

NEW YORK STATE  
OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES  
Attachment B

**ATTESTATION OF USE OF FAMILY FIRST TRANSITION FUNDS**

**Instruction:**

This form must be completed to receive Family First Transition Funds. Please complete and return to [FamilyFirstNY@ocfs.ny.gov](mailto:FamilyFirstNY@ocfs.ny.gov) by **June 15, 2019**. Such funds will not be used to supplant any other state or local funds. Claims for reimbursement under this appropriation will not be submitted for the same type and level of funding covered by any other state or locally authorized appropriation.

**Section I**

This is to certify that NYC ACS (insert LDSS name) plans to use the allocation of these funds authorized in the amount of \$ 500,000 toward one of the purposes listed below. This plan is subject to change based on individualized technical assistance and strategy selection. How the funds were used will be documented in the *Family First Transition Fund Progress Report* (Attachment C). Outcomes resulting from such expenditures will be documented in the *Family First Transition Fund Outcomes Report* (Attachment D).

**Plan for use of funds: (Check all that apply.)**

- Additional/enhanced targeted technical support
- Family search and engagement
- Enhancing support for foster parents
- Supporting kinship foster parents in meeting approval/certification requirements
- Improving recruitment and retention of foster families, including kinship caregivers
- Establishing administrative review teams to review proposed placements in non-kinship and congregate care settings
- Other (describe)

**Section II**

The LDSS agrees to participate in OCFS administered centralized technical assistance, and may receive additional technical assistance which may include one or more of the following:

- OCFS administered LDSS-specific technical assistance to assist with data analysis
- Consultant administered strategy development, system improvements and monitoring progress toward target goals

The LDSS has already received technical assistance toward the goal of reducing children in congregate care and increasing children in kinship foster care settings:

- Yes    No

If yes, describe:

As part of ACS' Home Away from Home Initiative, Public Catalyst and Action Research have provided intensive technical assistance to ACS and our foster care providers to increase kinship placement and foster home recruitment and support. This included data analysis, business process assessment, provider agency coaching, and ACS capacity building. From this technical assistance, we have seen results - successfully increasing both overall foster family recruitment and our proportion of children placed with kin.

**Section III**

**Instruction:**

OCFS has set statewide target goals for the percentage of children in foster care living in congregate care and kinship foster care, to be achieved by September 30, 2021, as follows: **12% congregate care placements and 30% kinship foster care placements**. To assist the state in meeting these targets, the LDSS must identify target goals to reduce congregate care and increase kinship foster care to be achieved by September 30, 2021. Progress toward these goals,

as of September 30, 2020, will be documented in the *Family First Transition Fund Outcomes Report* due November 1, 2020.

Utilizing the data provided on the next page, fill in the placement percentages as of December 31, 2018. Establish and fill in target goals<sup>1</sup> which may also be identified in the 3-year Retention and Recruitment Plan:

1. Reduce congregate care from 13 % (on December 31, 2018) to 12 % by September 30, 2021
2. Increase kinship<sup>2</sup> foster care from 33 % (on December 31, 2018) to 38 % by September 30, 2021

Describe below how the LDSS will engage kinship resources with direct custody orders (1017) to consider becoming certified or approved foster parents

When a child must be removed from the home, ACS conducts an investigation to locate any non-respondent parent and any relatives or suitable "fictive" kin who may be able to care for the child. ACS advises all potential kinship caregivers about the opportunity to become a foster parent. NYC rarely utilizes direct custody orders.

Building upon our existing extensive kinship and foster home recruitment work through Home Away from Home, ACS plans to use the \$500k designated for NYC to target a very high needs group of youth who are placed at the ACS Children's Center, Youth Reception Centers or other residential settings. ACS seeks OCFS' approval to utilize this funding to partner with Youth Advocate Programs (YAP). YAP is an organization that uses credible messengers and family finding approaches to provide high-intensity mentoring and wraparound services to successfully transition youth from institutional settings back to the community. YAP will work intensively with a group of high needs youth, help them connect with kin and other supportive adults, and transition them to family-based care. YAP will work closely with our congregate and residential care providers to find kin, and the intensive, wraparound services will help ensure the success and stability of these placements. Please see the attached proposal for a description of the comprehensive services YAP will provide.

ACS, through our partnership with YAP, will ensure kin receive full information about their options, including the opportunity to become an approved foster parent. When kin are identified to care for our youth through the YAP project, we will inform them of the financial and other supports they would receive by becoming a foster parent and how this differs from the direct custody option. Using this program during the Transition Fund timeframe (through 3/31/20) will be informative to ACS as we plan for Family First and also as we plan for the upcoming foster care procurement in NYC.

#### **Section IV**

Name and title of person completing the form: Julie Farber, Deputy Commissioner, Date: 06 / 11 / 2019  
Family Permanency Services, NYC ACS

<sup>1</sup> Measured from an in-care sample of children in the care and custody of the LDSS in such setting on December 31, 2018 and September 30, 2021

<sup>2</sup> Kinship foster care includes both approved foster homes, and certified foster homes where the foster parent is a relative or a non-relative with a positive relationship to the child or child's family (i.e. godparent, neighbor, family friend).

Name of commissioner:

DAVID HANSELL

Date: 6 / 11 / 19

Commissioner's signature:

*David Hansell*

