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On some pages, you will be instructed to select check boxes. To do this, place the cursor in the box and click.

The entire plan should be completed using the electronic County Plan document and be sent via e-mail. The following must be sent as separate documents in the same e-mail:

- Appendix A (signature page): Fill in the name of the county in the spaces indicated. Then print out the page so it can be signed by the appropriate officials. Scan it and send it via e-mail along with your plan or you may fax the page to 518-474-9452, attention Kristin Gleeson.
- Appendix H (Memorandum of Understanding Between the District Attorney’s Office and Child Protective Services): This must be sent as an electronic document with your Plan, or you may include a narrative on the page provided.

Note: Because the document is protected, you will not be able to use the direction (arrow) keys, the “Page Down” key, or the “Page Up” key to move around in the document. Use the slide bar on the right side of the document window.

If you need help working with the form, please contact Welfare Research Incorporated at 518-432-2363 or e-mail nwebber@welfaresearch.org.

County Child and Family Services Plan

January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2016

Onondaga County

This Child and Family Services Plan contains county outcomes and strategies that respond to community needs. Specifically, the plan identifies Local Department of Social Services (districts) strategies in the areas of adoption, foster care, preventive, protective and other services for children, and protective and other services for adults. The plan also identifies Youth Bureau strategies for youth development and services for youth. In addition, it contains a description of public participation in the development of the Plan as well as estimates of expenditures and program information.

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APPENDIX A
Plan Signature Page

We hereby approve and submit the Child and Family Services Plan for Onondaga County Department of Social Services and Youth Bureau for the period of January 1, 2012, through December 31, 2016. **We also attest to our commitment to maintain compliance with the Legal Assurances as outlined in Child and Family Services Plan Guidance Document.**

Commissioner
County Department of Social Services

Date

Executive Director
County Youth Bureau

Date

Chair
County Youth Board

Date

I hereby approve and submit the PINS Diversion Service section of the Child and Family Services Plan for Onondaga County Probation Department for the period of January 1, 2012, through December 31, 2016.

Director/Commissioner
County Probation Department

Date

Chair
County Youth Board

Date

Enclosed is the Child and Family Services Plan for Onondaga County. My signature below constitutes approval of this report.

Chief Elected Officer
(or Chairperson of the legislative body
if the county does not have Chief Elected Officer)

Date

WAIVER

Complete and sign the following section if a waiver is being sought concerning the submission of Appendix I - Estimate of Clients to be served.

Onondaga County requests a waiver to 18 NYCRR 407.5(a)(3), which requests a numerical estimate of families, children, and adults requiring each service listed in Section 407.4 of this same Part. Therefore, Appendix I is not included in this Plan submission. I assert that the level of service need and utilization for the full array of services encompassed by the Child and Family Services Planning Process was taken into consideration as part of the Onondaga County Child and Family Services Planning Process.

Commissioner
County Department of Social Services

Date

APPENDIX B-1

List of Required Interagency Consultation – Protective Services for Adults

In the development of the Protective Services for Adults component of the Annual Implementation Report, Section 34-a (4) and Sections 473(2) (a) and (b) of the State Social Services Law requires that districts consult with other appropriate public, private and voluntary agencies in order to ensure maximum local understanding, coordination, and cooperative action in the provision of appropriate services to protective services clients. These include, but are not limited to: aging, health, mental health, legal and law enforcement agencies. List the interagency consultation in the chart provided below:

Agency Type	Agency Name	Dates or Frequency of Meetings*
Aging	Vera House	Monthly meetings of the Elder Abuse Committee(sub-committee of the Syracuse Area Domestic and Sexual Trauma Violence Coalition)
	Onondaga County Dept. Aging/Youth	Monthly referral review
Health	New York Connects/Long Term Care Resource Center	Routine referral exchange Contact monthly through the Elder Abuse Committee
Mental Health	Onondaga Case Management Services	Monthly meetings
Legal	Onon. County D.S.S. Legal Division	Weekly meetings with Assistance Chief Welfare Attorney
Law Enforcement	Syracuse Police Department/ Onondaga County Sheriff's Dept.	Frequent consultation throughout month

County Child and Family Services Plan

Agency Type	Agency Name	Dates or Frequency of Meetings*
Other:	Homeless and Housing Coalition of Syracuse and Onondaga County	Monthly meetings
	Homeless Service Providers	Quarterly Meetings

*List either dates of meetings or frequency (e.g., every third Wednesday of the month)

Detailed meeting information does not need to be included in the county plan, but districts are directed to maintain meeting agendas and/or minutes for a period of five years.

APPENDIX B-2

List of Required Interagency Consultation – Child Protective Services

In the development of the Child Protective Services component of the Annual Implementation Report, Section 34-a(4) and Section 423 of the State Social Services Law requires that districts consult with local law enforcement agencies, the family court, and appropriate public and voluntary agencies including the societies for the prevention of cruelty to children. The family court judge or designated representative must be involved when the family court is consulted. List the interagency consultation in the chart provided below.

Agency Type	Agency Name	Dates or Frequency of Meetings*
Law Enforcement	Syracuse Police Department	monthly, and as needed
	Onondaga County Sheriff's Department	monthly, and as needed
	Onondaga County District Attorney's office	monthly, and as needed
	Onondaga County Attorney's office	monthly, and as needed
	Onondaga County Probation Department	quarterly and as needed
Family Court (judge or designee)	Hon. Michelle Pirro Bailey	monthly and as needed
	Hon. Bryan Hedges	as needed
	Hon. Michael Hanuszczak	as needed
	Hon. Martha Mulroy	as needed
	Referees Thomas Benedetto, Sal Pavone	as needed
	Judge Martha Walsh Hood	
PINS Diversion lead agency	Onondaga County Probation Department	quarterly and as needed
Public/Private Agencies	Elmcrest Children's Center	monthly and as needed
	Catholic Charities	quarterly and as needed
	The Salvation Army	quarterly and as needed
	Huntington Family Center	quarterly and as needed
	Dunbar Center	quarterly and as needed

Liberty Resources Vera House/Rape Crisis Center

*List either dates of meetings or frequency (e.g., every third Wednesday of the month)

Detailed meeting information does not need to be included in the county plan, but districts are directed to maintain meeting agendas and/or minutes for a period of five years.

APPENDIX B-3

List of Required Interagency Consultation – Child Welfare Services

In the development of the Preventive, Foster Care, and Adoption Services for children component of the Annual Implementation Report, Section 34-a(4) and 409-d of the State Social Services Law requires that districts consult with other government agencies, authorized agencies, and other individuals and organizations concerned with the welfare of children residing in the district. List the interagency consultation in the chart provided below.

Agency Type	Agency Name	Dates or Frequency of Meetings*
Government Agencies	Syracuse Police Department	monthly, and as needed
	Onondaga County Sheriff's Department	monthly, and as needed
	Onondaga County District Attorney's office	monthly, and as needed
	Onondaga County Probation Department	monthly, and as needed
	Onondaga County Attorney's office	monthly, and as needed
Authorized Agencies	Berkshire Farms	quarterly
	Hillside Children's Center	quarterly
	Toomey Residential services	quarterly
	Catholic Charities SUNY Psych Services	quarterly
	The Salvation Army Huntington Liberty Resources Onondaga County Department of Mental Health ENHANCE	quarterly semi annually or as needed
Concerned Individuals/Groups	ONCARE community stakeholders meetings	monthly
	Gang taskforce mtgs	monthly
	CASA	quarterly
	Onondaga County Foster Parent Coalition	annually and as needed
	Syracuse City School District	as needed

*List either dates of meetings or frequency (e.g., every third Wednesday of the month)

Detailed meeting information does not need to be included in the county plan, but districts are directed to maintain meeting agendas and/or minutes for a period of five years.

APPENDIX B-4

List of Required Interagency Consultation – Child Care Services

Section 34-a(4) and 409-d of the State Social Services Law requires that, in the development of the Preventive, Foster Care, and Adoption Services for children component of the Annual Implementation Report, districts must consult with other government agencies, authorized agencies, and other individuals and organizations concerned with the welfare of children residing in the district. List the interagency consultation in the chart provided below.

Agency Type	Agency Name	Dates or Frequency of Meetings*
Government Agencies	OCFS	as needed
	Onondaga County Probation Department	quarterly and as needed
	Onondaga County Department of Mental Health	semiannually
	OPWDD	as needed
Other Public/Private/Voluntary Agencies	The Salvation Army, Dunbar Center, Huntington Family Center	quarterly and as needed
	Hillside Children's Center, Liberty Resources, Toomey Residential, Elmcrest Children's Center, Berkshire Farms	quarterly and as needed. Liberty - monthly Elmcrest - weekly, quarterly and as needed
Concerned Individuals/Groups	Onondaga County Foster parent Coalition	as needed
Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies	Child Care Solutions	Quarterly and as needed

*List either dates of meetings or frequency (e.g., every third Wednesday of the month)

Detailed meeting information does not need to be included in the county plan, but districts are directed to maintain meeting agendas and/or minutes for a period of five years.

APPENDIX B-5*

List of Required Interagency Consultation – Runaway and Homeless Youth

List the interagency consultation in the chart provided below.

Agency Type	Agency Name
Department of Social Services	Onondaga County Dept. of Social Services
RHYA Providers	Rescue Mission
	Salvation Army
	Chadwick Residence
	Syracuse Behavioral Healthcare
	Catholic Charities of Onondaga County
Other Public, Private and/or Voluntary Agencies	Onondaga County Dept. of Probation
	Onondaga County Dept. of Health

*This Appendix is required only if the county receives RHYA funding.

APPENDIX B-6

List of Required Interagency Consultation – Youth Development

List the interagency consultation in the chart provided below.

Agency Type	Agency Name	Dates or Frequency of Meetings*
Taskforce	OnCare	Monthly
	Detention Reform Steering Committee	Quarterly
	Homeless and Housing Vulnerable Task Force	Monthly
Coalition	Morning Movement	Bi-Monthly
	CNY Out of School Time Network	Bi-Monthly
	Prevention CNY	Monthly
Youth Board	Syracuse/Onondaga County Youth Board	5-6x annually
	Allocations Committee	3 - 8x annually (depending on whether the year is a full allocations year)
Parent	On Care	Monthly
	OnCare Family Focused Committee	Monthly
Youth	On Care	Monthly
	OnCare Youth Driven Committee	1st Wednesday of month
	youth on Youth Board	6x annually
Community Providers	Agency Directors' meeting	Quarterly
	Youth Council of WIB	Monthly
	Project Safe Schools	Monthly
Municipal Youth Board	Cicero Youth Board	as needed

*List either dates of meetings or frequency (e.g., every third Wednesday of the month)

Detailed meeting information does not need to be included in the county plan, but districts are directed to maintain meeting agendas and/or minutes for a period of five years.

APPENDIX C
List of Data Sources Used In Needs Assessment

Instructions: The list below contains common data sources often used in county planning. Please check all sources your county has used in the needs assessment performed for this plan. The list is not all-inclusive – if you have other sources of data, please indicate those as well.

Source	Check all used
1. NYS Touchstones Kids County Data Book	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Kid’s Well-being Indicators Clearinghouse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Monitoring and Analysis Profiles	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Child Care Review Service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. U.S. Census Data	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. OCFS Data Warehouse Reports	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7. OCFS CFSR Data Packets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. Adult Services Automation Project (ASAP)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9. Quality Youth Development System (QYDS)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10. Child Trends Data Bank	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11. Prevention Risk Indicator/Services Monitoring System-PRISMS (OASAS)	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. NYS Department of Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13. Surveys	
a. Communities That Care	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Search Institute Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. TAP Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. United Way (Compass Survey or other)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Other (specify)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
14. YASI Data	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Data Sources (specify)	
15. OCFS Statewide RHY Annual Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

16. Survey of Local RHY Service Providers	☒
17. OC DMH 2012 Local Service Plan	☒
18. OC Detention Reform Committee reports	☒

Child and Family Services Plan Program Narrative

I. Outcome Framework/Mission/Vision

1. If the district has one, please enter the district’s outcome framework, mission, and/or vision. (If your district does not have this, leave this area blank.)
2. Describe your district’s demographic, economic, and social characteristics.

Located in the center of New York State, Onondaga County is home to the city of Syracuse. We are within 350 miles of all major cities in the Northeast, conveniently situated at the intersection of Interstate Highways 81 and 90 (NYS Thruway). Local Amtrak and Greyhound terminals are located in our new Regional Transportation Center. Arriving by air brings you in to the newly remodeled Hancock International Airport, while the New York State Barge Canal System provides local connection by boat to the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River.

The County of Onondaga is located in the central New York region, has a land area of 793.5 square miles and is approximately 35 miles in length and 30 miles in width. The County is governed under a home rule charter, which provides for the separation of the executive and legislative functions. This charter was approved by voter referendum in 1961. The 2010 U.S. Census showed a population of 467,026 for Onondaga County, which included a population of 145,170 for the City of Syracuse. The City of Syracuse is situated in the approximate center of the County and serves as the focus for commercial and business activities.

Pursuant to New York State Law, the County is responsible for the local funding of mandated social service programs, such as Medicaid. The County also administers health care services and operates the Van Duyn Home and Hospital, a long-term care facility. The County, in conjunction with its underlying units, is responsible for providing police, fire, sanitation and water services, as well as the maintenance of streets, parks and recreational facilities.

II. Planning Process

1. Describe the district’s planning process and how that consultation informed your district’s needs assessment, priorities, and outcomes.

