



CONNECTIONS Weekly Technical Bulletin

Update: FSS Phase 1 Modernization

The next build to the CONNECTIONS application, Family Services Stage (FSS) - Phase 1 modernization, is tentatively scheduled for implementation in May. A pilot of the modernized stages began in select local districts and voluntary agencies on Monday, 5/4. A more precise date for Phase 1 implementation will be communicated in the near future.

A **training announcement and schedule** are now available on the CONNECTIONS Training page ([Intranet / Internet](#)) The iLinc class began on April 20 and is specifically for supervisors and staff designated to assist colleagues to prepare for the changes. The WBT is expected to be available in the very near future. It is for all other staff who will be affected by the planned changes, mainly targeting staff who have not worked in CPS Investigation or Family Assessment Response (FAR) stages. Staff should register for training as soon as possible at <https://www.hslcnys.org/hslc>.

Additionally, a **Readiness Checklist** is now available on the CONNECTIONS Implementation page ([Intranet / Internet](#))

For more information on the upcoming FSS Phase 1 build, please see the most recent edition of the CONNECTIONS Build Bulletin, available on the [Intranet](#) and [Internet](#).

New GIS Message: 2015 Income Standards

A new General Information Systems (GIS) message, GIS #15-003, is now available which advises local departments of social services that the new income standards to be used in determining eligibility for Services are scheduled to be migrated to Upstate WMS production and will be reflected in Services case processing effective June 1, 2015.

More detailed information, including the new income standards, is available in the full GIS Message, available at the following link:

<http://ocfs.state.nyenet/it/GeneralResources/2015%20GIS/2015%20GIS.asp>.

New CONNECTIONS Foster Care Training Bulletin

A new CONNECTIONS Training Bulletin for Foster Care Workers is now available. The bulletin announces the available one-day classroom training, which is routinely offered in New York City and available upstate upon request, as well as two options for web-based training.

More detailed information is available in the bulletin, including instructions on how to launch a web-based training in STARS/HSLC, as well as registration information.

The bulletin can be found in its entirety on the Training page of the CONNECTIONS Website: [Intranet / Internet](#)

May 8-14, 2015

Weekly System Maintenance

Due to regularly scheduled maintenance, the CONNECTIONS application will be unavailable on:

- **Friday, May 8, from 4 a.m. to 7 a.m.**
- **Wednesday, May 13, from 4 a.m. to 7 a.m.**
- **Friday, May 15, from 4 a.m. to 7 a.m.**