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Overview: Strengthening Families

Violence within families can be devastating. Whether it’s child abuse, domestic violence or elder abuse, family violence can cause deep and lasting harm. In fact, research has linked some family violence with a host of health issues including increased disease conditions in later life, mental health concerns and early death.

Through the William B. Hoyt Memorial Children and Family Services Trust Fund (Trust Fund), New York State is working to prevent family violence. The Trust Fund was created in 1984 to combat the spectrum of family violence — both in terms of types of abuse and in the age range of those affected by it.

This is accomplished through investments in preventive services to strengthen families across New York State. Investments in prevention can reduce the need for more costly services to address abuse after it happens.

By tackling child abuse, domestic violence and elder abuse, the Trust Fund takes aim at breaking the cycle of abuse that can become a pattern for families. This is significant because research shows that families experiencing domestic violence are at higher risk of experiencing child abuse.

Services supported by the Trust Fund are based on a strength-based philosophy with respect for the skills, experiences and culture of those participating. The programs work as partners with parents, caregivers and children to create brighter futures.

Programs supported by the Trust Fund also forge meaningful partnerships with their communities. Local organizations, individuals and government agencies refer families to Trust Fund programs, donate financially, provide in-kind services and volunteer their time. This partnership enables Trust Fund programs to become a foundation for the community and the families they serve.

This Annual Report provides details about the use of resources and the impact on children, adults and communities in 2008. More in-depth information about the Trust Fund and past years is available by contacting Trust Fund staff.

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 Report.

The number of persons estimated to have been assisted in programs

In 2008, over 71,136 children and adults were assisted through services, support and educational programs from 29 agencies and organizations receiving Trust Fund grants. See “Making a Difference” on page 8 of this Report to read quotes from a few of the 71,136 participants.

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

The Trust Fund administers funds from two different sources. One source is the Federal Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) grant. The other source is New York State funds. State funds provide the required match which maximizes Federal support.

The chart below illustrates the investment in Trust Fund programs.
The tables below provide details regarding the amount of public and private funds used for Trust Fund supported programs.

Table 1 breaks down the source of public funds used by programs. Table 2 details the total funding used by programs, broken out by public and private funds.

### Table 1  
**Public Funding**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service type</th>
<th>Public Funds: Trust Fund State allocation + Federal funds (CBCAP)</th>
<th>Public Funds: other public entities</th>
<th>Total Public Funds Trust Fund State allocation + CBCAP + local public entities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child abuse</td>
<td>$2,321,749</td>
<td>$295,310</td>
<td>$2,617,059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic violence</td>
<td>$512,583</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$512,583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elder Abuse</td>
<td>$334,428</td>
<td>$41,180</td>
<td>$375,608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td>$3,168,760</td>
<td>$336,490</td>
<td>$3,505,250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2  
**Total Funding**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service type</th>
<th>Total Public Funds From table 1</th>
<th>Private funds</th>
<th>Value of services delivered to children and adults</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child abuse</td>
<td>$2,617,059</td>
<td>$1,700,411</td>
<td>$4,317,470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic violence</td>
<td>$512,583</td>
<td>$30,051</td>
<td>$542,634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elder Abuse</td>
<td>$375,608</td>
<td>$23,616</td>
<td>$399,224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td>$3,505,250</td>
<td>$1,754,078</td>
<td>$5,259,328</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</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 Office of Children and Family Services.

**Programs receiving grants in 2008**

The Trust Fund supports three types of programs. The list of programs that follows is organized by these three program types:

- child abuse, including Family Resource Centers
- domestic violence
- elder abuse

### Child Abuse Prevention Programs

**Family Resource Centers**

The nationally recognized Family Resource Center (FRC) model is one child abuse prevention program supported by the Trust Fund. Through the Trust Fund, these programs are supported by Federal Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) grant.