Child Welfare works with multiple public and private agencies in differing areas. We consult with all of them on how best to serve our families. We have closer collaborations with some than with others, but we listen to the needs of them all and try to develop plans that are child centered and family focused. We contract with many private agencies and with each one we have a set of expected outcomes. We meet quarterly with them to go over the outcomes and discuss any barriers to meeting them and any successes they may have had. We work closely with law enforcement - the city police and the sheriff's Abused Person's Units through our investigation of cases together and our joint

involvement on CART (Child Abuse and Response Team). CART also includes members from the DA's office, the CAC, the CARE clinic and others. We develop plans on working together and plan joint trainings as well. We are developing logic models to help develop plans and aid in decision making. we will be using data driven information to determine if programs are effective, making an impact, etc.

The Youth Bureau planning process is informed by data and information from varied sources: committees and taskforces, review of annual and special reports, demographic data and survey information, and feedback from consumers. There is not just one planning committee, but a number of discrete committees that address different issues affecting children and youth. Staff members work on committees and taskforces that address a broad spectrum of youth issues. The Youth Bureau facilitates the work of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Advisory and CNY Out of School Time Network. Youth Bureau staff members participate on other groups such as the Juvenile Detention Steering Committee, On Care Stakeholders and several of its committees, Safe Schools Coalition, Youth Council of the Workforce Investment Board, and Syracuse Common Council Homeless and Housing Vulnerable Task Force. Through involvement with these groups, staff has access to information about needs and service gaps in many systems that impact children and youth.

The Youth Bureau reviews annual reports from our funded and municipal programs, which provide us with knowledge about challenges of operating their programs and technical assistance needs. In addition, training participants are asked to complete evaluations after each Free and Practical Workshop, which provides us with additional information about training challenges and needs of the broader youth service system. Our planning process is rounded out by input from youth and adults on the Youth Board, and review of data, such as from Kids Wellbeing Indicators Clearinghouse (KWIC), and review of annual and special reports from other agencies.

III. Self Assessment

1. Describe successes and achievements the district has experienced since the last plan update in each of the program areas listed below.

Child Protective Services

Onondaga County DSS assesses and monitors the safety and risk of the children of Onondaga County in their homes. Child Protective Services are provided directly by the Department. Onondaga County has its own hotline for child maltreatment, which allows us to accept and respond to child maltreatment reports immediately. Child Protective Services workers are able to refer to any of the services purchased by DSS for the minimization of risk to children in their homes. (The aforementioned services will be listed under “Child Preventive Services” in the following paragraph.) Caseworkers for Onondaga County DSS also investigate any subsequent maltreatment reports that occur on Indirect Preventive and Foster Care

	<p>caseloads (providing direct service to clients).</p> <p>Data from the Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR) indicate a 9.2% Recurrence Rate in 2010 which is a slight decrease in recurrence of maltreatment from 2009. The number of CPS reports has steadily increased over the past 5 years (4560 reports in 2006 to 6432 reports in 2010). The increase in the number of reports received has made it more difficult to meet the needs of the families in this area with the number of staff we have.</p> <p>Our action plan for continuing to reduce the recurrence of maltreatment rate is to continue to train staff in the area of safety and risk and family engagement. As we have been having success with it - we will continue to have the training unit train all new workers in the basics of investigations, engagement and services to create consistency in our approach to safety and permanency. We have implemented Family Assessment Response (FAR) and will continue to increase staff and training in this area. Statistics show we have filed fewer neglect petitions, and placed fewer children on those cases where the FAR approach has been utilized.</p>
<p>Child Preventive Services</p>	<p>Onondaga County provides Preventive Services directly to Onondaga County families, and through Purchase of Services agreements with local and regional agencies. Onondaga County purchases the following services to minimize risk of foster care placement; to expedite a safe, permanent return from foster care; or to prevent the replacement of children in foster care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventive Services Case Planning • Parent Aides • Intensive Family Preservation Services • Mental Health Counseling • Counseling related to issues around Sexual Abuse <p>Families receiving Direct Preventive Services (provided by DSS) meet with their assigned caseworker twice a month to review and discuss their individualized service plan, progress on established goals and other service needs.</p>

	<p>In the near future, Direct Preventive worker's will be trained in the Family Meeting process which will enhance engagement with families as well as assist families identify natural supports and learn to solve issues/problems on their own. Our purchased preventive workers have been trained in the use of family meetings and will begin to implement this process.</p>
<p>Foster Care</p>	<p>Onondaga County provides foster care placement services to children and youth who are in need of protection due to abuse and neglect, or due to child behavior that leads to PINS and/or JD petitions to be filed to Family Court. There are also a small group of children who have been placed in foster care due to a caretaker's inability to meet their needs, usually due to extreme behavior problems resulting from mental illness or another disability. Permanent, safe discharge from foster care is the primary goal, once a child is placed in foster care. Onondaga County is dedicated to a child centered/family focused approach to finding permanency for children in foster care.</p> <p>The practice of concurrent planning has become a part of our ongoing planning to expand positive outcomes for children in care. It is an ethical truthful and respectful process that includes and empowers families. Concurrent planning broadens permanency options for children and families at the onset of placement and optimally before. Caseworkers and Supervisors have been trained in Concurrent Planning Practice as well as like-minded models including Transition to Independence (TIP) and Family Meetings. Concurrent planning is taught at our foster parent training; caseworkers are revisiting concurrent planning with foster parents and families as they visit the foster homes. Supervisors are meeting regularly with a Concurrent Planning trainer to insure concurrent planning is a common practice in all of our cases involving children in placement and at risk of placement. Supervisors are addressing concurrent planning with their case workers at case conferences and report that concurrent planning is being utilized in 100% of foster care cases. Concurrent planning is reviewed at the Permanency Planning Review Panel(PPRP). Foster Parent training now includes a birth parent speaking about</p>

her journey in the foster care system.

All Onondaga County caseworkers and supervisors in the Foster Care and Relative Placement units are being trained in Family Meetings. A Family Meeting (FM) is a gathering of family members, friends, community resource representatives, and other interested people who join together to strengthen a family, brainstorm ideas to assist the family in reaching goals, and develop a safety and permanency plan for the child(ren). Family Meetings evolve from the way that families form a natural helping system to meet needs and solve problems. The Family Meeting is a forum in which the family and their network of supports come together to develop, implement, or change the family and child service plan that addresses child safety, permanency and well-being.

While these initiatives and practices are occurring, the number of children in foster care continues to decline. In August 2010 a total of 369 children were residing in foster care. As of August, 2011 the total number of children in foster care was 325.

Onondaga County continues to utilize The Family Support Center. The Family Support Center is a residential program provided by Elmcrest Children's Center for children and their siblings who are placed in foster care. The program is designed to provide a therapeutic intervention for children and families to facilitate a safe, fast, and permanent discharge for children who are placed for protective reasons. When discharge to a parent is not an immediate option, the center applies intensive resources to find the best placement option for the child, and facilitates a smooth transition for that child to their planned destination. The Family Support Center statistics show that while the majority of children were discharged from the center to foster care, kinship care and returns home happen frequently and expeditiously from the Center. Statistics show that since May of 2005 those children whose initial placement was at the Family Support Center spent less time in foster care than those who began their foster care placement in a foster home or

	<p>higher level of care.</p> <p>Onondaga County is committed to providing frequent visits to parents whose children are in out of home placement. Onondaga County utilizes the Family Place Visitation program and encourages parents to attend Family Place monthly planning meetings. Onondaga County is part of an initiative to bring Visit Hosts to Onondaga County.</p> <p>The Permanency Planning Review Panel is a committee of DSS and OCFS staff who review every foster care case to ensure that permanent plans are established for foster care youth. This committee assists the Department with developing case-specific and programmatic interventions to address systemic and other barriers to permanency for our children.</p> <p>Relative Placement: As an alternative to Foster Care, Onondaga County provides placement services to children and youth in need of protection due to abuse and neglect with identified family relatives or suitable others. Caseworker's assigned to this unit are in the process of being trained in the Family Meeting process described above</p>
Adoption	<p>The adoptions unit places children in homes committed to lifelong permanency for children, and is integral to ensuring the solidification of permanent plans for youth who have been freed for adoption. The unit seeks and acquires permanent homes for children, facilitates the adoption agreement process, and helps the family until finalization. In 2010, the Adoptions unit finalized 66 adoptions. They have also made gains in finding permanent resources for the discharge of children other than adoption.</p>
Detention	
Youth Development	<p>This past year, since the last plan update, has been represented by a sharper focus on youth development through initiatives such as On Care (our local System of Care). Aging and Youth staff sit on the leadership committee and several working committees, including the Youth Driven Committee and the Family Focus Committee. On Care has been instrumental in raising the focus on youth served by the mental health system -- who also are overwhelming represented in the social service and juvenile justice systems -- and promoting the benefit of including these youth in the services provided by</p>

	<p>the youth development system.</p> <p>Department of Aging and Youth continues to provide training to youth workers in the Advancing Youth Development curriculum and the Youth Worker Methods series, both of which continue to be well-received. Community capacity for quality programming has expanded. Beginning in fall 2011, we began the coordination of a monitoring and training collaboration with Say Yes to Education, the education reform initiative being undertaken by the Syracuse City School District. Site directors and staff at after school programs at 20 City elementary schools will receive training on School Age Program Quality Assessment and on-going training on Youth Worker Methods and other youth development training.</p>
Runaway & Homeless Youth	<p>Onondaga County continues to provide young people safe places to reside either on an emergency or longer term transitional basis. Several employees of the largest local provider of RHY services have attended training in youth development and are utilizing youth development principles in their work with young people. The Onondaga County Runaway and Homeless Youth Advisory Committee meets on a bi-monthly basis to discuss the needs of runaway and homeless youth, as well as resources available to them. Committee membership consists of McKinney-Vento liaisons from local education agencies; representatives from local emergency shelters and transitional apartments; probation; mental health organizations; and other community based organizations serving the RHY population. The Committee has identified several areas of interest and a few gaps in services, which we will strive to address throughout the next year.</p>
Domestic Violence	
Adult Protective Services	<p>Reduction in the number of overdue reports.</p> <p>Increase in outreach/education in the community.</p>
Child Care	<p>During the past year, the Low Income Day Care Unit has contained program costs and has been able to avoid reducing financial eligibility to below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. We were also able to avoid a waiting list. A waiting list would have left financially eligible families without day care needed</p>

to continue working. Their only other alternative would have been to leave their children without safe and adequate child care.

Day Care subsidy application information is available on the Ongov.net website. Several forms are also available for applicant and recipients to assist them in maintaining their case record.

Applicant/recipients are able to fax information to the local office to maintain their eligibility.

We continue to offer a drop box outside the State Street entrance, giving 24-hour access for the submission of required paperwork.

The Office of Children and Family Services has initiated the use of Child Care Time and Attendance to assist in the processing of day care applications and subsidy payments.

3. Noting the data and trends as identified in Appendix C; and the cumulative district consultations (Appendices B-1 to B-6), describe the underlying conditions or factors that influence your performance in meeting the needs of children, youth, adults and families (as applicable) in each of the following program areas:

Child Protective Services	Data from the Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR) indicate a 9.2% Recurrence Rate in 2010 which is a slight decrease in recurrence of maltreatment from 2009. The number of CPS reports has steadily increased over the past 5 years (4560 reports in 2006 to 6432 reports in 2010). The increase in the number of reports received has made it more difficult to meet the needs of the families in this area with the number of staff we have.
Child Preventive Services	In order for families to be successful in providing safe environments for their children they need to have strong support systems outside of DSS. Preventive services work with the families to develop networks of support. Family Team meetings will be an integral part of forming these networks and we expect success when their use becomes more common.
Foster Care	The number of children in foster care is steadily declining. we are taking advantage of the smaller caseloads to provide more child centered/family focused services to our families. we have instituted

	<p>family meetings, a residential placement team to bring kids back home or to this community sooner than in the past. we continue to concentrate on concurrent planning to shorten the length of stay of all children in foster care and to provide them with permanence much sooner.</p>
Adoption	<p>adoption workers are becoming more experienced and are developing the skills to find permanent options for children for whom adoption is not an option. this includes searching for relatives, suitable others and even return to bio parents in some cases.</p>
Detention	
Youth Development	<p>We can assess the state of children and youth through the supports they have at home and in the community and by the behaviors they demonstrate. Indicators for Onondaga County present a mixed picture.</p> <p>In terms of adolescent behaviors, several indicators show improvement over the past several years. The rate for adolescent births (15-19) has fallen since 2004, when the county rate exceeded the state rate (8.5% vs 8.2%, respectively). In 2009, both the county and the state are at 8.2%. Although this rate is higher than national and state targets, it is still a movement in a positive direction. Other measures of change in adolescent behaviors are the reduction in all juvenile (under age 16) arrests between 2005 and 2010. Young adult (16-21) arrests for violent crimes are also significantly reduced from 81.9 per 10,000 population in 2005 to 63.6 per 10,000 in 2010. The 2010 county rate is drastically below that of New York State at 87.6 per 10,000 population.</p> <p>Economic security for children and youth has become more tentative. The rate for children and youth under the age of 17 living below the poverty line has increased from 18% in 2005 to 19% in 2009. In addition, the unemployment rate for all residents aged 16 and over increased from 4.5% in 2005 to 8% in 2010. Both of these measures are expected to remain high, possibly grow, as the economy continues to demonstrate only slow improvement. A positive measure of the security of children and youth in their homes is reflected in the reduction in both numbers of indicated abuse/maltreatment reports and numbers</p>

of children/youth in indicated reports. From 2005 to 2010 numbers of indicated reports dropped from 31.8% to 18.7%, and the numbers of children/youth involved decreased from 20.4 per 1,000 population to 15.5 per 1,000. These dramatic changes were probably due largely to the initiation of the Family Assessment Response (FAR) in Onondaga County in 2008.

