

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

### **Request for Authorization to enter into Contractual Renewal Agreement with Cayuga Centers for the Provision of Parent Partner Services**

The Department for Children, Youth and Families respectfully requests Legislative authorization to enter into a contractual agreement with Cayuga Centers for the provision of Parent Partner Services. The total contractual amount is for \$74,692.20 for the period of January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021. The Department desires to exercise its first of two (2) options under the contract, to renew the agreement.

The Department identified the Parent Partner as one of the programs to be funded under the Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program (STSJP) Plan. Albany was allocated funding in the amount of \$172,722. The Department received approval to accept this allocation and the submission of the STSJP Plan via Resolution 2021-15.

In order to implement the Parent Partner services, the Department, in collaboration with the Department of Probation, issued a Request for Proposals for Parent Partner Services—*RFP-2019-133*—on November 28, 2019 with responses due January 10, 2020. Albany County sought proposals to provide Parent Partner services with a focus on reducing reliance on Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS) petitions to address family conflicts.

As of January 1, 2020, the new PINS legislation became effective. At this time, there is no longer be the ability to remand PINS youth to detention. Additionally, there are significant changes to PINS placement, including PINS-Truancy. In Albany County, PINS-Runaways and Truancy are a driving factor in the number of PINS youth placed. The goal is to significantly reduce and eventually eliminate all PINS placements as they are 100% local costs as of 1-1-20. Albany County believes the Parent Partner Service is a proactive strategy to address these concerns and be responsive to the changes in PINS legislation.

Parent Partners are typically individuals who have gained a unique set of skills and knowledge based on their personal experience in advocating for their own child(ren) who have been involved in one or more formal service systems. Effective Parent Partners assist families by engaging them and offering empathy, support, encouragement, information and advocacy as to what they should expect from service providers within the system of care. Having a Parent Partner available can be of tremendous support to families as they learn the complexities and challenges presented within Child Welfare and Probation (juvenile justice) services.