FRCs provide vital services to families in a nurturing environment. Services are open to all families, with an emphasis on those with children ages five and under. Core services include:

- parent education and support
- information and referral
- creative outreach, including home visits
- group support
- family social activities
- parent/child activities
- links with early intervention/health services
- respite/crisis care programs where the need exists
- parent leadership opportunities in the development, operation and governance of the family resource center

Based on community needs assessments, programs also link to complementary services such as:

- job training and career opportunities
- structured child care
- early childhood education
- supervised visitation
- family literacy
- English as a Second Language (ESL)
- naturalization
- services for the disabled

All funded Family Resource Centers achieve the following outcomes:

- improved parenting skills
- improved parent/child interaction
- increased family empowerment/parent leadership
- improved social support

Depending on community need and resources, some FRCs achieve other outcomes including:

- increased health care access
- increased family self-sufficiency
- reduced length of stay in foster care
Association to Benefit Children
New York, New York County
CBCAP Grant: $150,000
The ABC Family Resource Center provides prevention-focused services to families in East Harlem. Services include parenting education and support, playgroups, information and referral, social events and family activities. This project served 110 families.

Catholic Charities of Montgomery County
Amsterdam, Montgomery County
CBCAP Grant: $52,890
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, child care and children's programs. Enhanced outreach to the Latino community in the city of Amsterdam is a major focus. In 2008, 194 parents/caregivers and 104 children were served.

Child Care Coordinating Council of the North Country
Plattsburgh, Counties of Clinton, Franklin and Essex
CBCAP Grant: $150,000
This program includes four centers in the Adirondack communities of Plattsburgh, Malone, Tupper Lake and Elizabethtown. Centers offer a broad continuum of services including the evidence-informed Parents Anonymous program and, with other collaborators, supervised visitation and parent support groups in the county jail. A total of 931 families, with 938 parents/caregivers and 844 children, were served.

Chinese-American Planning Council, Inc.
New York City, New York County
CBCAP Grant: $45,000
This program provides comprehensive services to Chinese families in the five boroughs of New York City. The program expanded to serve up to 80 parents to increase parental involvement and empowerment, especially for parents of young children with special needs. The program served 176 parents/caregivers and 75 children.

Child & Family Resources Inc. of Ontario and Yates Counties
Geneva, Ontario County
CBCAP Grant: $38,135
The Geneva Family Resource Center provides prevention-focused, strength-driven services to families with enhanced outreach to Latino families and fathers or father figures. A total of 124 families, with 137 parents/caregivers and 93 children, were served.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cortland County
Cortland, Cortland County
CBCAP Grant: $74,996
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cortland County operates the Cortland Family and Fun Resource Center. In 2008, the program developed a satellite site in collaboration with Cortland Chenango Rural Services in Burlington. The project served 435 parents/caregivers and 469 children.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tioga County
Waverly and Owego, Tioga County
CBCAP Grant: $88,335
Cornell Cooperative Extension operates two Family Resource Centers. In 2008, Trust Fund funding supported expansion of community outreach and collaboration, and development of offsite programs to reach families with limited resources in this rural county. A total of 329 parents/caregivers and 389 children received services.

Family Resource Centers of Crestwood Children’s Center,
Rochester, Monroe County
CBCAP Grant: $84,000
Two Trust Fund supported FRCs reach low-income urban families with young children through a range of services including The Incredible Years and Effective Black Parenting, both evidence-based parenting education programs. Enhanced services and outreach focused on grandparents raising grandchildren and Spanish-speaking families. Combined, the centers served 609 parents/caregivers and children.

Mothers & Babies Perinatal Network of South Central New York, Inc.,
Binghamton and Endicott, Broome County
CBCAP Grant: $44,595
The network oversees two FRCs offering drop-in community centers for families and caregivers of children aged 0-5. The program offers services in collaboration with Cornell Cooperative Extension at the Endicott site. The centers served 552 parents/caregivers and 636 children.

Niagara Falls City School District,
Niagara Falls, Niagara County
CBCAP Grant: $150,000
In 2008, Niagara Falls City School District operated an FRC at the high school, and added services at three other FRCs at elementary schools in high-need neighborhoods. The program partnered with the Niagara Falls Housing Authority to provide families parenting information, a computer lab, gymnasium, health and exercise classes, health clinic, job training, resource library, and Universal Pre-K. A total of 85 parents/caregivers and 101 children were served.

Children and Family Trust Fund: Strengthening Families
North Country Prenatal/Perinatal Council, Inc.
Gouverneur, St. Lawrence County
CBCAP Grant: $77,250
The Council operates the Gouverneur Activity and Learning Center in this rural St. Lawrence County community. The program also offers supports for military families and their approximately 10,000 children. In 2008, Trust Fund support enabled the Center to expand its hours of operation and provide additional services in partnership with other community-based organizations. Approximately 69 parents/caregivers and 53 children were served.