The capacity of agencies to provide youth development services has been severely impacted by continued reductions in funding for youth programs. We know from anecdotal information collected from agency and municipal annual reports that the three most often cited challenges these programs face are loss of program funding, transportation and reductions in numbers of children attending. These challenges are interrelated: loss of funding impacts ability to provide transportation, further impacting numbers of children being served. Through our quarterly Agency Directors' meetings we have learned that agencies are concerned about the troubling behaviors being exhibited by the children they serve. These concerns are also borne out by the evaluations we administer at each Free and Practical Workshop training we offer. When asked about future training that youth workers request, "dealing with challenging behaviors of program participants" is an oft cited topic. To address this issue, the Youth Bureau will offer a Free and Practical Workshop on this topic in late 2011 or early 2012, and will provide an abbreviated training for Agency Directors at the November quarterly meeting. In addition, the Youth Bureau continues to provide staff development training in such curricula as Advancing Youth Development and Youth Worker Methods. These help youth workers improve skills required to work with all youth and to create positive developmental settings at program sites.

While the traditional youth development system is impeded by funding constraints, several other systems affecting children and youth demonstrate healthy and impactful activity.

- Numbers of youth sent to secure detention is at

	<p>an historic low and there is greater effort to develop a continuum of community-based alternatives for juvenile delinquents, which provide better outcomes for the youth at a lower cost to the community.</p> <p>□ Say Yes to Education has invested considerable resources into providing afterschool academic and enhancement services for children in 20 elementary schools in the Syracuse City School District. The afterschool services are run jointly by Say Yes, the school district, and community-based organizations. Although this initiative provides afterschool services within the security of the schools, the shortcomings from the perspective of many parents, especially those working, are that programs end by 4:00 and there is no program on Fridays.</p> <p>□ On Care, Onondaga County’s System of Care initiative, is elevating attention on children, youth and families served in the mental health system (many also served in juvenile justice, child welfare and special education systems). On Care is making steady and dramatic progress in developing a spectrum of specialized, youth development and family-supportive services that are community-based so that fewer children/youth will be sent to residential facilities and can be served locally while living at home. On Care recently recognized and funded several youth development programs that provide targeted</p>
<p>Runaway & Homeless Youth</p>	<p>Key informants, surveys and other data provide information used to assess needs of the RHY population. The Onondaga County RHY Advisory Committee has identified several areas that need some degree of attention. The Syracuse Common Council Homeless and Housing Vulnerable Task Force, and the Onondaga County Continuum of Care have also identified and discussed needs of homeless individuals including youth.</p> <p>Some of the identified issues have had at least one action taken toward finding solutions. For example, because RHY providers identified the need for parents and youth to advocate for their educational rights, the RHY Advisory Committee welcomed The Syracuse University Parent Advocacy Center (SUPAC) to one of its meetings. The staff from</p>

	<p>SUPAC explained their services and training opportunities for parents to committee members and gave examples of how they could help parents advocate for their children’s rights. In addition, SUPAC informed attendees that they can assist those that act in a surrogate “parent” role, such as staff at shelters and transitional housing for youth. Also, RHY providers have noticed an apparent rise in the number of young people accessing services with mental health concerns or severe behavioral issues. In response, the RHY Services Coordinator is encouraging all RHY providers and staff to attend Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) and has invited the MHFA coordinator to give a presentation at a future Advisory Committee meeting.</p> <p>Other concerns that have been raised, but not yet addressed are the lack of shelter services specifically for youth up to the age of 24 years, and shelter services that accommodate the unique needs of transgender youth.</p> <p>Future needs assessment activities will focus on the issue of mental and behavioral health in the RHY population.</p>
Domestic Violence	
Adult Protective Services	<p>Restructuring staff assignments has contributed to the reduction of overdue reports.</p> <p>Our increase in presence/recognition in the community has led to greater demand for education about our program.</p>
Child Care	<p>We will continue to meet with Jobsplus, Child Care Solutions, and provider groups to access ongoing needs.</p>

IV. Priority Program Areas

From the Self Assessment in Section III, please identify the program areas that the district has determined to be priorities.

4. Child Welfare:
5. FAR - increase the number of staff and expand the criteria in order to raise the % of reports they accept to 40% instead of our current 30%.
6. investigations - improve worker/supervisor ratio and lower # of new reports per worker

7. Adoptions and foster care - work with OCFS to supply family finding training for staff
8. foster care and reative placements - continue to train in and implement family meetings
9. Preventive - our contract preventive agencies have been trained in family meetings, need to provide this training to our in-house preventive staff.
10. Youth Bureau:
 11. 1. Children and youth will have quality youth development experiences -- Work with youth serving agencies to provide training and technical assistance on best practices.
 12. 2. Children and youth will have sufficient quality experiences -- Assist youth serving agencies and programs to continue to provide high quality services while funding is being reduced.
 13. 3. Children and youth will have access to youth development services in all systems serving children and youth -- Work cross systems to infuse youth development approaches in programs provided by other systems that serve children and youth
 14. 4. Children and youth will have quality youth development experiences -- Work with youth serving agencies to provide training and technical assistance on best practices.
 15. 5. Children and youth will have sufficient quality experiences -- Assist youth serving agencies and programs to continue to provide high quality services while funding is being reduced.
 16. 6. Children and youth will have access to youth development services in all systems serving children and youth -- Work cross systems to infuse youth development approaches in programs provided by other systems that serve children and youth.
17. Runaway & Homeless Youth
 18. 7. Young people accessing the RHY system will be served by staff with knowledge of mental health and youth development principles.
 19. 8. RHY providers will become more familiar with the unique needs of LGBT youth, especially those who are transgender.
 9. Individuals in the community will be made aware of services available for RH youth.

V. Outcomes

1. Outcomes are based on the district's performance as identified through the data and trends noted in the Self Assessment. Outcomes should be expressed as desired changes within each program area to address the underlying conditions or factors as noted in the district's self assessment. The outcomes must also be related to the use of OCFS funding, and/or required areas of services by the social services district and Youth Bureau. If the county receives RHYA funding, outcomes and strategies must be included and should address the coordination of available resources for runaway and homeless youth. Districts may incorporate outcomes from their Child and Family Services Review Program Improvement Plans. Districts are required to address at least two of the following State-determined adult service goals.

- a. Impaired adults who self-neglect or are abused, neglected, or exploited by others will be identified, have their living situation thoroughly investigated, and be protected.
- b. To pursue appropriate legal interventions to address situations where impaired adults are at risk of harm, are unable to make informed decisions, and are refusing necessary services.
- c. To utilize multi-disciplinary community resources to improve assessments as well as develop service plans which reduce risk and protect adults.
- d. To provide protective services in the least restrictive manner, respecting the adult’s rights to self-determination and decision-making.

List the district’s outcomes for each program area below:

Child Protective Services	Continue to lower the recurrence rate. Lower number of workers to supervisors ratio from 6:1 to 5:1. Lower number of reports received by each investigator. Increase number of reports eligible for FAR and increase the number of workers to take those reports.
Child Preventive Services	Train in-house staff in family meetings
Foster Care	Continue to decrease the number of children in placement including reducing the number of children in residential care and/or their length of time in residential care.
Adoption	Continue to find resources for freed children so they can be discharged to permanent homes.
Detention	
Youth Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children and youth will have quality youth development experiences. 2. Children and youth will have sufficient quality youth development experiences. 3. Children and youth will have access to youth development services in all systems serving children and youth.
Runaway & Homeless Youth	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Young people accessing the RHY system will be served by staff with knowledge of mental health and youth development principles. 2. RHY providers will become more familiar with the unique needs of LGBT youth, especially those who are transgender. 3. Individuals in the community will be made aware of services available for RH youth.
Domestic Violence	

Adult Protective Services	<p>B - We track the number of requests for Guardians, STIPSO, (short term involuntary protective orders) and Access Orders. We have regular scheduled meetings with our DSS attorney. We are part of the Syracuse Area Domestic and Sexual Violence Coalition, and specifically the Elder Abuse Subcommittee, which work with the DA and Law Enforcement.</p> <p>D - All referrals are accepted with the intent to allow the individuals ultimate freedom in their choice of life style. Caseworkers evaluate for risk of harm, and the individuals understanding of the consequences of their decisions. If the caseworker, with input from their Supervisor, can attest that the individual understands their decision, then no legal actions will be taken. If appropriate, the caseworker will attempt to help the individual remain in their own home by accessing home health care services, the assistance of responsible family members, friends or neighbors, or voluntary financial management.</p>
Child Care	

2. Identify quantifiable indicators (measures) of the desired changes in order to track progress.

Child Protective Services	By the end of 2012, have worker to supervisor ratio at 5:1. By July 1st of 2012 lower the number of new reports per investigator by one per person per month. Lower it another one per person per month by the end of 2012 and every 6 months until they are between 7 and 9 each a month.
Child Preventive Services	Continue to use these services to prevent placement.
Foster Care	continue to reduce number of children in foster care by 5 % each year until the end of this plan. Increase % of cases where family meetings are held by 20% in 2012 and then by 10% a year. Reduce length of stay in residential care from 12 to 10 months in 2012 with a goal for these stays to be reduced to between 4 and 6 months long by the end of this plan.
Adoption	Increase the % of children discharged to permanent homes by 10% a year.
Detention	

<p>Youth Development</p>	<p>1. Children and youth will have quality youth development experiences.</p> <p>Indicator:</p> <p>a. Number of youth development programs that receive training and/or technical assistance from the Youth Bureau</p> <p>2. Children and youth will have sufficient quality youth development experiences.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a. Number of youth development programs and services in the community</p> <p>b. Number of assistance contacts between Youth Bureau and youth programs</p> <p>3. Children and youth will have access to youth development services in all systems serving children and youth.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>a. Number of collaborative meetings or agreements between Youth Bureau and other systems.</p> <p>b. Number of services/programs in other systems instituting youth development practices.</p>
<p>Runaway & Homeless Youth</p>	<p>1. Young people accessing the RHY system will be served by staff with knowledge of mental health and youth development principles.</p> <p>Indicator:</p> <p>a. Number of RHY service providers attending youth development training.</p> <p>b. Number of RHY service providers attending mental health information sessions, Mental Health First Aid, and/or training on related mental health topics.</p> <p>2. RHY providers will become more familiar with the unique needs of LGBT youth, especially those who are transgender.</p> <p>a. Number of RHY service providers attending cultural competency training that specifically includes information on working with transgender youth.</p>
<p>Domestic Violence</p>	
<p>Adult Protective Services</p>	

Child Care

VI. Strategies to Achieve Outcomes

1. Describe strategies that will be implemented to achieve the identified outcomes, including those strategies that support your Child and Family Services PIP outcomes. Each strategy should include the timeframe for completion and a designation of what agency(ies) or department(s) is/are responsible for implementation. Explain how OCFS-administered funding supports achievement of outcomes. Strategies must be related to the achievement of outcomes. If the county receives RHYA state aid, the strategies must provide for the coordination of all available county resources for those populations.

