TWEET TWEET: INFORMATION FOR NEW YORK’S CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AVAILABLE IN SPANISH

OCFS becomes first New York State agency to create Spanish-language Twitter account

U.S. Census Bureau: 15 percent of New Yorkers speak Spanish at home

RENSSELAER, NY, January 17, 2014 – The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) today announced the creation of a Twitter account to enhance communications with Spanish-speaking New Yorkers. The Public Information Office (PIO) now maintains “NYS OCFS en Español,” or @NYSOCFS_espanol, from which tweets in Spanish are sent regularly. OCFS is the first New York State agency to create a Spanish-language Twitter account.

“It’s important to us that we reach as many New Yorkers as possible,” said Acting Commissioner Sheila J. Poole. “We recognize that not all of our social media followers are proficient in English. This is a great opportunity for OCFS to spread information and share resources to Spanish speakers in a unique, inclusive, 21st-Century way.”

Much like its English-language counterpart, @NYSOCFS, “NYS OCFS en Español” sends out information, links, and articles of interest to New York’s youth and families in 140 characters or fewer. The account also offers OCFS the chance to showcase its publications and portions of its website already translated into Spanish.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau:

- As of 2012, it is estimated that 15 percent of New Yorkers speak Spanish at home. In total, more than 5.5 million, or roughly 30 percent of New Yorkers said they speak a language other than English at home.
- In this century alone, the percentage of people in the U.S. speaking a language other than English at home jumped from 17.9 percent in 2000 to 20.8 percent in 2011.
- The U.S. is currently the fifth-largest Spanish-speaking country in the world with 37.6 million people who speak Spanish at home behind only Mexico, Spain, Colombia, and Argentina.
• The number of Spanish speakers in the U.S. is projected to increase to 43.1 million in 2020.

OCFS serves New York State by promoting the safety, permanency, and well-being of children, families, and communities. For more information, visit ocfs.ny.gov, “like” the New York State Office of Children and Family Services Facebook page, or follow @NYSOCFS (English) or @NYSOCFS_espanol (Spanish) on Twitter.

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