Phipps Community Development Corporation
The Bronx, Bronx County
CBCAP Grant: $150,000
Phipps Community Development Corporation operates The Family Room which provides comprehensive services to families living in the South Bronx with enhanced outreach to Latino families. Services include parenting education and support, parent/child interaction activities, information & referral, drop-in child care, literacy classes, ESL classes and employment counseling and placement. A total of 80 parents/caregivers and children received services.

Pro-Action of Steuben & Yates, Inc.
Addison, Bath, Corning and Woodhull, Steuben County
CBCAP Grant: $97,025
The Steuben Family Enrichment Collaborative (SFEC) targets low-income populations by coordinating vital family support activities. A total of 386 parents/caregivers and children received services. In addition, SFEC expanded a fatherhood initiative and piloted a Protective Factors Survey as part of a Federal validation process.

Other Child Abuse Prevention Programs
In addition to the Family Resource Center model, the Trust Fund supports other programs working to prevent child abuse by building the factors that protect against it. These protective factors include:

- nurturing and attachment between child and caregiver
- knowledge of parenting, of child/youth development
- caregiver resilience
- social connections
- concrete support for caregivers

Each program designs outcomes for their services based on community need, best practice, and the strengths and characteristics of families they serve.

Child Abuse Prevention Services
Roslyn, Nassau County
State Grant: $48,208
Trust Fund funding supports implementation of Safety Rules, a three-session child abuse prevention program offered in classrooms of children ages 7, 8, and 9. This project effectively recruited, screened and trained 429 community volunteers who provide workshops for 2200 children in the community.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Tompkins County
Groton and Ithaca, Tompkins County
State Grant: $62,784
Outcomes for this project include improved parenting skills, improved interaction between parent/caregiver and child, increased social support and increased family self-sufficiency. This year, 274 parents/caregivers and children participated in services including Parents as Teachers, an evidence-based model of parenting education.

Homes for the Homeless
New York City, New York County
State Grant: $145,500
In 2008, Homes for Homeless expanded its crisis nursery focusing on isolated families needing resources and support. Outcomes included: improved parenting skills, healthy child development, enhancing children’s school readiness, and reduced involvement in child welfare system. A total of 419 individuals, with 225 parents/caregivers and 194 children, were served.

Gateway Longview
Buffalo, Erie County
State Grant: $145,009
Gateway Longview provides a range of services including the evidence-based Parenting Wisely program. Participants have the flexibility of attending the computer-based parenting program individually or in a group. More than 200 parents/caregivers were served. With an emphasis on father engagement, the program served 65 fathers, far exceeding their goal of 20.

Inwood House
New York City, New York County
State Grant: $39,750
Inwood House provides the SPIN Video Home Training Program to parenting teens. In 2008, 25 parents/caregivers and 20 children were served with significant improvement in the two program outcomes: improved parenting skills and increased family empowerment/ownership. The program worked to expand services through a training partnership.

Children and Family Trust Fund: Strengthening Families
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SCO
Brooklyn, Kings County
State Grant: $144,879
During 2008, 105 parents/caregivers and children in 45 families accessed the Parent-Child Home evidence-based home visiting services and the Baby & Me developmental playgroup. Outcomes included: optimizing parent-child attachment, increasing child development knowledge, increasing parenting skills, decreasing parental isolation, and increasing school readiness.

Women’s Prison Association
East New York, Kings County
State Grant: $145,500
Women’s Prison Association provided the Parent-Child Home Program to 13 families with children between the ages of 16 months and 3 years old. The goal is to model positive parenting techniques and promote early learning and literacy through intensive home visiting services.

Also see “Statewide Family Violence Prevention Programs” on page 7 of this Report.

Elder Abuse Programs
The Trust Fund supports prevention and intervention services that reach adults over 60 in the community who are, or may be, at risk of physical abuse, emotional abuse, and/or financial exploitation primarily by family members. Two outcomes are required for funded elder abuse programs:

- increased recognition of elder abuse and knowledge of related community resources; and
- improved safety for elders exposed to family violence

Equinox
Albany, Albany County
State Grant: $60,428
Well-known as an approved domestic violence program, Equinox expanded its services to address family violence affecting elders with Trust Fund support. Over 422 individuals increased their ability to recognize elder abuse and take action and 25 improved their safety.