Child Protective Services	<p>Our action plan for continuing to reduce the recurrence of maltreatment rate is to continue to train staff in the area of safety and risk and family engagement. We will continue to have the training unit train all new workers in the basics of investigations, engagement and services to create consistency in our approach to safety and permanency. We have implemented Family Assessment Response (FAR) and will continue to increase staff and training in this area. About 30% of our reports are worked with the FAR model. we hope to increase this to 40% by the end of 2012.</p> <p>By the end of 2012, have worker to supervisor ratio at 5:1. By July 1st of 2012 lower the number of new reports per investigator by one per person per month. Lower it another one per person per month by the end of 2012 and every 6 months until they are between 7 and 9 each a month.</p>
Child Preventive Services	<p>Raise % of cases being closed with goal achieved to 60% from current of 54% by the end of 2012 and to 65% by the end of 2013. Have contract Preventive use family meetings in 1/2 of their cases by the end of 2012 and have all in-house preventive staff trained in family meetings by the end of 2012. Have them begin to implement family meetings in 50% of cases by the end of 2013.</p>
Foster Care	<p>continue to reduce number of children in foster care by 5 % each year until the end of this plan. Increase % of cases where family meetings are held by 20% in 2012 and then by 10% a year. Reduce length of stay in residential care from 12 to 10 months in 2012 with a goal for these stays to be reduced to between 4 and 6 months long by the end of this plan.</p>
Adoption	<p>Increase the % of children discharged to permanent</p>

	homes by 10% a year.
Detention	
Youth Development	<p>Children and youth will have quality youth development experiences.</p> <p>Strategies, timelines and responsibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. provide training and technical assistance on best practices to youth-serving programs. (on-going; by Youth Bureau) c. Monitor funded programs to observe and ensure quality programming. (twice/year; Youth Bureau) d. Conduct program audits of funded programs to ensure data collection and reporting systems are adequate to report on quality programming. (once/year; Youth Bureau) <p>2. Children and youth will have sufficient quality youth development experiences.</p> <p>Strategies, timelines and responsibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide technical assistance and support to agencies/programs that are seeking to reorganize or restructure to meet changing demands of youth service and financial uncertainty. (on-going and as-needed: Youth Bureau) <p>3. Children and youth will have access to youth development services in all systems serving children and youth.</p> <p>Strategies, timelines and responsibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Collaborate across systems to infuse youth development approaches in programs provided by other systems that serve children and youth. (on-going: Mental Health/On Care, Social Services, Probation, Hillbrook Detention Center, Health, Parks & Recreation, Syracuse City School District/Say Yes to Education, Youth Bureau)
Runaway & Homeless Youth	<p>1. Young people accessing the RHY system will be served by staff with knowledge of mental health and youth development principles.</p> <p>Strategies, timelines and responsibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Continue to provide training on youth

	<p>development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Collaborate with local system of care to provide training on mental health issues c. Collaborate with local Mental Health First Aid provider to encourage more participation by RHY providers <p>2. RHY providers will become more familiar with the unique needs of LGBT youth, especially those who are transgender.</p> <p>Strategies, timelines and responsibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Collaborate with local organizations to provide LGBT cultural competency training and technical assistance to RHY providers, especially those providing shelter services. <p>3. Individuals in the community will be made aware of services available for RH youth.</p> <p>Strategies, timelines and responsibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Create and distribute education presentations designed to increase awareness of the number and characteristics of resources available to RH youth in Onondaga County, NYS and Nationally. b. Continue to hold bi-monthly RHY Advisory Committee meetings to address issues and concerns of RHY provider community. c. Continue to deploy an RHY Services Coordinator to discharge the responsibilities outlined in NYS RHY Regulations, including but not limited to responding to inquiries concerning options available to youth in vulnerable housing situations, and their families.
Domestic Violence	
Adult Protective Services	<p>B - Our strategy is to assess each case for removal of risk. In cases where the Caseworker, Supervisor and Administrator determine that the individual is unable to remove him or herself from the risk, due to the individual's inability to clearly understand the risk, there will be a meeting with the DSS Attorney. At this and subsequent meetings the DSS staff will secure documentation of the individual's ability to make clear decisions as well as an assessment of their ability to understand their decision. If a decision is made to pursue legal intervention, then the DSS</p>

	<p>Attorney will begin the legal process. It is our intent to pursue the least restrictive action possible.</p> <p>D - Supervisors and Administrative staff will continue to work with referral sources to educate the community on the right of adult self-determinations.</p>
Child Care	

VII. Plan Monitoring

1. Describe the methods and the processes that will be used by the district to verify and monitor the implementation of the Child and Family Services Plan and the achievement of outcomes.

We are receiving technical assistance from PDP to develop plans and outcome measures using logic models we are using data driven information to determine if programs are effective, making an impact, etc. These activities will help us improve accountability and decision making. We will continue to meet quarterly with the voluntary agencies to look at outcomes and processes. Internally we will use the new methods as well as continuing to keep statistics on our outcomes.

Through the ASAP computer program reports are filed continuously with NY State OCFS on Intake and Assessment activity, Legal Interventions, Social Service representative Payees, Law Enforcement activity and payments made through Title XX services.

Child Care DSS is responsible for prompt payment to childcare providers who care for children who receive subsidies. On site licensing and monitoring for school-aged and family childcare centers has been contracted out to the Child Care Council of Onondaga, Inc. New York is responsible for monitoring and registration.

The Youth Bureau will utilize a monitoring form, which lists all the outcomes, strategies, and timelines. Youth Bureau staff members will establish baseline measures. They will report regularly on strategies and activities that are being undertaken that impact achievement of outcomes. Each will make an assessment of the degree to which the outcomes have been achieved, and the plan has been implemented. The monitoring form will be reviewed on a quarterly basis, at a minimum, at Youth Bureau staff meetings. The results of monitoring will be shared with the Youth Board on an annual basis, at a minimum.

VIII. Financing Process

1. Describe the financing for the district’s services.
 - a. Include general information about the types of funds used (e.g. federal, State, local, TANF, or innovative funding approaches). Include new uses of TANF or Flexible Funds for Family Services for program services. Include any innovative approaches to funding or new uses of funds to support the service delivery system.

Services provided at the local district level are supported by federal, state and local funds. Funding for services, specifically child welfare services is quite complex and continues to change. The federal share of services is comprised of Title IV-E, Title XX and TANF funds the local district allocates form their Flexible Fund for Family Services (FFFS) allocation. The state funds child welfare services with open ended 62% funding net of federal funds, a block grant for Foster Care, and 49% open ended funding for Adult Protective and Domestic Violence services after federal dollars.

Federal Funds: Title XX is allocated to the various local districts while Title IV-E is an uncapped funding stream. Each district specifically identifies how much of their FFFS allocation they want allocated to mandated preventive services via EAF and TANF 200% as well as other child welfare and other services. For many years, LSSDs have requested more flexibility and local discretion in the expenditure of TANF funds. Recognizing that needs vary in New York State – a rural, small county might have very different needs from those in New York City – the State enacted the new FFFS in the 2005-2006 Budget. In the 2011 - 2012 budget, the State continued this fund excluding TANF funds for Child Care.

This fund incorporates certain TANF funding into a \$951 million flexible allocation for the LSSDs. The programs that may be funded in the FFFS are as follows: allowable non-assistance TANF Employment programs (such as employment preparation, placement and retention services), TANF Services (including services to support receipt of transitional benefits and other work supports), Child Welfare Services, Emergency Assistance to Families (EAF) Foster Care Maintenance, Administration and Tuition Costs, PINS/Preventive Detention Diversion Services, Pregnancy Prevention, Drug/Alcohol (D/A) Assessment and Monitoring, Domestic Violence (DV) Screening and Assessment, EAF JD/PINS Foster Care and related costs, districts' administrative costs for all TANF related activities, or for any other allowable TANF purpose. Districts may also transfer funds from FFFS to Child Care, and/or Title XX Services (TANF-funded portion).

TANF FFFS Eligible Programs and Services

All programs funded directly through the FFFS must serve at least one of the following four TANF purposes:

- b.** 1. Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives;
- c.** 2. End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage;
- d.** 3. Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies; or
- 4. Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

The FFFS is designed to provide the LSSDs with maximum flexibility in determining how best to respond to identify local needs for services. Each LSSD may use its allocation for any of the following components:

- e.** • TANF Services and Employment Services
- f.** o TANF Services (including the Transitional Opportunities Program)

- g.** o TANF Employment Services (including Employment-Related Transportation)
- h.** o Drug and Alcohol (Statutory D/A Assessment/Monitoring)
 - o Domestic Violence (Statutory DVL Function)
- i.** • Title XX Transfer
- j.** o Child Welfare Services
- k.** o Other Title XX Services
- l.** • Child Welfare Other Than Title XX Transfer
- m.** o Child Welfare (EAF and 200 percent)
- n.** o EAF JD/PINS (foster care/tuition)
- o.** o NYC Foster Care Tuition
- p.** o PINS/Prevention/Detention Diversion Services
- q.** • Other Costs
- r.** o Child Care Transfer
 - o State Administered Contracts
- s.** • Administration
- t.** o TANF Administration
 - o EAF Child Welfare Administration
 - Any other non-assistance activities that fit within the federal TANF rules and stay within the statewide limits for administration or block grant transfers.

Please find in the attachment section Onondaga County's Combined FFFS Approved Plan for SFY 2010-2011.

The eligibility of the client receiving the services dictates what federal funding stream can be used. Title XX can be used without regard to recipient income while EAF, TANF 200% and Title IV-E have an eligibility criterion that has to be met in order to use those funds. Title XX services are funded at 100% up to the local district's allocation. EAF funds child preventive and protective services at 100% up to the amount the district has allocated. TANF 200% funds Title XX services up to the district's allocation and foster care services through the Temporary Assistance/Foster Care transfer. All foster care expenditures eligible for TANF are funded at 100% with a corresponding offset to federal aid Family Assistance. Title IV-E funds foster care services and adoption, preventive, and protective administrative services at 50%.

The state funds consist of a capped block grant for foster care services and an uncapped 62% net of federal funds for preventive, protective, aftercare, adoption and independent living services. Therefore, in the case of foster care services, whatever expenditures are not covered by federal funds would be funded under the state block grant up to the local district's allocation. After the state block grant allocation is exceeded, the local district is responsible to fund these expenditures. In the case of the other services described above, the state will fund these expenditures at 62% net of federal dollars with the local districts funding 38%. Once the federal funds are

exhausted, the state funds the whole expenditure at 62% while the local district picks up 38%.

Onondaga County is one of the few districts that are allowed to utilize in-kind or indirect services to help fund child preventive, protective, and independent living services. A majority of our child preventive services contracts require a 25% in-kind or indirect match. These are costs incurred by an agency for providing preventive services in excess of amounts funded by our contracts. Most of the contracted agencies utilize United Way funding to meet this match. The Onondaga County Department of Social Services (DSS) purchases services from various agencies to provide foster care and adult and children preventive, protective, information and referral and domestic violence services. DSS purchases these services via contracts with the agencies that provide such services. DSS uses the RFP process for selecting these providers.

See Attachment Section: 2010-11 FFFS Plan for Onondaga County

- u.** If purchase of service agreements are used, describe the criteria and procedures used by the district for selecting providers for all child welfare, adult protective, and non-residential domestic violence purchase of services (e.g. RFP process, news releases on availability of funds, sister agencies panel).

Combination of RFP and sole source.

2. Describe how purchase service contracts will be monitored.

- a.** Describe procedures that will be used to ensure that the services being purchased are effective in meeting the outcomes as outlined in the contract and your plan. Include the frequency of monitoring, tools that will be used, and who will be involved.

County staff meet with appropriate contract staff to review program implementation and outcomes. Contracts report quarterly or monthly outcomes via a locally designed and maintained web-based Contract Management System.

APPENDIX D

Relationship Between County Outcomes and Title IV-B Federal Goals

List each district outcome that supports or relates to achievement of the federal goals identified below. Many of your outcomes are listed under your Child and Family Services Review PIP, and should be included here.

Title IV-B of the Social Security Act, Subpart I

Goal 1: Families, including nuclear, extended, and adoptive families, will be strengthened and supported in raising and nurturing their children; in maintaining their children's connections to their heritage; and in planning their children's future.

Outcomes:

Outcome #1 - the number of children placed in foster care will decrease by 5% a year.

Measure - Agency statistics

Baseline - 202 in 2009. Decreased 37% to 127 in 2010 and is on a path to decrease by another 15% in the current year, 2011.

Strategies -

- 1- Have trained preventive workers to promote effective, long term engagement of families.
- 2- Continuing to improve the level and quality of supervision to all program staff.
- 3- Implementation and continued practice of Family Assessment and Response.

Outcome #2 - The recurrence of maltreatment of children in their homes will be reduced to 8%.

Measure Data Warehouse

Baseline - 12.3% on 3/1/06 report. As of 9/11 it was at 9.2%

Strategies -

- 1- Implementation and continued practice of FAR.
- 2- Training for staff on engagement of families.
- 3 - Utilizing the training unit to train all new workers in basics of investigations, engagement and services to create consistency in our approach to safety and permanency across program areas.

Goal 2: Children who are removed from their birth families will be afforded stability, continuity, and an environment that supports all aspects of their development.

Outcomes:

Outcome#1 - Continue to reduce the number of re-placements in foster care

Measure - Data Warehouse

Baseline - 13.3%. update - as of 2009 - 9% decrease of more than 20%.

Strategies -

- 1 - improve recruitment and retention of foster families in Onondaga County.

- 2- Workers have been trained in and will continue to implement concurrent planning practice.
- 3 - Continue with training and implementing of family team meetings.
- 4 - Utilize visitation services at Family Place to provide education to parents as well as visits with their children. -

Goal 3: Victims of family violence, both child and adult, will be afforded the safety and support necessary to achieve self-sufficiency (adult) and/or to promote their continued growth and development (child).

Outcomes:

Outcome #1 - The number of foster care placements of children due to domestic violence will decrease by 5%.

Measure: Agency stats

Baseline: 15 children placed in 2007

Strategies:

- 1 - Continue to train new CD staff on the issues and treatment options for families affected by domestic violence.
- 2 - Purchase residential and non-residential services from authorized agencies for adults and children - ongoing.
- 3 - Continue to have a core group of staff - one unit- to investigate the majority of reports that allege domestic violence.
- 4 - DV advocates located on site in CPS to accompany workers to homes to discuss and offer DV services to the parents.

Goal 4: Adolescents in foster care and pregnant, parenting, and at-risk teens in receipt of public assistance will develop the social, educational, and vocational skills necessary for self-sufficiency.

Outcomes:

Adolescents discharged from foster care will be discharged to the home of a caring adult 95% of the time.

Measure: Agency stats

Baseline: to be determined

Strategies:

- 1 - DSS staff has been trained to access job skills training/education/etc. services with youth at least one year prior to discharge.
- 2 - Continue training for staff to improve skills and abilities to find adults who will commit to foster care youth post-discharge.
- 3 - Offer ongoing skill-based groups to youth to continue with curricula that reflect current issues they face.
- 4 - DSS and voluntary staff trained in the TIP (Transition to Independence Process) Model.

5 - SILP planned and should be opening in November 2011. The staff at the SILP will be using the TIP model. face.

