New York State Children and Family Trust Fund
2007 Annual Report

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New York State
Office of
Children & Family
Services

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The William B. Hoyt Memorial Children and Family Trust Fund: Strengthening Families

Whether it’s child abuse, domestic violence or elder abuse, violence within the family can be devastating. Reducing family violence not only prevents deep and lasting harm to individuals, it also prevents the high cost of services necessary when abuse is not prevented.

Through the William B. Hoyt Memorial Children and Family Trust Fund (Trust Fund), New York State is working to address the challenges of family violence. Through investments in preventive services, putting research into practice and collaborating for success, the Trust Fund strengthens families and communities across New York.

Outcomes

In 2007, the Trust Fund supported 24 programs representing an array of services that strengthened families, giving them tools to cope with challenges and work towards a brighter future. Some of the outcomes achieved through these programs included:

- improved parenting skills
- increased safety for children and adults
- increased access to health and educational services
- enhanced self-sufficiency
- connections to resources in their own communities

Making a Difference

“[The program] has helped me so many times when I don’t have a clue what to do or who to contact in my distress. It really has helped me to have someone who knows what resources are available…I’m very thankful for all the help.”

a single parent with two children who had recently left a long-term abusive marriage and was starting over in the community with her children with little to no support.

Philosophy

Trust Fund programs reach New Yorkers throughout the State, right in their own communities, to prevent family violence. Services supported by the Trust Fund are based on a strength-based philosophy with respect for the skills, experiences, and cultural differences of those participating in services. In this supportive environment, adults and children work as partners with service providers, improving their lives in small and large transformations.

Another important foundation of the Trust Fund is the recognition of the interconnected relationship between types of family violence. This belief is reflected in the legislation that created the Trust Fund and identifies the types of programs eligible for grants:

- child abuse prevention, including family resource and support programs;
- domestic violence initiatives, including supervised visitation;
- elder abuse prevention; and
- regional and statewide initiatives to expand successful programs and increase public awareness.
**Highlights of 2007**

This year included several milestones:

- With Trust Fund support, over 70,000 adults, children and professionals accessed more than 152,000 units of preventive service.
- Over 90 programs responded to the 2007 Request For Proposals (RFP) seeking $11.6 million in support.
- Through the RFP process, 28 programs were awarded over $3 million in funding.
- A rigorous outcome study was launched to assess the effects of Family Resource Centers on protective factors associated with a reduced risk of child abuse and maltreatment. Family resource centers are a program model supported by the Trust Fund. Results will be available in 2009.
- Marion White, founder of the Child Abuse Prevention Program (CAPP) supported through seed money from the Trust Fund, received the 2007 Commissioner’s Award for New York from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children, Youth and Families. Ms. White was recognized for her contributions toward the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect. Based in New York City, CAPP is now 22 years old and an example of how a Trust Fund program continues after the demonstration funding and support ends.
- More than 250 families attended the fifth annual New York Loves Safe Babies event to gather tips and resources to keep young children safe and healthy.

**Funding**

Funding for the Trust Fund comes from two primary sources. New York State provides annual support through an appropriation in the State budget. Federal funding is allocated to OCFS, as New York’s designated lead agency, by the Federal Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) grant program from the Office on Child Abuse and Neglect at the US Department of Health and Human Services. The state funding provides the required state match for Federal CBCAP funds, maximizing the total amount of funding available for child abuse prevention programs.
Investments in Preventive Services

Working to prevent family violence is cost-effective. In addition to the human cost, the effects of abuse lead to significant financial costs. This includes medical care, law enforcement activities, foster care, protective services, mental health care and court action.

Research points to the value of family violence prevention.

- The estimated costs of child abuse and neglect in 2007 were a staggering $103.8 billion as reported in *Total Estimated Cost of Child Abuse and Neglect in the United States from Prevent Child Abuse America*. This estimate is considered conservative by many due to the challenges of collecting some of the relevant cost data.