Family Justice Center of Erie County
Buffalo, Erie County
State Grant: $80,000
The Family Justice Center provides a comprehensive Elder Abuse Awareness and Prevention program to the senior adult community of Erie County. Public education materials such as brochures, posters, bus shelter signage and monthly newsletters were developed and distributed during Year 1.

Also see “Statewide Family Violence Prevention Programs” on page 7 of this Report.

Domestic Violence Programs
With Trust Fund support, programs work with families experiencing, or at risk of, domestic violence. Services provided may include:

- supervised visitation
- group and individual counseling
- parenting education
- safety planning
- parenting support including in-home services
- advocacy
- collaboration with other community resources such as schools and counseling programs
- school-based prevention programs for elementary grades K-6
- teen dating violence prevention programs

Programs providing supervised visitation or children’s services address the following outcomes:

- improved behaviors and/or social skills for children exposed to family violence
- improved safety for children and adults experiencing domestic violence
- improved interaction between parent and child
- improved parenting skills

Other programs funded for domestic violence craft outcomes based on the needs of their community and organizational expertise.

Cattaraugus Community Action, Inc.
Salamanca and Olean, Cattaraugus County
State Grant: $145,306
Cattaraugus Community Action administers the Supervised Visitation and Exchange Program at the two visitation centers. The program provides a safe and structured environment for children to meet with their parents who require supervised contacts. Participating parents and children are in situations involving domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, stalking, or custodial cases for this mandated service. Fifty-one parents/caregivers and 38 children were served.
Putnam/Northern Westchester Women’s Resource Center  
Mohopac, Putnam County  
State Grant: $141,796

The Putnam/Northern Westchester Women’s Resource Center implemented Students Preventing Violence, an innovative school-based primary prevention program to address the needs of at-risk youth exposed to domestic violence, and or dating violence. Workshops with a focus on preventing dating violence and creating healthy relationships are provided to elementary, middle school and high school students in the Mahopac School District. Seventy-four parents/caregivers and 829 children received education and training through this program.

Oswego County Opportunities, Inc.  
Fulton and Richland, Oswego County  
State Grant: $132,890

This program provides supervised visitation to non-custodial parents complimented by a range of supportive services such as parenting classes and children’s support groups. Families are referred by Family Court, Child Protective Services, Preventive Services, or Probation Departments. A total of 67 parents/caregivers and children were served. Twenty out of the 39 parents/caregivers served were abusers.

Salvation Army  
Jamestown, Chautauqua County  
CBCAP Grant: $92,591

Salvation Army-Jamestown administers the Children and Family Outreach Program, serving children affected by domestic violence and sexual assault and their families. Eighty-eight children and parents/caregivers were served.

Statewide Family Violence Prevention Programs

In addition to funding programs working at a local level, the Trust Fund is committed to addressing family violence on a regional and statewide level. Three funded programs currently operate across New York State.

Lifespan of Greater Rochester  
Rochester, statewide  
Trust Fund Grant: $194,000

In 2008, Lifespan launched work on a statewide study to assess the prevalence of elder abuse in New York State. A complex undertaking, the study incorporates data from numerous State and community agencies, local government units, and a phone survey of thousands of New Yorkers. Results are expected to be released in 2010.

Kaleida Health/Women and Children’s Hospital of Buffalo  
Buffalo, multiple counties in Western New York and Finger Lakes region  
Trust Fund: $193,893  

Together with

Children’s Hospital Foundation at Westchester Medical Center  
Valhalla, multiple counties in the Hudson Valley  
Trust Fund: $194,000

In 2008, these two organizations expanded their successful existing regional programs to cover all maternity hospitals in New York State and reached 53,615 families. With Trust Fund support, nurses are trained to provide education on Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) to the families of newborns before even leaving the hospital. Families meet with a nurse, receive written materials, view a DVD, and may choose to sign a statement affirming their commitment to prevent SBS. Outcomes of this project include a sustained 50% decrease in the incidence of SBS in the Western New York region.