Goal 5: Native American families, including nuclear, extended, and adoptive families, will be strengthened and supported in raising and nurturing their children; in maintaining their children's connections to their heritage; and in planning their children's future.

Outcomes:

The number of Native American children placed in foster care will be reduced by 10%.

Measure: Data Warehouse

Baseline: 9 children (2%) in 2006. As of 10/31/11 4 children

Strategies:

1- DSS staff have been educated in ICWA and the protocols for the removal/placement of Native American children in Onondaga County.

2- Maintain an agreement between the Onondaga Nation and the Onondaga County DSS. Meet biannually with the Council of Chiefs to review the agreement and protocols and make revisions if needed.

3- Have an in-house liaison between the Onondaga Nation and the Onondaga County DSS. There is a DSS supervisor and worker assigned to work on all Nation cases. They have attended statewide training in 2011.

APPENDIX E
Public Hearing Requirements

Complete the form below to provide information on the required elements of the public hearing.

Date Public Hearing held: 11/18/11 (at least 15 days prior to submittal of Plan)

Date Public Notice published: 11/2/11 (at least 15 days in advance of Public Hearing)

Name of Newspaper: Post Standard

Number of Attendees:

Areas represented at the Public Hearing:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Child Care |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adolescents | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aging | <input type="checkbox"/> General Public | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

Issues identified at the Public Hearing:

PUBLIC HEARING

Child and Family Services Plan

November 18, 2011

Sponsored By The Onondaga County Department of Social Services, The Department of Aging and Youth and The Department of Probation

PLAN PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2012 – DECEMBER 31, 2016

The purpose of this public hearing is to provide information to the community regarding the Onondaga County Child and Family Services Plan for the period of January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2016.

The Public Hearing on the proposed Child and Family Services Plan is scheduled as follows:

DATE: Friday, November 18, 2011

PLACE: Onondaga County Civic Center, 12th Floor West Conference Room

421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, New York 13202

TIME: 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

AGENDA: 9:00 – 9:10 Introductions

- Purpose of Public Hearing and Plan

9:10 – 9:20 Family and Children’s Services

- Child Protective Services
- Child Preventive Services
- Day Care
- Foster Care
- Adoptions
- Other Family and Children Services

9:20 – 9:30 Adult Services

- Protective Services to Adults
- Other Adult Services

9:30 – 9:40 Youth Services

- Youth Development
- Runaway Homeless Youth

9:40 – 9:50 PINS Diversion

9:50 - 10:30 Summary and Closing Comments

- Questions and Answers

APPENDIX F
Program Matrix

Each district will enter their Program Information into the Welfare Management System (WMS). Instructions for completing this process are located in the Plan Guidance Document. Answer the questions below related to the information you entered into the WMS system.

1. Are there changes to the services your county intends to provide during the County Planning cycle?

No Yes

2. If there are changes to the services, please indicate what those changes are.

Change in Parent Share

APPENDIX G
Technical Assistance Needs

In the space below, describe technical assistance or training, if any, requested by the district to implement this plan. Please be as specific as possible.

Conversion of ASAP to a web-based program that would allow access to ASAP from field locations. Increase the supply of laptop computers.

APPENDIX H
Memorandum of Understanding
Between the District Attorney's Office and Child Protective Services

Chapter 156 of the Laws of 2000 (the Abandoned Infant Protection Act) went into effect in July 2000, and was **amended effective August 30, 2010**. This law is intended to prevent infants from being abandoned in an unsafe manner that could result in physical harm to them. Please send an electronic copy of your signed MOU with your County Plan or include a narrative summary of the cooperative procedures to be followed by both parties in the investigation of incidents of child abuse and maltreatment, consistent with their respective obligations for the investigation or prosecution of such incidents, or as otherwise required by law.

- Copy of active MOU is being sent with the County Plan.
- Active MOU is not attached, but a narrative summary is provided below.

Narrative Summary:

CHILD ABUSE RESPONSE TEAM

INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT

6/2005

IN RECOGNITION of the special needs of child abuse victims and that successful intervention requires a coordinated multidisciplinary approach, the undersigned public and private agencies have come to the following agreement and understanding:

IT IS HEREBY REAFFIRMED that the CHILD ABUSE RESPONSE TEAM (CART) was created to facilitate, coordinate and integrate the prevention, investigation, prosecution and treatment services of child sexual and physical abuse cases in Onondaga County by utilizing a multidisciplinary team model, while seeking perpetrator accountability.

IT IS ENVISIONED that children and adults will experience effective interaction and continuity from agencies throughout the investigation, prosecution and treatment process. In order to accomplish this vision, IT IS AGREED that a formalized process will be utilized to improve inter-agency effectiveness and communication, to establish a method for continuous self-assessment, and to enhance staff expertise through training.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that the goals of CART are to:

1. Promote safety for children from abuse.
2. Minimize trauma to the victims.
3. Foster accountability.
4. Seek appropriate consequences for the perpetrator.
5. Offer appropriate services to the children and adults in a timely manner.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD that all cases involving a child under the age of 18 suspected of being a victim of sexual abuse and felony physical abuse cases fall within this agreement.

IT IS AGREED that the following agencies will be represented on CART and will participate in the investigation,

prosecution and treatment process in cases identified within this agreement:

- All Children's Protective Service units will handle cases covered by this agreement reported to the NYS Child Abuse and Maltreatment Registry. It will also maintain a specialized sexual abuse unit that within the unit's capacity will investigate child sexual abuse cases.
- The Abused Persons Unit is a consolidation of the Onondaga County Sheriffs and Syracuse Police Department's Abused Persons Units. All cases covered by this agreement appropriate for law enforcement involvement will be assigned to the APU.
- The District Attorney's Office will designate a Special Victims Bureau to criminally prosecute the types of cases identified in this agreement.
- Vera House counselors/advocates are available to provide support and assistance to victims of child sexual abuse and their families.
- The CARE Program of University Hospital provides comprehensive medical examinations to victims identified in this agreement.
- Onondaga County Attorney's Office will identify a Family Court Unit to civilly prosecute the types of cases identified in this agreement in Family Court.
- McMahon Ryan Child Advocacy Site facilitates CART in achieving its mission and provides a child-friendly facility for victims. Based upon the individual needs of the case, it is available for CART members.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD that all efforts should be made by CPS and/or any other member of CART to refer all family members to include victims, siblings, non-offending parent and offender to therapeutic treatment. This process should begin as soon as possible for victims, siblings and the non-offending caretaker, after initial disclosure/investigation.

IT IS ALSO UNDERSTOOD that there are specific regulations and considerations that affect the investigative process for both CPS and law enforcement. Within those constraints,

IT IS FINALLY AGREED that specific procedures and protocols will be utilized between CART agencies in order to implement this agreement.

APPENDIX I
2012 Estimates of Persons to Be Served

Required only if the district does not seek a waiver, as noted on Appendix A

Type of Care/Service	Total*	Children	Adults
Adoption			
Child Care			
Domestic Violence			
Family Planning			
Preventive Child Mandated			
Preventive Child Non-Mandated			
Child Protective Services			
Child Protective Services Investigation			
Unmarried Parents			
Preventive – Adults			
Protective Services Adults – Services			
Protective Services Adults – Investigation			
Social Group Services Senior Citizens			
Education			
Employment			
Health Related			
Home Management			
Homemaker			
Housekeeper/Chore			
Housing Improvement			
Information and Referral			
Transportation			

*Total equals children plus adults

County Child and Family Services Plan

Type of Care/Service — Foster Care	Total	Non JD/PINS Child	OCFS JD/PINS Child	DSS JD/PINS Child
Institutions				
Group Homes/Residences				
Agency Operated Boarding Homes				
Family Foster Care				
Unduplicated Count of All Children in Care				

Type of Care/Service – Adult	Total	Adults
Residential Placement Services		

APPENDIX J

Non-Residential Domestic Violence Services (Complete a Copy for Each Program)

In accordance with the Domestic Violence Prevention Act and subsequent budget provisions, districts are required to provide non-residential services to victims of domestic violence, either directly or through a purchase of service agreement. Whether provided directly or through a purchase of service, each program must be approved through the Child and Family Services Plan process. Non-residential domestic violence programs must comply with 18 NYCRR Part 462. Please provide the information required below.

County: Phone Number: () -

County Contact Person: E-mail Address:

SECTION A

Program Closure

Complete this section if an approved non-residential domestic violence program “closed” during the previous year.

Name of program:

Date closed:

Reason for closing:

SECTION B

Complete this section for each program that provides non-residential domestic violence services in the district.

To promote accuracy through the review and approval process, OCFS recommends that this section be completed by the non-residential DV program.

Agency Name: Vera House, Inc.

Business Address: 6181 Thompson Road, Suite 100, Syracuse, NY, 13206

Contact Person: Randi Bregman

Telephone Number: (315) 425- 0818

E-mail Address: rbregman@verahouse.org

Program Requirements

1. Seventy percent of the clientele served must consist of victims of domestic violence and their children. This program is intended to be a separate and distinct program offering specialized services for victims of domestic violence.

Describe how the program is separate and distinct and how it fits into the overall agency.

The Vera House Advocacy Program is one of the comprehensive services offered at Vera House to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The Advocacy Program, a non-residential domestic violence program, serves domestic violence and sexual assault victims and their children who are not in the Vera House Emergency Shelter Program. The services are also separate and distinct from the services provided through the Vera

House New Directions Clinical Counseling Program. The Advocacy Program provides safety planning, systems advocacy, emotional support, 24-hour crisis and support lines, family offense petition assistance, and support/education groups to adult victims helping them to provide safety and stability for themselves and their children. All adult domestic violence and sexual assault victims are eligible for services under the Vera House Advocacy Program. Clients in the Advocacy Program are integrated into other Agency Programs as appropriate. For example, an Advocacy client may find that escalating safety concerns necessitate exploring our shelter services.

2. Services must be provided regardless of financial eligibility; services must be provided in a manner that addresses special needs, including physically handicapped, hearing impaired, and non-English speaking; and services must address the ethnic compositions of the community served.

Describe the eligibility criteria for clients of the non-residential domestic violence program and how special needs populations are accommodated.

There is no financial eligibility in order to receive services and no waiting list for Vera House advocacy services. The Vera House offices are physically accessible. People with special needs are offered whatever accommodations are necessary for them to fully benefit from services. For example, they may be provided services through a bilingual, Spanish speaking Advocate or with the assistance of certified interpreters. We have specific outreach materials targeted to domestic violence victims who identify as LGBT, who are Deaf or have a disability and who are migrants, immigrants or refugees. Most of our materials are available in Spanish as well as English. The clients who are served by the Advocacy Program reflect the ethnic make-up of the Syracuse/Onondaga County community

3. There must be evidence that the program is needed, based on the number of persons to be served and evidence that the indicators used are realistic.

Provide an estimate of the number of victims of domestic violence needing non-residential services and description of the indicator/data used to determine that estimate.

We estimate that there are more than 10,000 victims of domestic/sexual violence in Onondaga County. This number is based on national domestic/sexual violence incidence surveys and local population data. Of those 10,000 victims if only 10% were in need of non-residential services that would be 1,000 victims, which is the number we serve in an average year. We expect that there are probably several thousand of victims of domestic/sexual violence who could benefit from connection with non-residential services provided through Vera House. In terms of local data, we know that local law enforcement typically respond to over 15,000 domestic calls annually.

4. Where are the non-residential domestic violence services provided?

Describe the type of location (e.g. at the business office, at the school, etc.). The specific should not be included and should not be identifiable from the information provided.

Services are provided at Vera House's business office or at mutually agreed upon safe locations.

5. Explain how the location(s) where the non-residential domestic violence services are provided to ensure the safety of the persons receiving services and the confidentiality of their identities. Do not provide the location addresses.

Safety and confidentiality are priorities in all services offered by Vera House. There are clear policies that workers follow which insure safety and confidentiality. Safety planning is a critical aspect of all client services. Safety is ensured at the Thompson Road Office where Advocates meet with non-residential clients. There is a lobby/waiting room staffed by a receptionist who informs Advocates when clients arrive. Advocates are usually advised that their "appointment" has arrived, without using identifying information in front of other guests in the waiting room. Advocates sign out a private meeting room to provide confidential space. Cell phones are available for victims and/or advocates as needed for safety purposes. The Thompson Road Office has a security system including, "panic buttons" that are in place in the front office area and throughout the building that can be activated in an emergency, which notifies the police. Although the office is a public location with access by bus and by car, it is set off the main road which provides some privacy for clients entering the building. The office is not exclusively for client services so some anonymity is achieved when people enter, as they could be donors, volunteers, interns, etc. Client information is kept confidential with the exception of suspected child abuse, suicide or homicide. Records are kept on a secure data base. All hard copy records are in locked file cabinets. Client information can only be released through approval of the client. Records can be requested by the client in writing and may be picked up by the client showing photo identification.

6. All of the **core services** listed in 18 NYCRR 462.4 must be provided directly by the program, as defined in the regulations, and must be provided in a timely manner. For each of the core services listed below, include:
 - a. Days and hours the service is available
 - b. How the service is provided
 - c. Where the service is provided, when the service is provided at a location other than the program location (i.e., accompanying the client to court)
 - d. Details specific to this program other than program location.

Telephone Hotline Assistance

Include hotline operation hours and detail the methods currently being used for the operation of the hotline service (e.g. coverage, staff responsibility, any technology used).

