



**OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES ANNOUNCES \$1.76 MILLION
IN FUNDING TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES
TO ADDRESS CHILD ABUSE, ELDER ABUSE & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

*Grants will fund 19 community programs statewide to improve safety and health
of children and families*

Rensselaer, NY (May 30, 2013): Office of Children and Family Services Commissioner Gladys Carrión today announced the award of \$1.76 million in grant funding to 19 organizations across the state for projects that improve the safety and well-being of children and adults by preventing the spectrum of family violence through resources and support to families before the system intervenes or at the first signs of risk.

The awards are made available through the William B. Hoyt Memorial Children and Family Trust Fund (Trust Fund) administered under the state Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), using state and federal funds to offer opportunities to create innovative and evidence-based practices and programs throughout the state. Through these awards, New York is investing in services which are cost efficient and contribute toward alleviating family well-being barriers identified for the respective communities.

“Early response prevention efforts make investments in critical local community-based programs that can truly make a difference across our state. The initiatives will improve outcomes for families at risk of or experiencing child abuse, domestic violence and will be used toward elder abuse prevention to contribute to safer and healthier families and communities,” said **Commissioner Carrión**. “The programs being funded will give parents and caregivers the tools to effectively parent and break the cycle of violence.”

Funds were awarded to applicants who demonstrated support for local priorities, investment of local resources, community input including parents and caregivers, and readiness to partner with other agencies to address specific challenges that affect the safety and well-being of families in the following areas by:

- Strengthening families by building protective factors to reduce the risks of child abuse and maltreatment;
- Improving safety and well-being of children and families affected by domestic violence; and,
- Improving the safety and well-being of the elderly at risk of abuse by family members.

For a list of the awardees, click [here](#).

These funds are targeted to certain high risk communities, including specific cities in New York State based on rates of child abuse, foster care and detention admissions. Research shows that:

- Child abuse is one of the most significant factors affecting rates of juvenile delinquency, substance abuse, foster care and teen pregnancy, and children under three are most likely to be victimized and involved in the child welfare system;
- Occurrences of trauma range from 25 percent in the general population of children and youth to 90 percent for children in specific child serving systems such as child welfare;
- Incidents of child maltreatment and trauma can be preventable through education that gives parents the tools to effectively parent;
- Where domestic violence exists in a family, there is a high probability that child abuse or neglect is also occurring; and
- As the elder population grows, so does the number of elderly victims; approximately 260,000 older New Yorkers were the victims of at least one form of elder abuse in a one year period between 2008-2009.

“Supporting the development and replication of innovative and cost-effective community-based programs to prevent child abuse, domestic violence and elder abuse, the Trust Fund plays a pivotal role in family violence treatment and prevention in New York State,” **said Christine Deyss, Executive Director of Prevent Child Abuse New York.** “We applaud the Trust Fund and the programs it supports which help protect the most vulnerable, ending abuse where it has occurred, and supporting individuals and families to live free of violence. We have been privileged to work with Trust Fund staff who are dedicated to building public-private partnerships and cross-systems coalitions for the well-being of our state’s families.”

“The Trust Fund will provide important advocacy services for survivors of domestic violence in communities across New York,” **said Connie Neal, Executive Director of the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence.** “These awards are crucial for supporting the safety of survivors and providing options for positive outcomes for all who are affected by domestic violence.”

“Members of the statewide elder abuse coalition believe funding of programs through the Trust Fund is critical to addressing this growing problem in New York State,” **said Art Mason, Program Director at Lifespan, which coordinates the NYS Elder Abuse Coalition.** “The Trust Fund is one of the few resources that helps identify critical new program that protect older adults.”

The result of this competitive Request for Proposals produced 78 submissions. The funding has been awarded to 19 organizations throughout the state based on their ability to provide programs that serve high need communities and high risk populations through evidence-based and evidence-informed programs and practices.

The mission of OCFS is to serve New York's public by promoting the safety, permanency and well-being of our children, families and communities. OCFS effectuates results by setting and enforcing policies, and building partnerships at the federal, state, county and community levels which impact practice. The Children and Family Trust Fund serves as a vital resource for New York families by supporting efforts that focus on those positive attributes that strengthen families, and more effectively engage and connect them to critical resources in their communities. OCFS funding investments assist communities to create and/or enhance the provision of quality services in the areas of child welfare, child care, juvenile justice, adult protective, and services for the blind and visually handicapped.

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