- The initial care of a victim of Shaken Baby Syndrome is estimated at $75,000 to $95,000 by the National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome. The long-term cost of physical rehabilitation, mental health and other services are not included in this total.

- The Centers for Disease Control estimated the 2002 domestic violence costs due to intimate partner rape, physical assault, and stalking exceed $5.8 billion each year, nearly $4.1 billion of which is for direct medical and mental health care services.

- The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study concluded that childhood trauma, including child abuse and witnessing domestic violence, can lead to significant long-term health problems. These include increased risks for substance abuse, depression, heart disease, suicide, smoking, and early death.

The Trust Fund investments also acknowledge the interplay between different types of family violence. When family violence exists in one form, it is likely to exist in another form as well. Children who grow up in homes with family violence are often at risk of perpetuating the cycle of abuse with their own partners and children. Trust Fund programs work to interrupt abuse by reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors to strengthen families.

For over 23 years, Trust Fund programs have provided tools to help families break cycles of abuse, and prevent more costly services needed after violence has occurred. You can see details of each program supported by the Trust Fund in the “2007 Funded Programs” section of this report.

Child Abuse Prevention

Research has identified several factors that decrease the risk of child abuse and neglect. Trust Fund programs work to prevent child abuse by increasing these protective factors in families including:

- nurturing and attachment;
- knowledge of parenting and child development;
- parental resilience;
- social connections; and
- concrete support for parents.
Trust Fund programs nurture these characteristics by providing tangible services designed to meet the needs of families in their communities. Some of the many child abuse prevention services offered with Trust Fund support include parenting education classes, peer support groups, opportunities to strengthen parent-child interactions, home visits and safety workshops for children.

By participating in these services, parents learn appropriate expectations for their children and skills to guide their children’s behavior in respectful ways. Parents are better equipped to keep their child’s safety a top priority and handle stress. Families become more child-centered with parents and children becoming more confident in their relationships.

**Family Resource Centers**

The Family Resource Centers (FRCs) are an important child abuse prevention program model supported by the Trust Fund. FRCs provide an array of services for children, parents, grandparents and others caring for children. These services may include parenting classes, drop-in playgroups, parent-child activities, support groups for families with specialized needs and referrals to other resources in the community. All families are welcome and their cultural, racial and family structures are respected. This open environment helps reduce the stigma some associate with prevention programs and provides opportunities for community-building relationships to flourish.

The FRC Network, composed of FRCs funded by the Trust Fund, meets quarterly to share solutions and coordinate services. The Network also leads programs in a self-assessment and peer review process, helping FRCs build on their strengths and increase their capacities. To help coordinate FRC efforts to document success, the Trust Fund launched a study to evaluate the results of their work with families. In 2009, the FRC Network expects to bring a national trainer to New York, saving costs and enabling more families to access The Incredible Years, an effective, evidence-based parenting series.

**Healthy Families New York Home Visiting Programs**

Healthy Families is another child abuse prevention program model that is supported by the Trust Fund. Research has proven that Healthy Families is an effective program with positive results for families. These programs provide screening, education and home visits to families before and after the birth of their child. Many Healthy Families programs collaborate with Family Resource Centers to provide families a continuum of care.

**Domestic Violence Services**

Trust Fund programs address domestic violence prevention through educational programs and support services for children and adults. In school-based prevention programs, children gain support and skills, increasing their confidence and resiliency.
Supervised Visitation

Some domestic violence programs supported by the Trust Fund provide supervised visitation services. These programs provide a safe environment for promoting healthy relationships between non-custodial parents and their children and improve safety for children and custodial parents. Trained staff coach parents during their supervised visits to increase their parenting skills. Additionally, support groups for children and adults increase their resilience and social connections. In 2007, the Trust Fund convened meetings of supervised visitation programs to help them share successful strategies and develop best practice protocols.

Making a Difference

In 2007, Trust Fund support enabled programs to work with 71,185 adults and children in New York State. Services included direct services, education and training.

