

Department for Children, Youth and Families

Backup Material for Authorization of Grant Acceptance from the Office of Children and Family Services regarding the 2024 Safe Harbor Grant

The Albany County Department for Children, Youth, and Families (ACDCYF) respectfully requests Legislative authorization to accept grant funding from the Office of Children and Family Services for the Child Right: Safe Harbor Initiative. The grant award for the 2024 funding year for the period of January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 is \$40,000 with no County share.

In 2008, New York State signed into legislation the Safe Harbor for Exploited Children Act. Prior to the passage of this Act, sexually exploited youth involved in illegal activities did not receive the protection of the Family Court and were instead prosecuted criminally. As such, rather than viewed as victims, these children and youth were seen as offenders of the law and treated as such. With the passage of the Act, these children and youth are now viewed as victims, which enable them to receive services to provide for their safety and well-being, in addition to counseling and other specific services to help address their emotional needs.

With the funding to date, DCYF has facilitated trainings and educational outreach to increase community awareness and knowledge on this subject matter.