I. Purpose

The purpose of this release is to advise social services districts that the Office of Children and Family Services will hold three public hearings on New York State’s proposed multi-year plan to receive assistance under the Social Security Act and the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, also known as the Child Care and Development Fund. The State’s proposed plan will cover the period of 10/1/05 to 9/30/07. A notice of the public hearings was published statewide, in many of New York State’s major newspapers, commencing on April 23, 2005.

The purpose of this Federal block grant program is to increase the availability; affordability and quality of child care services. Federal funds would be available to assist New York State in supporting subsidies for child day care services to low-income families upon the plan’s approval by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Funding also would be available for improving the quality of child day care services and increasing the availability of early childhood development programs, as well as before and after school services.

Pursuant to the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act, the public is invited to provide input into the development of the final plan. Specific areas for comment include program priorities for child day care; funding distribution priorities; and suggested avenues for local input in shaping the State’s child day care agenda. Information about the State's proposed multi-year child care plan can be found...
on the OCFS intranet as well as the OCFS internet website at: www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/becs/stateplan/.

The hearings are scheduled as follows:

**Date:**  Tuesday, May 17, 2005  
**Time:**  10 am to 2 pm  
**Place:**  Child Care Council, Suite 120  
           595 Blossom Road  
           Rochester, New York 14620

**Date:**  Friday, May 20, 2005  
**Time:**  10 am to 2 pm  
**Place:**  NYS Office of Children and Family Services  
           Room 144, North Building  
           52 Washington Street  
           Rensselaer, New York 12144

**Date:**  Wednesday, May 25, 2005  
**Time:**  10 am to 2 pm  
**Place:**  Fashion Institute of Technology  
           Board Room, Building C, 9th Floor  
           7th Avenue between 27th and 28th Streets  
           New York, New York 10001-5992

Persons interested in providing oral testimony during the public hearings must register five days prior to the public hearing with Suzanne Zafonte Sennett, Office of Children and Family Services, 52 Washington Street, Room 338 North, Rensselaer, New York 12144. People may also register by calling (518) 408-0766, or by submitting the registration form posted on the OCFS website: www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/becs/register/register.asp . Oral testimony is limited to ten minutes in length and must be followed up with written testimony within five days after the hearing. Persons interested only in submitting written comments must submit such comments within five days after the public hearing. Written comments should be submitted to Suzanne Zafonte Sennett, OCFS, 52 Washington Street, Room 338 North, and Rensselaer, NY 12144.

*Larry G. Brown s/s*

**Issued By**
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Title: Deputy Commissioner  
Division/Office: Division of Development and Prevention