

## **Department for Children, Youth and Families**

### **Request for Authorization to Amend the 2021 budget to carry over grant funding from NYS OCFS**

The Department for Children, Youth and Families respectfully requests legislative authorization to amend the 2021 Adopted Budget by increasing the fees for service budget line \$38,767.00, utilizing the remaining funding from the NYS Office of Children and Family Services for Family First Transitions funds grant.

The Department received Legislative approval via Resolution 2019-331 to accept Transition Funding from NYS OCFS to support the implementation of Family First Prevention Safe Act (FFPSA). The total funding allocation for Albany County was \$53,905. The Department requests legislative authorization to amend the 2021 adopted DCYF budget in the amount of \$38,767.00, which represents the grant funds not utilized.

A primary goal of FFPSA is to keep children safely at home with their families and, when that is not possible, to utilize the least restrictive placement appropriate for the needs of the child. To meet FFPSA standards, LDSSs must intensify efforts to maintain children in home-based settings whenever possible. These efforts include identification and engagement of kinship resources, and increased recruitment and retention of foster homes for children who do not have appropriate kinship resources. The Family First Transition Fund assists these goals by providing LDSSs with funds to support, recruit and retain current and prospective foster families, including kinship caregivers. The intent of this fund is to produce sustained systemic improvements that encourage the least restrictive setting for children in foster care.