Elder Abuse Initiatives

Seniors are a steadily increasing segment of our population and are often vulnerable to abuse. Through the 2007 Request For Proposals (RFP) process, three new initiatives related to elder abuse were selected for funding. All projects begin in 2008.

The elder abuse projects include direct service to seniors on a community level, public education on a county level and research to assess the prevalence of elder abuse on a statewide level. This research, the first of its kind in the nation, will help shape future policy decisions. The results of these projects will be incorporated in the 2008 Annual Report.

Statewide and Regional Initiatives

The Upstate New York Shaken Baby Prevention Project is a good example of a successful program expanding to reach more families. The project began at the Women and Children’s Hospital of Buffalo in 1998 and achieved a sustained 50% reduction in the incidence of Shaken Baby Syndrome in the pilot service area. In 2004, the project expanded to the Hudson Valley region through the Children’s Hospital Foundation at Westchester Medical Center. This project will become statewide in 2008 with funding awarded through the 2007 RFP.

Putting Research into Practice

The Trust Fund is committed to supporting the infusion of research in supported programs. In 2007, several initiatives focused on research.

- The FRC Network and the Center for Human Services Research launched an Outcome Study to document how FRCs affect the families they serve.
- The 2007 RFP included the requirement that programs must conduct pre/post assessments of clients served.
- Funding awarded for the New York State Elder Abuse Prevalence Study will increase the body of knowledge on elder abuse and help shape future policy decisions.
- The 2007 RFP promoted use of research-based evaluation processes and the use of evidence-based curricula and program models.
- Additional self-assessment and peer reviews were conducted at Family Resource Centers. Twenty-one of these comprehensive evaluation processes has been done in partnership with staff, parents and community partners.
Collaborating for Success

Collaborations are an effective way for the Trust Fund to share solutions and stretch resources. This is evident in relationships between funded programs and also through the activities of Trust Fund staff. Some of these collaborations include:

- Heading the New York Loves Safe Babies Committee, a group of New York State agency staff and community-based organizations working to keep young children safe.
- Bringing supervised visitation projects together to develop standards and guidelines.
- Initiating partnerships between staff of child abuse prevention programs and the early childhood community to offer new curricula from Zero to Three, the national center for infants, toddlers and families.
- Helping lead the New York State Parenting Education Partnership, working to increase the availability and quality of programming for parents, caregivers and educators.
- Convening the Family Resource Center Network quarterly to share solutions and consider system-wide enhancements for evaluation and use of research.
- Joining the OCFS Resource Development workgroup, focusing on accessing grants to support the work of OCFS and its contractors.
- Shaping solutions and strengthening the voice of child abuse prevention efforts across the country through active participation in the National Alliance of Trust Funds.

2007 Request For Proposals

In the spring of 2007, the Trust Fund issued a Request For Proposals (RFP). Reflecting the trend toward evidence-based services, the RFP encouraged programs to use proven program models and curricula informed by research. The RFP also requires programs to assess behavioral changes in the participants they serve.

Ninety proposals were submitted, requesting a total of $11.6 million to fund a wide range of services. It’s clear that the Trust Fund philosophy and funding priorities match the needs of communities across the state.

Following a rigorous scoring process, 28 programs were awarded grants that begin in 2008. This includes both new programs and the enhancement of existing programs to address unmet needs. These grants total $3,129,010. The state funds were allocated by the formula identified in the 1984 legislation creating the Trust Fund: 40% to child abuse prevention programs, 40% to domestic violence prevention programs and 20% to regional or statewide family violence prevention programs. Trust Fund grants have an anticipated four-year cycle with decreased funding in years three and four.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>program type</th>
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<td>Homes for the Homeless</td>
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<td>SCO Family of Services</td>
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* program type key

CA: Child Abuse
CA/FRC: Child Abuse/Family Resource Center
DV: Domestic Violence
EA: Elder Abuse
SW: Statewide
Statutory Reporting Requirements

The William B. Hoyt Memorial Children and Family Trust Fund was established by New York State Social Services Law, Article 10-A, Section 481-e. The law identifies the specific information required in this annual report. Below are the requirements and the corresponding data.

