

**NYS OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES
COMMISSIONER CARRIÓN ANNOUNCES NEARLY \$1 MILLION
FOR KINSHIP CARE PROGRAMS**

Allocation Will Expand Number of Kinship Programs Across State

New York State Office of Children and Family Services Commissioner Gladys Carrión, Esq., today announced the award of \$995,153 to fund kinship care services through eight non-profit organizations targeting 11 counties across the state.

Kinship programs are designed to work in collaboration with local social services districts, offices for the aging, and community-based organizations to provide a full range of services directly on-site or through referral. The programs help improve children's school engagement and family and peer relationships, as well as their legal status and access to TANF/Medicaid benefits.

This allocation will expand the number of projects within the NYS Kinship Caregiver Program from 13 to 21, reaching nearly 30 counties.

"There are over 400,000 children in New York State who are being raised by a grandparent or other relative," said Commissioner Carrión. "Kinship programs promote permanency and well-being for children living with their extended families. These programs also reduce costs to taxpayers by decreasing out-of-home placements and maintaining the familial bond for children."

Beth Finkel, Manager of State Programs and Services for AARP New York, said: "We are extremely pleased that New York State, under the leadership of Governor David A. Paterson, is able to continue to support kinship programs. Kinship caregivers must overcome a variety of unique legal, financial, and emotional challenges to successfully raise the children in their care. These new programs will strengthen advocacy, counseling, and educational services available for kinship families to address these multiple needs."

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Gerard Wallace, Esq., who heads NYS Kinship Navigator information and resources, said: “Grandparents and other non-parent relatives caring for children have many strengths, but they often face challenges accessing health, education, financial and legal services for children in their care. The OCFS-funded kinship programs lend valuable support and help keep families together.”

For more information on kinship programs in New York State, visit www.nysnavigator.org or call 1-877-454-6463.

These kinship allocations are being funded through the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. Programs funded include:

- Bronx: The Children’s Village, \$125,000
- Columbia/Greene/Schoharie: Catholic Charities of Columbia/Greene, \$125,000
- Dutchess: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County, \$125,000
- Kings (Brooklyn): Jewish Board of Family and Children’s Services, \$125,000
- Nassau: Hispanic Counseling Center Inc., \$125,000
- Oneida/Herkimer: The Neighborhood Center Inc., \$120,153
- Queens: Lutheran Social Services of Metropolitan NY, \$125,000
- Westchester: Family Services Society of Yonkers Inc., \$125,000

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