FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCFS AWARDS GRANTS TO COMBAT CHILD CARE FRAUD

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) has awarded Child Care Fraud Prevention and Detection Incentive grants totaling $1,198,823 to 20 County social services districts throughout the state. These grants will provide local social services districts with the resources needed for detecting, prosecuting and preventing child care subsidy fraud.

In announcing the grant recipients, OCFS Commissioner Gladys Carrión said, “These grants demonstrate the state’s continued commitment to the families of New York State by combating fraud and promoting the integrity of child care programs, while ensuring that those who are most in need of child care subsidies receive them.”

OCFS has oversight responsibilities for the provision of child care subsidies for low-income working families funded under the New York State Child Care Block Grant for over 210,000 children annually and oversees the licensing and registration of over 18,000 child care providers and 50,000 legally-exempt child care providers. Fraudulent payments reduce funds available for eligible families who rely on subsidies to help pay for child care, thereby preventing them from receiving child care assistance.

OCFS has launched a multi-faceted, anti-fraud initiative to identify and investigate suspected fraud cases, of which these Child Care Fraud Prevention and Detection Incentive grants are a component. In addition to deploying a statewide automated Child Care Time and Attendance system, OCFS revised the child care subsidy regulations to provide local social services districts with more authority to stop child care payments where appropriate and initiate enforcement actions against child care providers when they are found to be engaging in fraudulent activities.

The Child Care Fraud Prevention and Detection Incentive grantees, listed by region, are as follows:

**Region 1 – Buffalo**
- Erie County $94,051
- Cattaraugus County $40,000

**Region 2 – Rochester**
- Monroe County $47,433
- Steuben County $40,000
- Ontario County $40,000
- Chemung County $40,000
- Jefferson County $40,000

**Region 3 – Syracuse**
- Onondaga County $60,000
- Broome County $58,529
- Cayuga County $40,000
- Tompkins County $40,000

**Region 4 – Albany**
- Albany County $60,000
- Essex County $40,000
- Franklin County $40,000
- Schenectady $60,000

**Region 5 – New York City**
- $100,000

**Region 6 – Spring Valley**
- Westchester County $98,810
- Rockland County $60,000

**Region 7 – Long Island**
- Nassau County $100,000
- Suffolk County $100,000