



Office of Children and Family Services

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

DR. DAMIA HARRIS-MADDEN
Commissioner

September 5, 2024

Dear Commissioners:

As you are aware, the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) has identified mobile response units as a strategy to develop and operate coordinated programs of community-based family support services and family preservation services. Mobile response services can provide in-home or in-community intervention to prevent child maltreatment among families at risk, assure children's safety within the home, and preserve integrity of the family unit in which children have been maltreated, when the family's needs can be safely addressed effectively in the home.

The mobile response is a demonstration project to evaluate the improved outcomes for children and families when intensive coordinated supports are provided in a targeted manner. At a minimum, the mobile response vans must be staffed with a licensed clinician, a behavioral health specialist, a family and/or peer advocate, a service navigation specialist, or a domestic violence (DV) advocate. OCFS is providing this current round of funding to support the DV advocate (**see Attachment A, Domestic Violence Advocate Allocations**). A DV advocate is any person who is acting under the direction and supervision of a licensed and approved domestic violence program and has satisfied the training standards required by OCFS.¹

Domestic violence remains one of the primary reasons a family interfaces with the child welfare system. OCFS' goal is to provide immediate and relevant mobile response support to parents and caregivers, which will empower them to assist their child(ren) at home and mitigate disruptions, thus supporting the healing process.

It is important that DV advocates be incorporated seamlessly into the continuum of services as part of your mobile response services pilot. As a member of the mobile response team, the DV advocate will work with the parent or caregiver and child, when DV factors are present, to reduce or de-escalate identified behaviors and may provide intervention services to address any immediate concerns as well as ongoing needs. As a member of the mobile response team, the mobile response DV advocate will focus on the core services² of

- counseling,
- safety planning,
- community education/outreach activities,
- advocacy,
- language access,
- information and referral services, and
- support groups.

Services will be available during and after business hours and will be responsive to immediate needs. Services will also be available for ongoing needs for families, including domestic violence survivors.

¹ 18NYCRR Part 462.5.

² 18NYCRR Part 462.4.

Attachment A

Domestic Violence Advocate Allocations

District	Allocation
Albany	\$60,000
Monroe	\$60,000
Westchester	\$60,000
Statewide Total	\$180,000