Other Trust Fund Activities

In addition to providing technical assistance and collaborating with programs to enhance services, the Trust Fund is part of other activities and initiatives that support children and families.

Trust Fund staff participates in a variety of forums that increase communication and collaboration between child welfare agencies and community-based programs. Some partnerships and collaborations are long-term while others are focused on a specific task or goal. One example is a video conference designed to help more families access the valuable services at FRCs. The video conference can be viewed by contacting the Trust Fund staff.

These cross-systems collaborations are an effective way for the Trust Fund to share solutions and stretch resources. It also helps engage others in the important work of strengthening families to reduce the risk of harm.

New York State Family Resource Center Network

The Trust Fund convenes the FRC Network to share solutions, develop strategies and give a voice to families served. The Network meets quarterly and networks through a list serv.
In partnership with the FRC Network, the Trust Fund launched a study to assess how family resource centers (FRCs) affect risk/protective factors for child abuse and maltreatment for families. The study, conducted by the Center for Human Services Research, was launched in 2008 and is expected to be completed in 2009.

**New York State Parenting Education Partnership**

OCFS, in partnership with the New York State Council on Children and Families and Prevent Child Abuse New York, co-convenes the New York State Parenting Education Partnership (NYSPEP). By increasing factors that protect against child abuse and maltreatment, parenting education can lead to improved health and safety for children. See www.parentingeducationpartnership.org and www.nysfamilyresources.org for more details.

**New York Loves Safe Babies**

Through the Trust Fund, OCFS leads this committee in collaboration with New York State Department of Health. The committee works to coordinate initiatives across agencies and share resources. In addition, the committee creates materials to keep children safe and healthy and organizes an annual public awareness event. The 2008 event reached approximately 200 individuals at a local mall.

**Babies Sleep Safest Alone Campaign**

In May 2008, the OCFS Public Information Office launched Babies Sleep Safest Alone public awareness campaign. The Trust Fund reaches out to existing networks and coordinates the distribution of materials. This campaign is designed to prevent infant deaths that occur when sharing sleep space with adults. Campaign information is available at www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/babiessleepsafestalone.

**Other Collaborations**

The Trust Fund and OCFS continue to participate in other forums and with a variety of organizations including:

- New York State Council on Children and Families
- New York State Department of Health
- National Alliance of Children’s Trust Fund and Prevention Funds
- Prevent Child Abuse New York
- Other forums and organizations based on specific needs or focus of activity

**Additional Information**

For additional information on the Trust Fund or supported programs, contact Judy Richards at 518-474-9613 or at Judy.Richards@ocfs.state.ny.us.

Several publications related to the Trust Fund are also available. To download or request copies, go to OCFS website at www.ocfs.state.ny.us.

- 2007 Trust Fund Annual Report
- New York State Family Resource Center Network Brochure (OCFS Pub. 5070)
- Guidelines for New York State Family Resource Centers (OCFS Pub 5071)
- New York Loves Safe Babies publications

**Making a Difference**

Trust Fund supported programs help transform lives, in big and small ways, each day.

Here are just a few examples of children and adults who benefitted from the Trust Fund.

“The program has helped me so many times when I [didn’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.”

A single parent who recently left a long-term abusive relationship and coping with challenges related to parenting, mental health, school, health care, housing and utility payments.

“My confidence and self-esteem are much better. Thanks to the program. I am enjoying my son instead of worrying about him all the time.”

A mother who received Parents As Teachers home visits with her infant son while in an abusive relationship with an alcoholic. She joined a parenting group at the Center, but was initially closed off and extremely protective of her son. After staff and other parents gained her trust, she disclosed the abuse and asked for assistance to move to a local women’s shelter. Staff arranged all necessary services for her move. Mother and child are both much happier now.

“I had so much fun here today and I learned so much about brain development and what I can do. I can’t wait to come back and make the Center part of my routine.”

A father visiting a Family Resource Center for first time.
Since 1986, the Trust Fund has funded 252 projects across New York State. The map illustrates the current statewide distribution of programs.

*NOTE: There are three statewide family violence prevention programs.*

The William B. Hoyt Memorial Children and Family Trust Fund has been supporting essential family violence prevention programs since 1986.
Trust Fund Contact Information

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Note: several appointments pending as of press time