Vera House offers immediate crisis intervention, counseling, and information and referral services 24 hours per day, 7 days per week through a telephone hotline based at the Vera House Emergency Shelter. The hotline is covered by staff and volunteers and is backed up during busy daytime hours by call forwarding technology that allows calls to be transferred to the main office when the call volume is particularly high

Information and referral

24 hours per day, 7 days per week (through Crisis and Support Hotlines)

8:30am – 5:00pm Monday to Friday (through Advocacy Program, evening hours are available M-Th until 7pm)

In addition to the information and referral provided through the Crisis and Support Hotlines, the Vera House Advocates provide information and referral to community services and programs, which meet the needs of victims of domestic/sexual violence. This includes referrals for residential services, medical services and other community programs that are deemed appropriate. The Advocates are based at the business office, as well as out stationed in the community. (DA’s office, CPS, Family Court, Domestic Violence Courts)

Advocacy

Describe all types offered, including accompaniment.

8:30am – 5pm, Monday to Friday (evening hours are available)

Vera House provides liaison services and/or active intervention with community services and programs on behalf of victims of domestic violence including legal remedies and protections, law enforcement, medical care, social services, employment and housing, and public assistance. Vera House Advocates are stationed at the specialized courts, at Child Protective Services and at the District Attorney’s office. The Advocates provide accompaniment to criminal justice offices and court, crime victim’s claims assistance, assistance with victim impact statements and registration with county and state VINE systems and crisis intervention services

Counseling

Describe all types offered, including individual and group.

8:30am – 5pm, Monday to Friday (evening hours are available)

(Support Groups held in evenings)

Vera House provides both individual and group counseling which stresses self sufficiency, client identified needs, assistance for clients seeking services on their own behalf, informing clients of options available to ensure safety for self and children, information about family violence and effects on children, legal, financial, and housing options, and assistance in problem solving skills. Domestic violence education and support groups are offered regularly in several different locations.

Community Education and Outreach

Describe methods used, target audience, and messages conveyed. If there is more than one domestic violence provider in the community, describe how the outreach activities are coordinated.

8:30am – 5pm, Monday to Friday (evening and weekend hours are available)

Vera House has an active Youth/Community Education Program. Annually, the program reaches over 14,000 people throughout the community including schools, human service and health professionals, justice systems, and businesses. Community and Youth educational programs are offered on a variety of topics, including the need for and benefit of services, domestic violence dynamics and awareness, sexual abuse prevention, healthy relationships, dating violence and elder abuse. Along with presentations the agency uses the media and the distribution of written materials to inform the public on issues and available services.

Optional Services (e.g., support groups, children's services, translation services, etc.)

Vera House offers Family Court petition preparation (whenever Family Court is in session) through an office at the Onondaga County Court House, where volunteers and staff provide assistance in filling out family offense petitions and inform domestic violence victims about how the Family Court system operates. Vera House also offers counseling for child witnesses to domestic violence and regular support groups. In addition, Vera House sponsors a Foster Pet Program, which offers domestic violence victims a safe refuge for their pets.

7. Each program must employ both a qualified director and a sufficient number of staff who are *responsible for providing core and optional services*.

List each of the staff/volunteer positions responsible for providing non-residential services including title, responsibilities and qualifications.

- **Do not** give names
- Resumes **are not** required

Title: Advocacy Program Coordinator (1FT)

Responsibilities:

The Advocacy Program Coordinator will provide staff supervision, program development, oversight and management of the Vera House non-residential program, as well as provide direct service to victims of domestic/sexual violence.

Qualifications:

Bachelors Degree in Human Services related field required, Masters Degree preferred. Five years experience in direct service, supervision of staff and program management. A thorough knowledge of domestic/sexual violence and crisis intervention and a familiarity with local service delivery is needed, as well as an ability to write well and present to the public.

Title: Senior Legal Advocate (1FT)

Responsibilities:

In addition to providing systems advocacy, crisis intervention, and short-term counseling/emotional support, the Senior Legal Advocate coordinates services with the specialized courts in Onondaga County-Integrated Domestic Violence Court and the dedicated Domestic Violence Court (Syracuse City Court). A thorough knowledge of domestic/sexual violence and crisis intervention is necessary. A familiarity with local

service delivery is needed; in particular a thorough knowledge of the criminal and civil justice systems is needed

Qualifications:

Bachelors Degree in Human Services related field or minimum of five years experience providing victim services

Title: Advocates (6FT, 1PT)

Responsibilities:

The Vera House Advocate is responsible for providing crisis intervention, systems advocacy, short-term counseling and emotional support to individuals experiencing domestic/sexual violence and abuse

Qualifications:

Bachelors Degree in Human Services related field, preferred. Some experience in direct service, case management is necessary. A thorough knowledge of domestic/sexual violence and crisis intervention and a familiarity with local service delivery is needed.

Title:

Responsibilities:

Qualifications:

Title:

Responsibilities:

Qualifications:

Title:

Responsibilities:

Qualifications:

APPENDIX K
Child Care Administration

Describe how your local district is organized to administer the child care program, including any functions that are subcontracted to an outside agency.

1. Identify the unit that has primary responsibility for the administration of child care for:

Public Assistance Families: Jobsplus!
 Transitioning Families: Jobsplus! and Day Care
 Income Eligible Families: Day Care
 Title XX: Day Care and Children's Division

2. Provide the following information on the use of New York State Child Care Block Grant (NYSCCBG) Funds.

FFY 2009-2010 Rollover funds (available from the NYSCCBG ceiling report in the claiming system):\$574,263.00
 Estimate FFY 2010-11 Rollover Funds\$
 Estimate of Flexible Funds for Families (FFS) for child care subsidies.....\$
 NYSCBG Allocation 2011-12\$13,263,701.00
 Estimate of Local Share\$6,000,000.00
Total Estimated NYSCCCBG Amount\$19,300,000.00
 a. Subsidy\$18,300,000.00
 b. Other program costs excluding subsidy\$
 c. Administrative costs\$1,000,000.00

Does your district have a contract or formal agreement with another organization to perform any of the following functions?

Function	Organization	Amount of Contract
<input type="checkbox"/> Eligibility screening		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Determining if legally-exempt providers meet State-approved additional standards	Child Care Solutions	\$46,200
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assistance in locating care	Child Care Solutions	See above
<input type="checkbox"/> Child Care Information Systems		See above
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	The Children's Consortium	\$35,391

APPENDIX L

Other Eligible Families if Funds are Available (Required)

Listed below are the optional categories of eligible families that your district can include as part of its County Plan. Select any categories your county wants to serve using the NYSCCBG funds and describe any limitations associated with the category.

Optional Categories	Option	Limitations
1. Public Assistance (PA) families participating in an approved activity in addition to their required work activity.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
2. PA families or families with income up to 200% of the State Income Standard when the caretaker is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) participating in an approved substance abuse treatment program b) homeless c) a victim of domestic violence d) in an emergency situation of short duration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No 	TA families-none NTA families-not eligible Thirty days can be extended after review(if medical verification documents return to work in 15 days, i.e.maximum of 45 days). Only for active cases, not applicants
3. Families with an open child protective services case when child care is needed to protect the child.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	none
4. Families with income up to 200% of the State Income Standard when child care services are needed because the child's caretaker:		
a) is physically or mentally incapacitated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Must have been employed and is expected to return to work:short term duration only, usually 30 days or less, can be extended after review if medical verification document return to work in 15 days maximum of 45 days or as part of a Children's Services Case where a need for child

County Child and Family Services Plan

Optional Categories	Option	Limitations
b) has family duties away from home	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	care is determined by the Children's Service Administration. Only for active cases not at time of application
5. Families with income up to 200% of the State Income Standard when child care services are needed for the child's caretaker to actively seek employment for a period up to six months.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Two (2) weeks can be extended after review, must provide verification of actively seeking employment Only for active cases, not at time of application
6. PA families where a sanctioned parent is participating in unsubsidized employment, earning wages at a level equal to or greater than the minimum amount under law.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Verified employment and transportation hours only

<p>7. Families with income up to 200% of the State Income Standard when child care services are needed for the child’s caretaker to participate in:</p> <p>a) a public or private educational facility providing a standard high school curriculum offered by or approved by the local school district</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p><i>One time per school year, must maintain 80% attendance, must maintain passing grades in all subjects</i></p>
<p>b) an education program that prepares an individual to obtain a NYS High School equivalency diploma</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>Continuation of funding will be made contingent on the student's successful completion of the semester or class, with attendance and grades submitted to the child care worker for review.</p>
<p>c) a program providing basic remedial education in the areas of reading, writing, mathematics, and oral communications for individuals functioning below the ninth month of the eighth grade level</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>	
<p>d) a program providing literacy training designed to help individuals improve their ability to read and write</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>	
<p>e) English as a second language (ESL) instructional program designed to develop skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing the English language for individuals whose primary language is other than English</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>	
<p>f) a two-year full-time degree granting program at a community college, a two-year college, or an undergraduate college with a specific vocational goal leading to an associate degree or certificate of completion</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>The working parent or caretaker must meet the following criteria at the time an application is made:</p> <p>1. Must be a single parent or caretaker with a child in the household who is under the age of 13; if two parent household, applicant must provide information as to why the second parent cannot care for the child during the training hours.</p>

		<p>2. Must be working a minimum of 20 hours per week in unsubsidized employment in 9 of the last 12 months or has graduated from high school or received his/her GED within the last 6 months prior to application.</p> <p>3. Must be a resident of Onondaga County but can work outside of the county.</p> <p>4. Must be planning on enrolling in, or already enrolled in, an education or training program which is vocational in nature or which leads to a vocational goal with the hard skills necessary for employment. High School Equivalency programs do qualify. A list of approved programs will be available at the Day Care Services Unit.</p> <p>5. The applicant must certify that he/she will NOT decrease his/her hours below a minimum of 20 hours to participate in the training and will not increase his/her financial need to qualify for Temporary Assistance.</p>
<p>g) a training program, which has a specific occupational goal and is conducted by an institution other than a college or university that is licensed or approved by the State Education Department</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>criteria see above "f"</p>
<p>h) a prevocational skill training program such as a basic education and literacy training program</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>	
<p>i) a demonstration project designed for vocational training or other project approved</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>	

by the Department of Labor
Note: The parent/caretaker must complete the selected programs listed under number seven within 30 consecutive calendar months. The parent/caretaker cannot enroll in more than one program.

<p>8. PA recipients and low-income families with incomes up to 200% of the State Income Standard who are satisfactorily participating in a two-year program other than one with a specific vocational sequence (leading to an associate’s degree or certificate of completion and that is reasonably expected to lead to an improvement in the parent/caretaker’s earning capacity) as long as the parent(s) or caretaker is also working at least 17½ hours per week. The parent/caretaker must demonstrate his or her ability to successfully complete the course of study.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>	
<p>9. PA recipients and low-income families with incomes up to 200% of the State Income Standard who are satisfactorily participating in a two-year college or university program (other than one with a specific vocational sequence) leading to an associate’s degree or a certificate of completion that is reasonably expected to lead to an improvement in the parent/caretaker’s earning capacity as long as the parent(s) or caretaker is also working at least 17½ hours per week. The parent/caretaker must demonstrate his or her ability to successfully complete the course of study.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>	
<p>10. PA recipients and low-income families with incomes up to 200% of the State Income Standard who are satisfactorily participating in a four-year college or university program leading to a bachelor’s degree and that is reasonably expected to lead to an improvement in the parent/caretaker’s earning capacity as long as the parent(s) or caretaker is also working at least 17½ hours per week. The parent/caretaker must demonstrate his or her ability to successfully complete the course of study.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>	
<p>11. Families with incomes up to the 200% of the State Income Standard when child care services are needed for the child’s caretaker to participate in a program to train workers in an employment field that currently is or is likely to be in demand in the</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>	

<p>future, if the caretaker documents that he or she is a dislocated worker and is currently registered in such a program, provided that child care services are only used for the portion of the day the caretaker is able to document is directly related to the caretaker engaging in such a program.</p>		
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APPENDIX M

Reasonable Distance, Very Low Income, Family Share, Case Closing and Openings, Recertification Period, Fraud and Abuse Control Activities (Required)

Reasonable Distance

Define “reasonable distance” based on community standards for determining accessible child care.

- The following defines “reasonable distance”: Describes the maximum reasonable distance defined in time or mileage of both that a Temporary Assistance recipient would be expected to travel from home to work activity with a stop at a child care provider along the way. This information is expressed as a one way, not a round, trip.
- Public Transportation: In the case of any parent/caretaker/child who uses Onondaga County's Centro bus system for transportation, distance should not exceed 22 miles. This distance represents the average of farthest distances from downtown Syracuse East, West, North and South, which Centro serves in areas where we currently have sites available.
- Personal Vehicle: In the case of a parent who uses private transportation, distance should not exceed 30 miles. This distance represents an average of the distance across the north-south and east-west points of the county where again, activity sites are located.
- Walking: In the case of any child six years or younger, walking either from home to the provider's location, or from the provider to school or to the school bus, should not exceed more than 1/2 mile. This will hold true for older children with medically documented special needs with the case manager arranging the necessary child care.
- Note: The district makes every attempt to arrange child care and activity as close to home as possible, however, it is still maintained that the client has the final say as to where child care is located as long as the child care arrangements are deemed to be legal.

