



Office of Children
and Family Services

KATHY HOCHUL
GOVERNOR

SHEILA J. POOLE
COMPTROLLER

Ms. Moira Manning, Commissioner
Albany County Department for Children, Youth, and Families
112 State St. Room 300
Albany, NY 12207

May 4, 2022

Dear Commissioner Manning:

This letter serves as confirmation that Trinity Alliance has been approved by OSC as a single source entity regarding the procurement for the Mobile Response initiative. Funding through the Office of Victim Services (OVS) has already been provided to Trinity to secure the purchase of a Winnebago to facilitate these mobile services. Additionally, under the Family First federal transition funds, the Office of Children and Family Services is making funding available through an allocation to support the ongoing implementation of the mobile response initiative. The collaboration between Albany County and Trinity Alliance allows the facilitation of this funding.

We hope this letter provides the clarification needed. Please feel free to reach out with any additional questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Gail Geohagen-Pratt
Associate Commissioner



Office of Children and Family Services

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

SHEILA J. POOLE
Commissioner

April 27, 2022

Dear Commissioners Cunningham, Manning, Townes, and Wright:

It has been a pleasure working with you and your staff to launch a new shared initiative to support our goal of providing goods and resources for families in need and at risk of contact with the child welfare system. The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) provides a vehicle for New York State (NYS) to move from the status quo of child protection as a primary prevention strategy and to move towards services and resources that strengthen families and enable children to remain safely at home. In that space of transformation, the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) has identified mobile response units as a strategy to develop and operate coordinated programs of community-based family support and family preservation services to prevent child maltreatment among families at risk, assure children's safety within the home, and preserve integrity of the family unit in which children have been maltreated, when the family's needs can be safely addressed effectively in the home.

To support the implementation of the mobile response pilot in each of your districts, OCFS is leveraging federal Family First Transition funds. This letter provides specific instructions and guidance on the availability of these federal funds to support the implementation of the mobile response pilot in each of your districts. OCFS intends to make funding available for the next four years, contingent on the continued availability of these funds. This letter also provides information on each of your district's allocation (*Attachment A*), how the funds can be used, and annual reporting and claiming requirements. Attachment B is to be completed by each of your districts as an attestation to their intended use of these funds.

Over these past few months, OCFS and each of your respective districts have been engaged in a learning collaborative to facilitate planning and implementation of the mobile response pilot. It has truly been encouraging to see the targeted ways in which each of your counties have identified strategies to operationalize this service and bolster supports and services for children and families in your respective districts. While the services provided in your respective districts will be tailored to the meet the identified needs of children and families in your districts, the following parameters must be in place for the structuring of these services.

At a minimum, the mobile response vans must be staffed with a licensed clinician, a behavioral health specialist, a family and/or peer advocate, a service navigation specialist, or a domestic violence advocate. Services must be available during both business hours and after hours. Services must be available to be responsive to immediate needs such as at the time a placement occurs. Services should also be available for ongoing needs for families identified as high risk and in receipt of preventive services. The mobile response van must respond to a request for assistance by going to the home where the child is residing or at a location in the community at a mutually agreed upon time. The mobile response unit must be able to be responsive when families call for help when a child is involved in an emotional or behavioral health need that could lead to a disruption in the home.

Mobile response units will work with the parent or caregiver and child to reduce or de-escalate identified behaviors and may provide intervention services to address any immediate concerns identified as well as ongoing needs. Mobile response services can also be utilized to provide non-

Attachment A

LDSS Allocation Amounts - Transition Act Funds

District	Allocation
Albany	\$200,000
Monroe	\$200,000
Onondaga	\$200,000
Westchester	\$200,000
Statewide Total	\$800,000

Attachment B

Attestation of Use

This is to certify that the Albany Co. department of social services will use the allocation of these funds authorized in the amount of \$ 200,000 to see below (insert brief description of use of funds). 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.

Plan for use of funds – check all that apply:

☐ Funds will be used by the LDSS

☒ Funds will be used to contract with a service provider

☒ Hire a full-time or part-time

☒ Clinician

☐ Family Advocate

☐ Parent Advocate

☐ Domestic Violence Advocate

☒ Behavioral Health Specialist

☒ Maintenance of mobile response van

☒ To meet emergent needs of children and families not otherwise met through availability of existing funds


Commissioner's signature

5/6/22
Date

Email completed **Attachment B** to Gail Geohagen-Pratt at [Gail Geohagen-Pratt@ocfs.ny.gov](mailto:Gail.Geohagen-Pratt@ocfs.ny.gov) by May 15, 2022.