0	0%	14	25%	49	3	6%	3	6%	42	4	10%	7	17%
WAYNE	36	0	0%	5	14%	26	0	0%	8	31%	23	0	0%	4	17%
WESTCHESTER	571	81	14%	187	33%	503	63	13%	140	28%	495	64	13%	128	26%
WYOMING	41	0	0%	13	32%	45	0	0%	15	33%	35	0	0%	11	31%
YATES	11	1	9%	2	18%	15	1	7%	2	13%	12	2	17%	0	0%

Notes: Prepared by the OCFS Bureau of Research, Evaluation and Performance Analytics on 4/30/2019.

¹ Total Children in LDSS Custody refers to all children in the care and custody of the local district on 12/31; this includes youth in 24-hour care, absent youth and youth on trial discharge status.

² Approved relative home includes all children in an approved relative foster home as of 12/31; both children in 24-hour care and children on absent status are included. Children living in certified foster/adoptive homes where the foster parent is a relative are not captured in this category.

³ Institution/group care includes all children living in a an agency operated boarding home, group home, group residence, or institutional setting on 12/31. Children living in supervised independent living programs are not included in this category. Both children in 24-hour care and children on absent status are included in the category total.