For the most part., the district automatically allows one-half hour on either end of the day for transportation and dropping off or picking up children, However, all cases are handled in an individual manner and adjustments are made for more or less transportation time as needed.

- Describe any steps/consultations made to arrive at your definition:
- 1. The current listing of work activity sites utilized by Onondaga County's employment and training program, Jobsplus!.
- 2. A map of Onondaga County redrawn with Jobsplus! as the center point.
- 3. Examination of the current public transportation system (Centro's) bus line.
- 4. Discussion of current guidelines used by the Child Care Council of Onondaga County
- 5. Examination of current travel patterns required for participation in Jobsplus.

Note: Jobsplus! is located in downtown Syracuse, approximately five blocks from the main public bus exchange through which most bus connections are made.

Very Low Income

Define “very low income” as it is used in determining priorities for child care benefits.

“Very Low Income” is defined as 125% of the State Income Standard.

Family Share

“Family share” is the weekly amount paid towards the costs of the child care services by the child’s parent or caretaker. In establishing family share, your district must select a percentage from 10% to 35% to use in calculating the family share. The weekly family share of child care costs is calculated by applying the family share percentage against the amount of the family’s annual gross income that is in excess of the State Income Standard divided by 52.

Family Share Percentage selected by the county 35%.

Note: The percentage selected here must match the percentage selected in Title XX Program Matrix in WMS.

Case Closings

The district must describe below how priority is given to federally mandated priorities and describe local priorities. If all NYSCCBG funds are committed, the district will discontinue funding to those families that have lower priorities in order to serve families with higher priorities. Describe below how districts will select cases to be closed in the event that there are insufficient or no funds available.

1. Identification of local priorities in addition to the required federal priorities (select one).

- The district has identified local priorities in addition to the required federal priorities (Complete Section 2)
- The district has not identified local priorities in addition to the required federal priorities (Complete Section 3).

2. Describe how priority is given to federally mandated priorities and describe local priorities. If all NYSCCBG funds are committed, the district will discontinue funding to those families that have lower priorities in order to serve families with higher priorities. Describe in the space below how the district will select cases to be closed in the event that there are insufficient or no funds available.

a. The district will select cases to be closed based ONLY on income.

- No.
- Yes. Check 1 or 2 below.
 - 1) The district will close cases from the highest income to lowest income.
 - 2) The district will close cases based on income bands. Describe the income bands, beginning at 200% of the State Income Standard and ending at 100% of the State Income Standard:
start at 200% to 125%

b. The district will select cases to be closed based ONLY on categories of families.

- No.
- Yes. List the categories in the order that they will be closed, including the optional categories selected in Appendix L:

- c. The district will select cases to be closed based on a combination of income and family category.

No.

Yes. List the categories and income groupings in the order that they will be closed:

Rank 1-Eligible families based on income from 125%-200%

Rank 2-To enable the child's caretaker to work full time (30 hours or more per week)

Rank 3-For families with income below 150% of the SIS to enable the child's caretaker to work full time (30 hours or more per week)

Rank 4-A family with an open child protective services case when its determined that such childcare is needed to protect the child

- d. The district will select cases to be closed on a basis other than the options listed above.

No.

Yes. Describe how the district will select cases to be closed in the event that there are insufficient funds to maintain the district's current case load:

- e. The last cases to be closed will be those that fall under federal priorities. Identify how your district will prioritize federal priorities. Cases that are ranked 1 will be closed last.

Very low income Rank 1 Rank 2

Families that have a child with special needs Rank 1 Rank 2

3. If all NYSCCBG funds are committed, case closings for families that are not eligible under a child care guarantee and are not a federally mandated priority must be based on the length of time in receipt of services. The length of time used to close cases may be based either on the shortest or longest time the family has received child care services, but must be consistent for all families.

- a. Identify how the district will prioritize federal priorities. Cases that are ranked 1 will be closed last.

Very low income Rank 1 Rank 2

Families that have a child with special needs Rank 1 Rank 2

The district will close cases based on the federal priorities and the amount of time the family has been receiving child care services.

Shortest time receiving child care services

Longest time receiving child care services

- b. The district will establish a waiting list for families whose cases were closed because our county did not have sufficient funds to maintain our current caseload.

No.

- Yes. Describe how these cases will be selected to be reopened if funds become available:

Case Openings

Describe below how priority is given to federally mandated priorities and how the district will select cases to be opened in the event that insufficient funds are available.

1. The first cases to be opened will be those that fall under the federal priorities.
Identify how your district will prioritize federal priorities. Cases that are ranked 1 will be opened first.
Very low income Rank 1 Rank 2
Families that have a child with special needs Rank 1 Rank 2
 2. The district will select cases to be opened based ONLY on income.
 No.
 Yes. Check 1 or 2 below.
 - 1) The district will close cases from the highest income to lowest income.
 - 2) The district will close cases based on income bands. Describe the income bands, beginning at 200% of the State Income Standard and ending at 100% of the State Income Standard:
from 200% down to 125%
 3. The district will select cases to be opened based ONLY on category.
 No.
 Yes. List the categories in the order that they will be opened, including the optional categories selected in Appendix L:
 4. The district will select cases to be opened based on a combination of income and category of family.
 No.
 Yes. List the categories and income groupings in the order that they will be opened:
 5. The district selects cases to be opened on a basis other than the options listed above.
 No.
 Yes. Describe how the district will select cases to be opened in the event that there are not sufficient funds to open all eligible families:
 6. The district will establish a waiting list when there are not sufficient funds to open all eligible cases.
-

- No.
- Yes. Describe how these cases will be selected to be opened when funds become available:

The district's recertification period is every six months twelve months

Fraud and Abuse Control Activities

Describe below the criteria the district will use to determine which child care subsidy applications suggest a higher than acceptable risk for fraudulent or erroneous child care subsidy payment in addition to procedures for referring such applications to the district's front-end detection system.

The following situations will be referred to FEDS: False address given for provider and/or client, New employer/new earnings not reported to the agency, prior history of denial or case closing (or overpayments) resulting from an investigation, provider violations (e.g., improper billing) expenses exceed income without reasonable explanation, client failed to report unearned income, client has previously failed to accurately report income, household composition or other required eligibility information.

Describe the sampling methodology used to determine which cases will require verification of an applicant's or recipient's continued need for child care, including, as applicable, verification of participation in employment, education, or other required activities.

The Day Care Supervisor randomly reviews five newly opened child care cases per month per Intake worker selected randomly. The Day Care Supervisor reviews four recertifications and two six month recerts per worker per month randomly selected thru a Cognos report.. The Day Care Supervisor will also review 10-15 pieces of daily work per worker per day for the Undercare staff. The day care supervisor review is an indept review of the continued need for child care, verification of participation in employment, education or other required activites. In addition, the day care workers review the indicators for referrals to the agency legal division at every 6 month and year recert. Some of the indicators for investigation are low income vs high expense, and conflicting information.

Describe the sampling methodology used to determine which providers of subsidized child care services will be reviewed for the purpose of comparing the child care provider's attendance forms for children receiving subsidized child care services with any Child and Adult Care Food Program inspection forms to verify that child care was actually provided on the days listed on the attendance forms.

Administered and Monitored by Child Care Solutions We expect to have a universe of 100 childcare providers that are also in the child and adult care food program annually. The administrator of the child and adult care food program will send us a monthly report of providers that have had inspections. From this list we will select 13 providers at random. We will then request the inspection reports and compare them to the billing sheets submitted by the providers. Any provider previously selected will not be included in a subsequent sample for the year.

APPENDIX N
District Options (Required)

Districts have some flexibility to administer their child care subsidy programs to meet local needs. Check which options that your district wishes to include in your county plan. Complete the attached appendices for any area(s) checked.

1. The district has chosen to establish funding set-asides for NYSCCBG (complete Appendix O).
2. The district is using Title XX funds for the provision of child care services (complete Appendix P).
3. The district has chosen to establish additional local standards for child care providers (complete Appendix Q).
4. The district has chosen to make payments to child care providers for absences (complete Appendix R).
5. The district has chosen to make payments to child care providers for program closures (complete Appendix S).
6. The district has chosen to pay for transportation to and from a child care provider (complete Appendix T).
7. The district has chosen to pay up to 15% higher than the applicable market rates for regulated child care services that have been accredited by a nationally recognized child care organization (complete Appendix T).
8. The district has chosen to pay up to 15% higher than the applicable market rates for non-traditional hours (complete Appendix T).
9. The district has chosen to pay up to 75% of the enhanced market rate for legally-exempt family and in-home child care providers who have completed 10 hours of training, which has been verified by the Legally-Exempt Caregiver Enrollment Agency (complete Appendix T).
10. The district has chosen to pay for child care services while a caretaker who works the second or third shift sleeps (complete Appendix T).
11. The district has chosen to make payments to child care providers who provide child care services, which exceed 24 consecutive hours (complete Appendix T).
12. The district has chosen to include 18-, 19- or 20-year-olds in the Child Care Services Unit (complete Appendix U)
13. The district is seeking a waiver from one or more regulatory provisions. Such waivers are limited to those regulatory standards that are not specifically included in law (complete Appendix U).
14. The district has chosen to pay for breaks in activity for low income families (non public assistance families). Complete Appendix U.

15. The district has chosen to use local equivalent forms such as, but not limited to, child care application, client notification, and/or enrollment forms (attach copies of the local equivalent forms your district uses).

Any previous approvals for local equivalent forms will not be carried forward into this county plan. Therefore, any local equivalent forms a district wishes to establish or renew must be included in this plan and will be subject to review and approval by OCFS.

APPENDIX O
Funding Set-Asides (Optional)

Total NYSCCBG Block Grant Amount, Including Local Funds

Category:	.....	\$
Category:	.....	\$
Category:	.....	\$
Category:	.....	\$
Category:	.....	\$
Category:	.....	\$
Category:	.....	\$

Total Set-Asides.....\$

Describe for each category the rationale behind specific set-aside amounts from the NYSCCBG (e.g., estimated number of children).

Category:
Description:

Category:
Description:

Category:
Description:

Category:
Description:

The following amounts are set aside for specific priorities from the Title XX block grant:

Category:	.....	\$
Category:	.....	\$
Category:	.....	\$

Total Set-Asides (Title XX).....\$

Describe for each category the rationale behind specific amounts set aside from of the Title XX block grant (e.g., estimated number of children).

Category:

Description:

Category:

Description:

Category:

Description:

Category:

Description:

APPENDIX P
Title XX Child Care (Optional)

Enter projected total Title XX expenditures for the plan's duration:\$ 1,000,000.00

Indicate the financial eligibility limits (percentage of State Income Standard) your district will apply based on family size. Maximum reimbursable limits are 275% for a family of one or two, 255% for a family of three, and 225% for a family of four or more. Districts that are utilizing Title XX funds *only* for child protective and/or preventive child care services must not enter financial eligibility limits as these services are offered without regard to income.

Family Size: (2) % (3) % (4) %

Programmatic Eligibility for Income Eligible Families (Check all that apply.)

- Title XX: employment education/training
 seeking employment illness/incapacity
 homelessness domestic violence
 emergency situation of short duration
 participating in an approved substance abuse treatment program

Does the district apply any limitations to the programmatic eligibility criteria?

- Yes No

(See Technical Assistance #1 for information on limiting eligibility.)

If yes, describe eligibility criteria:

Does the district prioritize certain eligible families for Title XX funding?

- Yes No

If yes, describe which families will receive priority:

Does the district use Title XX funds for child care for open child protective services cases?

- Yes No

Does the district use Title XX funds for child care for open child preventive services cases?

- Yes No

APPENDIX Q

Additional Local Standards for Child Care Providers (Optional)

The district may propose local standards in addition to the State standards for legally-exempt providers who will receive child care subsidies. This appendix must be completed for **each** additional standard that the district wishes to implement.

1. Check or describe in the space provided below the additional local standards that will be required of child care providers/programs.

Verification that the provider has given the parent/caretaker complete and accurate information regarding any report of child abuse or maltreatment in which they are named as an indicated subject

Local criminal background check

Requirement that providers that care for subsidized children for 30 or more hours a week participate in the Child and Adult Food Care Program (CACFP)

Site visits by the local district

Other (please describe):

1. Legally exempt family child care providers must be medically approved to watch children if in the Agency's estimation their physical or mental abilities are questionable or the veracity of their self-attestation as to their abilities is in question. If there is a question as to the physical or mental ability of the legally exempt family child care provider to provide a medical statement may be requested from the provider's physician.

2. To be approved as a legally exempt family child care provider an individual cannot have previously received child care payments fraudulently as a provider. The Child Care Services worker will check the Day Care Fraud Ledger maintained by the Legal Division before approving the provider. Any overpayment is deducted from the DSS payment.

3. Legally-exempt family child care providers and residents of child care premises the age of 18 or over must sign a notarized authorization for Onondaga County Department of Social Services to conduct a local criminal history background check. Failure to sign a notarized authorization for OCDSS may result in the OCDSS refusing to allow such child care provider to participate in the Onondaga County Child Care Assistance Program

2. Check below the type of child care program to which the additional standard will apply and indicate the roles of the persons to whom it will apply in cases where the standard is person-specific.

Legally-exempt family child care program. Check all that apply.

Provider Provider's Employee Provider's Volunteer

Provider's household member age 18 or older

Legally-exempt in-home child care program. Check all that apply.

Provider Provider's Employee Provider's Volunteer

Legally-exempt group providers not operating under the auspices of another government agency. Check all that apply.