The number of persons estimated to have been assisted in programs covered by this section;

In 2007, over 70,000 children and adults were reached through services, support and educational programs from two public agencies and 22 non-profit organizations receiving Trust Fund grants.

The amount of public and private funds used for approved programs by service type;

<table>
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<th>Private funds</th>
<th>Value of services</th>
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<td>Trust Fund state allocation and Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) Federal funds</td>
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<td>$2,629,568</td>
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</table>

The amount of funds used for the administration of such services;

A full 100% of Trust Fund State funds are awarded to programs. Of the Federal funds, approximately 15% is used to offset administrative costs incurred by New York State OCFS.

![Trust Fund Programs Sources of Funding Diagram]
2007 Funded Programs

Child Abuse Prevention Programs

Inwood House  
New York City  
Trust Fund: $59,625 (Year III)  
Local Share: $44,518  
Total Budget: $104,143  
Inwood House provides the SPIN Video Home Training Program to parenting teens involved in the agency’s maternity residence programs, Mother/Baby Foster Family Homes, and other community-based service programs. The SPIN program is focused on positive reinforcement in parenting through intensive, hands-on visual learning and supportive services delivered to participating parents at their homes. The young parents also get supports from workshops and group outings as well as from the agency’s continuum of care.

Kingsbridge Heights Community Center  
Bronx  
CBCAP Grant: $37,500 (Year IV)  
Local Share: $38,145  
Total Budget: $75,645  
This program provides sexual abuse prevention and education workshops for preschool, elementary and high school students. The project also provides training for human service and professionals working with children in educational settings.

Family Resource Centers

Catholic Charities of Montgomery County  
Amsterdam  
CBCAP Grant: $35,260 (Year IV)  
Local Share: $8,815  
Total Budget: $44,075  
Operated by Catholic Charities of Montgomery County, The Family Room offers a variety of crucial services including parent education, childhood screening, referral to other community services, a resource library, family activities, childcare and children’s programs. Special outreach to teen parents and the Latino community in the city of Amsterdam are a major focus.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cortland County  
Cortland  
CBCAP Grant: $50,208 (Year IV)  
Local Share: $19,051  
Total Budget: $69,259  
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cortland County operates the Cortland Family and Fun Resource Center to a diverse population within the county and the surrounding areas. The Center offers parenting education, information and referrals, lending library, and workshops in nutrition, budgeting, job training, health and dental health. The program partners with other agencies for supervised visitation, developmental screenings, mental health awareness, health insurance enrollment, and linkage to other community resources.

Child Care Coordinating Council of the North Country  
Plattsburgh  
CBCAP Grant: $100,000 (Year IV)  
Local Share: $72,402  
Total Budget: $172,402  
This program includes four centers in the Adirondack communities of Plattsburgh, Malone, Tupper Lake and Elizabethtown. Centers offer a broad continuum of programs including parenting education, information and referrals, Parents Anonymous, children’s program, developmental screenings, playgroups, resource libraries, social groups, and family activities. Services provided with other collaborators include supervised visitation and parent support groups in the county jail.
Chinese-American Planning Council, Inc.
New York City
CBCAP Grant: $30,000 (Year IV) .................Local Share: $14,669 .......................Total Budget: $44,669
This program provides comprehensive services to Chinese families in the five boroughs of New York City. These include parenting workshops, developmental screenings, information and referral, a bilingual lending library, social events, respite services, naturalization and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes.

Child & Family Resources Inc. of Ontario and Yates Counties
Geneva
CBCAP Grant: $38,135 (Year IV) .................Local Share: $11,996 .......................Total Budget: $50,131
The Geneva Family Resource Center provides prevention-focused, strength-driven services to families with enhanced outreach to Hispanic families. Services include parenting education and support, early childhood programs, developmental screenings, supervised visitations, Parent Helper Training for pre-teens, community referrals and family activities. The program collaborates with numerous local government and health agencies, local schools, Head Start and Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tioga County
Owego
CBCAP Grant: $58,890 (Year IV) .................Local Share: $127,154 .......................Total Budget: $186,044
Cornell Cooperative Extension operates the Family Resource Centers of Tioga County. Services include parenting classes, playgroups, and referral to other community-based resources. The centers collaborate with local human services departments, school districts, and community agencies to serve families with children from birth to five.

