

Department for Children, Youth and Families

Request for Authorization to enter into a contractual agreement with Northern Rivers for the Provision of the 30 Days to Families Evidence-Based Model and to Amend the 2020 DCYF Adopted Budget

The Albany County Department for Children, Youth, and Families (Department) respectfully requests Legislative authorization to enter into contractual agreement with Northern Rivers for the facilitation of the 30 Days to Families evidence-based family finding program. The total funding is \$53,905 for the term of January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020.

The Department received Legislative approval via Resolution 2019-331 to accept Transition Funding from NYS OCFS to support the implementation of Family First Prevention Safe Act (FFPSA). The total funding allocation for Albany County was \$53,905. The Department requests legislative authorization to amend the 2020 adopted DCYF budget in the amount of \$53,905, which represents the grant funds not utilized.

A primary goal of FFPSA is to keep children safely at home with their families and, when that is not possible, to utilize the least restrictive placement appropriate for the needs of the child. To meet FFPSA standards, LDSSs must intensify efforts to maintain children in home-based settings whenever possible. These efforts include identification and engagement of kinship resources, and increased recruitment and retention of foster homes for children who do not have appropriate kinship resources. The Family First Transition Fund assists these goals by providing LDSSs with funds to support, recruit and retain current and prospective foster families, including kinship caregivers. The intent of this fund is to produce sustained systemic improvements that encourage the least restrictive setting for children in foster care.

Northern Rivers received funding through the Redlich Horowitz Foundation and has been facilitating the 30 Days to Family at the Department for the past year. **30 Days to Family**® is an intense, short-term intervention developed by the Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition to: 1) increase the number of children placed with relatives when they enter the foster care system; and 2) ensure natural and community supports are in place to promote stability for the child. The Department received a one-time allocation of \$59,305 through OCFS to support Families First preparation. One area that the allocation can be utilized is to increase the use of kinship resources. The Department would like to contract with Northern Rivers to continue the 30 Days to Family Model utilizing the FFPSA transition allocation as a resource.

Northern Rivers is currently the only entity licensed in this area to facilitate the 30 Days to Families model.