

## **CONNECTIONS WEEKLY**

*May 27-June 3, 2005*

**MEMORIAL DAY** **MEMORIAL DAY** **MEMORIAL DAY**



### ***New For Users...***

The CONNECTIONS Intranet proudly announces a new feature that has been added exclusively for users of the system. It is a new page titled "News For Users". The new page replaces the "For CPS Workers" and "For FAD Workers" pages. This page will feature info that is specific to users and will include quick tips and how to's, as well as other pertinent information.

### ***Update: Eligibility Work Sheet for Title IV-E, TANF-EAF and Title XX-200% with 2005 income standards now available...***

The Eligibility Worksheet has been updated to reflect the new federal poverty levels that are effective 6-01-05. Staff that use the worksheet for Title XX under 200% of Poverty eligibility determinations should copy the new version of the worksheet and place the file in the location c:\Data\Excel. The new version is located in the following area of the public folders: Public Folders>All Public Folders>dfa.state.ny.us>OCFS>Finance> Eligibility>Automated Eligibility.

### ***Wave 12 Training Begins***

The wave 12 training schedule has been entered in STARS and we encourage all Voluntary Agency and ACS STARS contacts to begin to register their staff for wave 12 trainings.

The Wave 12 training document was communicated on Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. For a copy of the Wave 12 training document please refer to the Training Info & Schedule page of the CONNECTIONS intranet website. The path to the site is: <http://ocfs.state.nynet/connect>.

### ***CONNECTIONS Build 18 Resource Documents Are Here!***

A series of documents will be forwarded in an e-mail, titled CONNECTIONS Build 18 Resource Documents, to Implementation Coordinators, Security and Backup Security Coordinators and Directors of Services by the end of the week. The topics covered include the Umbrella Case /Cross County Concepts, Procedures for making retroactive payments, WMS and Build 18 FAQs and a change to the Business Process Review Guide.

## ***The NYS OCFS Virtual Private Network (VPN) Access to the HSEN for CONNECTIONS In A Box Personal Computers (CIAB) or NYS Laptop Computers***

Information related to VPN access is posted on the OCFS Internet website. The direct address to this information follows.

<http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/vpn/default.asp>.

In summary, the objective of this initiative is to allow agency staff access to the CONNECTIONS application from state CIABs and state laptop computers via the use of a VPN solution.

## ***A Note About the Availability of the NYS OFT Enterprise Help Desk...***

We would like to remind those users who are in local districts and voluntary agencies that have been implemented, of the availability of the Help Desk if they experience any issues with the application, after the on-site support is no longer available. The number of the Help Desk is: 1.800.NYS(697).1323.

## ***Save the Date...***

*Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup>* is Day 1 implementation for Waves 6 East and 7. The Departments of Social Services that are included in these waves are: Albany, Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Montgomery, Oneida, Otsego, Rensselaer, St. Lawrence, St. Regis, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren and Washington. There are twenty-nine voluntary agencies included in these waves.

## ***CONNECTIONS System Down Time***

- Friday, 5/27/05 from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM
- Wednesday, 6/1/05 from 3:00 AM - 7:00 AM\* (**extends the standing maintenance window by 2 hours**)
- Friday, 6/3/05 from 5:00 AM – 7:00 AM