Family Resource Centers of Crestwood Children’s Center
Rochester
CBCAP Grant: $56,000 (Year IV) .................Local Share: $14,000 .......................Total Budget: $70,000
Family Resource Centers of Crestwood Children’s Center offers comprehensive services at two centers to low-income urban families with young children. Services include research-based parent education programs, support for grandparents raising grandchildren, home visits to enhance early intervention services for children, support for Spanish speaking families, and Early Childhood Education and Pre-K programs.

Family Service League of Suffolk (FSL)
Huntington
CBCAP Grant: $37,500 (Year IV) ............... Local Share: $56,000 ...................... Total Budget: $93,500
The Manor Field Family Center provides critical services to low-income families in a predominantly Hispanic neighborhood. Services include parent education, crisis interventions, emergency food assistance, clothing, preschool, homework help, and parent-child activities. Training for adults include English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, vocational and computer training, help with forms for entitlements, fire and safety, translations, and links to other resources as needed.

Mothers & Babies Perinatal Network of South Central New York, Inc.
Binghamton
CBCAP Grant: $44,595 (Year IV) ...............Local Share: $100,181 ......................Total Budget: $144,776
The network oversees one FRC in Binghamton and one in Endicott. Both are drop-in community centers for families and caregivers of children aged 0-5. Families can access social, recreational,
and educational services/activities. The program offers services in collaboration with Cornell Cooperative Extension at the Endicott site.

North Country Prenatal/Perinatal Council, Inc.
Gouverneur
CBCAP Grant: $51,500 (Year IV) .................Local Share: $40,504 .........................Total Budget: $92,004
The Council operates the Gouverneur Activity and Learning Center in this rural St. Lawrence County community. Services work to strengthen families and provide them tools to support their child’s development. Services include parent education, parent-child activities, playgroups, health insurance enrollment, workshops in nutrition, budgeting, job-readiness assistance, links to other resources, family events and field trips. The program also offers unique supports for military families and their approximately 10,000 children in the community.

Pro-Action of Steuben & Yates, Inc.
Bath
CBCAP Grant: $82,340 (Year IV) .................Local Share: $124,147 .......................Total Budget: $206,487
This program includes three FRCs and a Family Development Program and targets low-income populations by coordinating vital family support activities. Services include parent education workshops, preschool playgroups, after school and summer vacation programs, family events, GED classes, literacy tutoring, referrals to other community resources, home visiting and emergency food pantry.

Healthy Families New York Home Visiting Programs

Behavioral Health Services North, Inc.
Plattsburgh
CBCAP Grant: $43,800 (Year IV) .................Local Share: $11,300 .........................Total Budget: $55,100
This program screens all expectant parents and parents with infants less three months old in Clinton County who may be at risk of child abuse and neglect or health or developmental problems. Services provided to first-time parents include home visits, father support groups, peer support and parent/child activities.

Schenectady County Public Health Services
Schenectady
Trust Fund: $40,600 (Year IV) .....................Local Share: $26,806 .........................Total Budget: $67,406
This program screens pregnant and postpartum women and their partners to identify those in need of further assessment and services. Health education is also provided on topics including infant care, parent-child interaction and prevention of Sudden Infant Death (SID) and Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS).

Sullivan County Public Health Services
Liberty
Trust Fund: $44,000 (Year IV) .....................Local Share: $30,919 .........................Total Budget: $74,919
This program provides home visiting services to families in Sullivan County through Healthy Beginnings.
Statewide and Regional Initiatives

Kaleida Health/Women and Children’s Hospital of Buffalo
Buffalo
Trust Fund: $65,000 (Year IV) Local Share: $454,277 Total Budget: $519,277
The Upstate New York Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) Education Project educates all new parents in 20 Western New York and Finger Lakes counties.

