



CONNECTIONS Weekly Technical Bulletin

Upcoming CONNECTIONS Build: Family Services Stage—Phase 4 Training Now Available

The next build to the CONNECTIONS application is tentatively scheduled for implementation in early to mid May and will include the modernization of the Family Assessment and Service Plan (FASP) and the Service Plan Review (SPR), as well as new functionality to support The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act.

The FASP and SPR of the Family Services Stage (FSS) will be updated to a modernized user interface, consistent with other modernized CONNECTIONS modules such as Child Protective Services Investigation (INV) and Family Services Intake (FSI). Overall functionality, as well as security access rules, will remain essentially the same.

Additionally, new edits and windows will be introduced to further support The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act.

Webinar Training, which began on April 11th, is open for registration in [STARS/HSLC](#). An **Impact Analysis** is now available on the [Intranet](#) and [Internet](#). Additionally, a Job Aid to assist staff in preparation for implementation will be made available in the coming weeks.

**Please note that the Web Based Training course, planned to be made available closer to the build, is no longer being offered. Staff are encouraged to participate in the Webinar training via the above links.

The most recent edition of the CONNECTIONS Build Bulletin, available on both the [Intranet](#) and [Internet](#), provides more detailed information on anticipated changes and training and support.

New GIS Message Now Available: Level of Difficulty for Adoption and Foster Care Services

A new General Information System (GIS) is now available: GIS # 16-003: Level of Difficulty (LOD) for Adoption and Foster Care Cases.

The purpose of this GIS message is to provide guidance to local departments of social services (LDSS) regarding the entry of LODs for adopted children, receiving a subsidy, who are subsequently placed in a foster care setting, either by the district that is authorizing the adoption subsidy or another district.

The complete GIS is available at the following website:

<http://ocfs.state.nyenet/it/GeneralResources/2016%20GIS/2016%20GIS.asp>

April 29-May 5, 2016

Weekly System Maintenance

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

- **Friday, April 29,** from 4 a.m. to 7 a.m.
- **Wednesday, May 4,** from 4 a.m. to 7 a.m.
- **Friday, May 6,** from 4 a.m. to 7 a.m.