

Department for Children, Youth and Families

Amendment of Resolution 387 of 2020 for Authorization of Foster Care contracts, to incorporate revisions made by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (NYSOCFS) in the NYSOCFS model contract for the purchase of Foster Care Services

The Department for Children, Youth and Families respectfully requests Legislative authorization to amend the Foster Care Contract with revisions made to the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) model contract for the purchase of foster care services. The revisions made to the model contract for the purchase of foster care services reflect requirements contained in the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), P.L. 115-123 signed into law on February 9, 2018 and in effect for the State of New York on September 29, 2021. This amended contract will be in effect for the period of September 29, 2021 – December 31, 2022.

New York State Office of Children and Family Services issued an Administrative Directive (22-OCFS-ADM-07) on August 30, 2021, with revisions made to the OCFS model contract for Foster Care with modifications that include revisions to the Raise The Age language, as well as the use of new terminology consistent with the FFPSA, such as defining the requirements for the terms “Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP), Qualified Individual (QI), and Supervised Setting” used throughout the model contract.

New York State Office of Children and Family Services also issued an Administrative Directive (22-OCFS-ADM-07) on March 24, 2022. In order to advise local departments of social services (LDSS) and voluntary authorized agencies (VA) of the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) requirements related to the mandatory provision of aftercare services to children discharged from qualified residential treatment programs (QRTP) or EMPOWER QRTP exception programs (EMPOWER) licensed by OCFS under the federal Family First Preventive Services Act (FFPSA) and New York State regulations.

Voluntary Agencies who operate a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) and EMPOWER Programs are to include Aftercare Services. Albany County is responsible for payment to the Voluntary Agency in the amount of \$52.00 per day for each child admitted to QRTP and EMPOWER programs.

Effective September 29, 2021, voluntary agencies operating a QRTP or EMPOWER must offer and directly provide, or contract for the provision of, aftercare services during a youth’s placement in the QRTP or EMPOWER including discharge planning and family-based aftercare. Once a youth steps down from their QRTP or EMPOWER placement to a foster family home or is discharged from foster care, the aftercare services must extend for at least six months from step down from the QRTP or EMPOWER placement or discharge from foster care. Aftercare services can be provided for longer than six months and should be continued so long as the services are appropriate.

Albany County is requiring agencies to submit the discharge plan to the Department prior to discharge from foster care and must include the following:

- Measurable discharge goals approved by the treatment team including but not limited to:
 - Aftercare goals based on the youth's progress thus far and the identified needs once discharged from the QRTP or EMPOWER
 - A goal that describes the youth's educational or vocational needs and how this goal will be supported post-discharge from the program

List of Approved Qualified Residential Treatment Programs

Abbott House

Access: Supports for Living, Inc.

Astor Services for Children and Families

AWIXA

Baker Hall DBA OLV Human Services

Berkshire Farm Center&Svs for Youth

Catholic Guardian Services

Child and Family Services of Erie

Children's Home of Poughkeepsie, N.Y. (The)

Children's Home of Wyoming Conf.

Children's Village (The)

Elmcrest Children's Ctr

Gateway-Longview, Inc.

Glove House

Good Shepherd Svs

Green Chimneys Children's Svs

Heartshare St. Vincent's

Hillside Children's Center

Homespace Corp.

Hope for Youth

House of the Good Shepherd

Jewish Bd. of Fam&Children Svs

Jewish Child Care Assn. of NY

Julia Dyckman Andrus Mem

LaSalle School

Lincoln Hall

Little Flower Children Svs of NY

Long Island Adol&Fam Svs

Martin DePorres Youth and Family Services Inc.

MercyFirst

Ministry For Hope, Inc.

New Directions Youth&Family Svs

Northeast Parent&Child Society

Parsons Child&Fam Center

Rising Ground

Saint Anne Inst.

Saint Christopher, Inc.

SCO Family of Services

Sheltering Arms Children & Family Services

St. Catherine's Center for Children

St. John's Residence for Boys

Timothy Hill Childrens Ranch

VanderheydenHall

Villa of Hope

William George Agency for Children's Services