Children’s Hospital Foundation at Westchester Medical Center
Valhalla
Trust Fund: $61,150 (Year IV) Local Share: $132,905 Total Budget: $194,055
Children’s Hospital manages the Hudson Valley Shaken Baby Prevention Initiative, a replication of the successful Upstate (SBS) Education Program in the eight county Hudson Valley region.

The Upstate Shaken Baby Project began at Kaleida Health/Women and Children’s Hospital of Buffalo in 1998 and expanded to the Hudson Valley through the Children’s Hospital Foundation at Westchester Medical Center in 2004. Through the Project, parents in 28 counties learn about the dangers of shaking babies, even in play, before their newborn is discharged from the hospital. Trained nurses talk with parents to provide materials in the context of a caring relationship and to respond to each family’s unique situation. Parents sign a statement affirming their commitment to keeping their baby safe from SBS. This program sustains a consistent 50% decrease in the incidence of SBS in the Western New York region and similar results in the Hudson Valley region. In 2008 this program will become statewide with funding awarded through the 2007 RFP.

Domestic Violence Initiatives

Edwin Gould Services for Children & Families
New York City
Trust Fund: $67,500 (Year IV) Local Share: $0 Total Budget: $67,500
The Children’s Therapy Program serves children ages 3-14 who have witnessed domestic violence and their non-abusive parents. Individual and group therapy is provided for the children and parenting education and support classes are offered to the parents.

Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Hempstead
Trust Fund: $44,250 (Year III) Local Share: $14,741 Total Budget: $58,991
The Child Witness Project provides domestic violence services at a community-based human service organization. A bilingual children’s counselor provides support for both children and their non-abusive parents and links to other services such as legal services, safe housing, and advocacy.

YWCA of Schenectady
Schenectady
CBCAP Grant: $21,000 (Year IV) Local Share: $12,525 Total Budget: $33,525
The Domestic Education Outreach project provides domestic abuse prevention training for 1st and 2nd grade students. The project uses age-appropriate techniques to address physical and emotional abuse, domestic violence, family and social dynamics. The project also provides workshops on domestic violence prevention and intervention for parents, caregivers and school staff.
Supervised Visitation Programs

Allegany County Community Opportunities and Rural Development Corporation
Belmont
CBCAP Grant: $45,000 (Year IV) .................. Local Share: N/A ................................... Total Budget: $45,000

ACCORD operates a supervised visitation program for families with a history of domestic violence and/or child abuse. The program provides safety planning assistance, parent education activities, and facilitates improved interactions between parent and child, peer support, and links to other supportive services. Community education on domestic violence awareness is also offered to local schools and community-based organizations throughout the year.

New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
New York City
Trust Fund: $33,250 (Year IV) .................. Local Share: $52,411 .......................... Total Budget: $85,661

This program provides court-ordered therapeutic supervised visitation services to visiting parents due to child safety concerns. Services include mental health counseling for children who have witnessed domestic violence, parenting education to non-custodial parents, safety planning, emotional support and links with domestic violence services for custodial parents and children.

Oswego County Opportunities, Inc.
Fulton
Trust Fund: $75,000 (Year III) ................. Local Share: $N/A.................................. Total Budget: $75,000

This program provides supervised visitation to non-custodial parents in an environment that is safe for all family members involved. Supportive services, such as safety planning, support groups for non-abusive adults, support groups for children, parenting groups and linkage to domestic violence services and self-sufficiency services, are also offered. Families are referred by Family Court, Child Protective Services, Preventive Services, or Probation Department.

Making a Difference

“The Autism Support Group is such a great program that you have started at [the FRC]. The chance to have child care and for the parents of a child [with autism] to then be able to go, meet and discuss with other parents of children [with autism] is a godsend. [It’s an] irreplaceable day of each month for me.”

parent of child with autism

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Since 1986, the Trust Fund has funded 223 projects across New York State. The map demonstrates the statewide distribution of programs.