

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

### **Request for Authorization of Grant Acceptance from the Office of Children and Family Services for the Safe Harbor Initiative and to enter into an Inter-Departmental Agreement with Albany County Crime Victims and Sexual Violence Center**

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 2026 funding year for the period of January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026 is \$16,949 with no County share.

Additionally, ACDCYF respectfully requests Legislative authorization to enter into an Interdepartmental Agreement with Albany County Crime Victims and Sexual Violence Center (ACCVSVC) for facilitation of services related to the Safe Harbor initiative, in the amount of \$16,949 for the period of January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026.

The Safe Harbor initiative focuses on establishing a framework to increase the identification of potential trafficking victims, creating capacity for services in local infrastructures, and to support direct services to those victims. As part of ACDCYF's implementation of the Safe Harbor program, the department is focused on having a continuum of programs and services that enhance the effectiveness of education, outreach, case management and responsiveness to those persons identified as victims of or at high risk of trafficking.

ACCVSVC has a proven record and mechanism for responsiveness to victims of crimes, including sexual violence. Having ACCVSVC as an additional partner would provide the ability to respond to victims outside of non-business hours as they have an established 24/7 response team. Crime Victims would be the point person for community agencies such as law enforcement, hospitals, and community-based organizations to reach out to when a referral for trafficking services are warranted, allowing for a seamless and consistent response team and approach. The contract with ACCVSVC allows for a more holistic and comprehensive plan to address and serve the needs of this population.