

Request for Legislative Action to Enter into Contractual Agreements with Various Providers for the Provision of Foster Care Services

In accordance with the mandates articulated in Social Services Law 371 and 383, local districts are required to provide and pay for foster care services for youth in need of such services. The Department for Children, Youth and Families respectfully requests legislative authorization to enter into contractual arrangements with New York State approved foster care providers for the provision of foster care services for a term of two, one year agreements starting January 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2022. When children are placed in foster care with a particular provider, Albany County will pay no more than the Maximum State Aid Rate (MSAR) as mandated by New York State. If children are placed out of state, Albany County will pay no more than the Approved agency rate by the corresponding state.

The County has had approximately 240 children in foster care placement this past year in a number of agencies at total cost of approximately \$16.5 million annually. Authorization is requested to enter into an agreement with the providers listed on the attached spreadsheet. These providers have a current or recent placement for foster care services through Albany County or the licensure to receive such placements. Given the fluid and dynamic nature of foster care, there are times in which children, based on their individual needs and circumstances, may be placed in a foster care setting for which the County does not have a contract. Should such a situation arise, the Department will complete the necessary paperwork to request legislative authorization retroactively.