

Department for Children, Youth and Families

Authorization to Amend the 2023 budget to accept additional funding from the Office of Children and Family Services and to contract with Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region to continue operation of the Family First Mobile Response Initiative

The Department respectfully requests Legislative authorization to amend the 2023 budget to accept funding from the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) for the operations of the Family First Mobile Response van in the amount of \$380,000. As a response to the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), Trinity Alliance has been approved by OCFS as a single source entity regarding the procurement for the Mobile Response Initiative.

The Department respectfully requests authorization to renew agreements with Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region for the following services:

Family First Mobile Response Van Initiative, in the amount of \$200,000, to run from April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024.

Family Peer Advocate Services, in the amount of \$120,000, to run from May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024.

Domestic Violence Advocate Services, in the amount of \$60,000 to run from August 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024.

The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) provides a vehicle for New York State (NYS) to move from the status quo of child protection as a primary prevention strategy and to move towards services and resources that strengthen families and enable children to remain safely at home. OCFS has identified mobile response units as a strategy to develop and operate coordinated programs of community-based family support and family preservation services.

The mobile response van is staffed with a licensed clinician, a behavioral health specialist, a family and/or peer advocate, a service navigation specialist, or a domestic violence advocate. Services are available during both business hours and after hours. Services are available to be responsive to immediate needs such as at the time a placement occurs. Services will be available for ongoing needs for families identified as high risk and in receipt of preventive services. The mobile response van must respond to a request for assistance by going to the home where the child is residing or at a location in the community at a mutually agreed upon time. The mobile response unit must be able to be responsive when families call for help when a child is involved in an emotional or behavioral health need that could lead to a disruption in the home.

Mobile response units will work with the parent or caregiver and child to reduce or de-escalate identified behaviors and may provide intervention services to address any immediate concerns identified as well as ongoing needs.