Provider Provider's Employee Provider's Volunteer

Legally-exempt group providers operating under the auspices of another government or tribal agency. Check all that apply.

Provider Provider's Employee Provider's Volunteer

3. Districts are responsible for implementation of the additional local standard unless they have a formal agreement or contract with another organization. Check the organization that will be responsible for the implementation of the additional local standard.

Local social services staff

Provide the name of the unit and contact person: Day Care Unit Ann Ricciardiello

Contracted agency

Provide the name of the agency and contact person:

4. Are there any costs associated with the additional standard?

Yes No

Note: Costs associated with the additional standard cannot be passed on to the provider.

5. Describe the steps for evaluating whether the additional local standard has been met.

Approval/Disapprove of Legally Exempt provider by Child Care Solutions

6. Indicate how frequently reviews of the additional standard will be conducted. Check all that apply.

Legally-Exempt Programs:

Initial enrollment During the 12-month enrollment period

Re-enrollment Other

7. In the space below, described the procedures the district will use to notify the Legally-Exempt Caregiver Enrollment Agency (EA) as to whether the legally-exempt provider is in compliance with the additional local standards. Districts must notify the EA within 25 days from the date they received the referral from the EA. (Districts need to describe this procedure only if the additional local standard is applied to legally-exempt child care providers.)

The Day Care unit remits the results of the criminal background check to Child Care Solutions, if any conviction prevents authorization.

8. Describe the justification for the additional standard in the space below.

To ensure, as much as possible, the health and safety of children in care.

APPENDIX R

Payment to Child Care Providers for Absences (Optional)

The following providers are eligible for payment for absences (check all that are eligible):

- Day Care Center Legally-Exempt Group
 Group Family Day Care School Age Child Care
 Family Day Care

Our county will only pay for absences to providers with which the district has a contract or letter of intent.

- Yes No

Base period (check one) 3 months 6 months

Number of absences allowed during base period:

Period	Routine Limits (# of days)	Extenuating Circumstances (# of days)	Total Number of Absences Allowed (# of days)
In a month	12	3	15
Base period	12	8	20

List reasons for absences for which the district will allow payment:

any legitimate reason

List any limitations on the above providers' eligibility for payment for absences:

Absences above the routine limit for individuals in employment activities must be preapproved by Jobsplus! and are limited to those in 415.6(b)(4).

Note: Legally-exempt family child care and in-home child care providers are **not** eligible to receive payment for absences.

APPENDIX S

Payment to Child Care Providers for Program Closures (Optional)

The following providers are eligible for payment for program closures:

- Day Care Center Legally-Exempt Group
- Group Family Day Care School Age Child Care
- Family Day Care

The county will only pay for program closures to providers with which the district has a contract or letter of intent.

- Yes No

Enter the number of days allowed for program closures (maximum allowable time for program closures is five days).

5

List the allowable program closures for which the county will provide payment.

on the following legal holidays: New Years Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Also on Snow Days/Emergency Closings.

Note: Legally-exempt family child care and in-home child car providers are **not** allowed to be reimbursed for program closures.

APPENDIX T

Transportation, Differential Payment Rates, Enhanced Market Rate for Legally-Exempt and In-Home Providers, and Sleep (Optional)

Transportation

Describe any circumstances and limitations your county will use to reimburse for transportation. Include what type of transportation will be reimbursed (public vs. private) and how much your county will pay (per mile or trip). Note that if the county is paying for transportation, the Program Matrix in WMS should reflect this choice.

1. Day Care centers providing transportation on center-owned buses for children in need of transportation will be paid the agreed upon billed rate
2. For those individuals required to participate in employment activities a bus pass for the child may be issued if a (a) special need is established or (b) the family's cash grant is insufficient to cover the child's transportation expenses
3. When determined by the Children's Services Administration that it is essential and no other form of transportation is available for a protective child care recipient, a taxi will be authorized.

Differential Payment Rates

Indicate the percentage above the market rate your county has chosen.

- Accredited programs may receive a differential payment up to _____ % above market rate.
- Care during non-traditional hours may be paid up to _____ % above market rate.
- Limitations to the above differentials:

Payments may not exceed 15% above market rate. However, if your district wishes to establish a payment rate that is more than 15% above the applicable market rate, describe below why the 15% maximum is insufficient to provide access within the district to accredited programs and/or care provided during non-traditional hours.

Enhanced Market Rate for Legally-Exempt Family and In-Home Child Care Providers

Indicate if the district is electing to establish a payment rate that is in excess of the enhanced market rate for legally-exempt family and in-home child care providers who have annually completed 10 or more hours of training and the training has been verified by the legally-exempt caregiver enrollment agency.

- No.
- Yes. Our market rate will not exceed 75% of the child care market rate established for registered family day care.

Sleep

The following describes the standards that will be used in evaluating whether or not to pay for child care services while a parent or caretaker that works a second or third shift sleeps, as well as any limitations pertaining to payment:

Up to 8 hours will be allowed for a parent or caretaker working a third shift. Decisions on the amount will generally be based on the ages of the children, work schedule of pa

Indicate the number of hours allowed by your district (maximum number of hours allowed is eight).

8

APPENDIX U

**Child Care Exceeding 24 Hours, Child Care Services Unit, Waivers,
and Breaks in Activities (Optional)**

Child Care Exceeding 24 Hours

Child Care services may exceed 24 consecutive hours when such services are provided on a short-term emergency basis or in other situations where the caretaker’s approved activity necessitates care for 24 hours on a limited basis. Check below under what circumstances the county will pay for child care exceeding 24 hours.

- On a short-term or emergency basis
- The caretaker’s approved activity necessitates care for 24 hours on a limited basis

Describe any limitations for payment of child care services that exceed 24 consecutive hours.

Child Care Services Unit (CCSU)

Indicate below if your county will include 18-, 19-, or 20-year-olds in the CCSU, which is used in determining family size and countable family income.

The district will include the following in the CCSU (check all that apply).

- 18-year-olds
- 19-year-olds
- 20-year-olds

OR

The district will only include the following in the CCSU when it will benefit the family (check all that apply)

- 18-year-olds
- 19-year-olds
- 20-year-olds

Describe the criteria your district will use to determine whether or not 18-, 19-, or 20-year olds are included in the CCSU.

Waivers

Districts have the authority to request a waiver of any regulatory provision that is non-statutory. Describe and justify why your county is requesting a waiver.

Breaks in Activities

Districts may pay for child care services for low income families during breaks in activities either for a period not to exceed two weeks or for a period not to exceed four weeks when child care arrangements would otherwise be lost and the subsequent activity is expected to begin within that period. Indicate below if your county will make such payments (check one).

- Two weeks
- Four weeks

Districts may provide child care services while the caretaker is waiting to enter an approved activity or employment or on a break between approved activities. The following low income

families are eligible for child care services during a break in activities (check any that are eligible):

- Entering an activity
- Waiting for employment
- On a break between activities

PINS Diversion Services Protocol	Responsible Agency(ies)	Brief Description of How Provided
<p>2. Determines the need for residential respite services and need for alternatives to detention</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Probation <input type="checkbox"/> LDSS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (name) Salvation Army</p>	<p>The County will continue the relationship with the Salvation Army's Booth House and Emergency Shelter which provides respite services including a 24 hour Respite Hotline which is accessible to Probation and the County's new ACCESS Team, which is the new single point of access call center for County services involving youth and families</p>
<p>3. Serves as intake agency – accepts referral for PINS diversion services, conducts initial conferencing, and makes PIN eligibility determinations</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Probation <input type="checkbox"/> LDSS <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Other (name)</p>	<p>Probation will continue the practice of providing regular Parent PINS Orientations which informs parents of the PINS process and if parents desire diversion services, will make an appointment with Probation to complete a standard application. For schools seeking Truancy Diversion, referrals are provided directly to Probation.</p>
<p>4. Conducts assessment of needs, strengths, and risk for continuing with PIN behavior Name of assessment instrument used:</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Probation <input type="checkbox"/> LDSS <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Other (name)</p>	<p>All youth with PINS behavior will have a YASI pre-screen assessment completed. Assessments that are scored medium or high risk receive the full assesment which will qualify the youth for our higher end evidence based services like FFT or MST. Youth who score low risk are considered for referral to other community resources and programs and closure.</p>
<p>5. Works with youth and family to develop case plan</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Probation <input type="checkbox"/> LDSS <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Other (name)</p>	<p>Youth who participate in diversion services complete a diversion agreement which is voluntary and may include treatment and/or counseling, school attendance, curfew requirements, and any other concerns identified in the YASI.</p>

PINS Diversion Services Protocol	Responsible Agency(ies)	Brief Description of How Provided
6. Determines service providers and makes referrals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Probation <input type="checkbox"/> LDSS <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Other (name)	Probation Officers will review the YASI Assessment findings and make the appropriate referrals to services depending on their need and score. Services include evidence based programs like FFT and MST for medium and high risk youth, and community based services for low risk youth.
7. Makes case closing determination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Probation <input type="checkbox"/> LDSS <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Other (name)	The determination to close a case will be made by the Probation Officer and Probation Supervisor who will further review diligent efforts that were undertaken. If youth successfully complete their diversion agreement, and the family is satisfied with the progress, the case will be closed. If there is not satisfactory compliance with the diversion agreement, and/or no further intervention seems likely to benefit the family, the Department will notify the family in writing of the termination of diversion efforts, and a petition to Family Court may be pursued.

4. PINS Diversion Services Plan

a. Development of PINS Diversion Services Plan and MOU

i. Planning activities – Briefly describe all PINS Diversion Services Planning activities the county has engaged in related to this current plan.

The County of Onondaga's Juvenile Justice Steering Committee has been in place since 2005 and provides strategic vision and oversight regarding the development of initiatives that impact the Juvenile Justice System including PINS. The plan is developed by staff from Probation, Social Services, Mental Health and Aging & Youth with guidelines given by the Steering Committee. The plan is presented to the Steering Committee Annually and the outcomes are presented for review on a quarterly basis.

ii. List stakeholder and service agency involvement in planning.

- Onondaga County Probation Department
- Onondaga County Department of Social Services
- Onondaga County Department of Mental Health

Onondaga County Department of Aging & Youth
Syracuse City School District
Salvation Army
OnCare (Onondaga County System of Care)

- b. Please define the PINS Diversion population in your county. Specifically, please provide the following:
- i. Number of PINS Diversion referrals filed by parents: 186
 - ii. Number of PINS Diversion referrals by schools: 57
 - iii. Number of PINS Diversion referrals other sources: 0
 - iv. Number of PINS Diversion cases closed as Successfully Diverted: 130
 - v. Number of PINS Diversion cases closed as Unsuccessful and Referred to Petition: 44

5. Identify any **aggregate** needs assessment conclusions and/or priorities regarding the PINS Diversion Population that have been developed as part of the planning process.

The County of Onondaga has has a Juvenile Justice Steering Committee in place since July of 2005 which is charges with developing systems, processes, and reviewing services meant to divert youth from detention and further involveent in the juvenile justice system. Since the inception of the Committee the system and the reforms and programs created and reviewed by the Steering Committee have already seen a major decrease in the number of PINS cases in the Probation Department. In 2005 the Department opened 689 PINS cases which was decreased to 298 and 2009 and down to 243 in 2010. This is because of increased efforts of the Department in Pre Diversion work and utilizing assessment tools to close more low risk youth.

Through review of the Committee it was determined that there still seemed to be issues with providing 24 hour crisis response beyond the RESPITE hotline services provided through the Salvation Army Respite Program. The Committee in conjunction with Probation and Social Services and the County's System of Care Initiative (OnCare) have developed a Crisis Response Team which will begin in January of 2012 and will be accessible for Probation and the County's 24-Hour ACCESS Hotline to provide crisis response for families.

6. Please identify the intended outcomes to be achieved for the PINS Diversion population. For each outcome:
- a. In the first column, identify quantifiable and verifiable outcomes of the desired change in conditions or behaviors for the PINS Diversion population.
 - b. In the second column, identify the specific raw number or percentage change indicator sought for that outcome.
 - c. In the third column, **describe the strategies** to be implemented to achieve the identified indicator and outcome. Each strategy should include the timeframe for completion, and a designation of who is responsible for implementation.

Outcome (For PINS Diversion Population)	Indicator (Expressed as a raw number or % change)	Strategy/Plan to achieve (Who, what, and when)
<p>% or PINS Intake cases that will be successfully adjusted</p>	<p>75%</p>	<p>Probation will continue mandatory bi-monthly Parent PINS meetings in conjunction with Mental Health. Continue to use the YASI and CANS assessment tools to verify risk and guide referrals to programs and services. Increase referrals to services by Probation through increased programming linked to the YASI assessment findings.</p>
<p>% of PINS Intake cases that are pre-screened using the YASI assessment tool</p>	<p>100%</p>	<p>Probation Officers upon receiving a PINS intake for diversion will be required to complete the YASI pre-screen to initially assess the youth. Youth who score high or medium risk will have a full YASI completed for referral to services, while low risk youth will be considered for referral to community services and closure.</p>
<p>% of PINS Intake Cases Scoring High or Medium Risk that are referred to evidence-based interventions.</p>	<p>80%</p>	<p>Probation Officers, upon completion of the YASI Assessment for youth who scored medium or high risk on the pre-screen will use the assessment to direct them to the needs and programs that address identified needs and make the appropriate referrals to the programs as part of their diversion agreement.</p>