

New York State Children & Family Trust Fund **2010 Annual Report**



New York State Office of Children and Family Services

Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor

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New York State Children & Family Trust Fund 2010 Annual Report

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Looking Upstream for Solutions: A Smart Investment

During the 1980s, like numerous states across the country, New York established the William B. Hoyt Memorial Children and Family Trust Fund (Trust Fund) as a dedicated source of funding solely for child abuse prevention. New York chose to expand its focus to include domestic violence and elder abuse prevention. The enabling legislation, Social Services Law Article 10-A, Section 481-a to 481-f, defines this focus, establishes the Advisory Board, defines the funding allocation and spend-down structure and requires an Annual Report.

The Trust Fund's primary goals align with those of the National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds—to reach families before abuse occurs and provide a critical safety net for all families in need. It does this primarily by funding community-based resources that serve to strengthen individual and community responses, to preserve the health and safety of children, promote strong and stable families, and contribute to thriving communities.

In addition to changing and saving lives, effective primary prevention programs can save resources. All forms of abuse—child abuse, domestic violence and elder abuse—inflict a tremendous toll on victims, families and communities. Research links family violence to cognitive impairments, chronic disease, mental illness, inter-generational abuse and other conditions, leading to costly interventions from health care systems, school districts, mental health services, law enforcement, court systems, county governments and communities. In addition, programs see an increasing need for prevention as families cope with increasing economic stressors.

Recognizing the relationship between child abuse, domestic violence and elder abuse, the Trust Fund supports four types of programs: child abuse prevention and parent education, including Family Resource Centers (FRCs); domestic violence prevention and intervention; elder abuse prevention and



community education; and statewide initiatives, including public education and awareness.

Research has shown that the presence of certain factors can help prevent child abuse and maltreatment. Trust Fund child abuse prevention programs work to promote these protective factors¹ which include:

- Nurturing and attachment—Building a close bond helps parents better understand, respond to, and communicate with their children.
- Knowledge of parenting and of child and youth development—Parents learn what milestones to look for at each age and how to help their children reach their full potential.
- Parental resilience—Recognizing the signs of stress and enhancing problem-solving skills can help parents build their capacity to cope.
- Social connections—Parents with an extensive network of family, friends, and neighbors have better support in times of need.
- Concrete supports for parents—Caregivers with access to financial, housing, and other concrete resources and services that help them meet their basic needs can better attend to their role as parents.

¹ www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/preventionmonth/guide2011/

Achieving Meaningful Outcomes

Trust Fund programs all employ a universal approach of building on individual strengths in the context of their communities and culture. Program staff partner with families to build skills, avoid harm, reduce the need for costly interventions and create brighter futures. The relationship between Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) Trust Fund staff and program staff is also collaborative in order to establish best practices, consistent priorities and meaningful outcomes. This leads to better results for families and communities.

During the second 12-month period of funding, which included 2010, Trust Fund programs achieved specific outcomes for individuals and secondary outcomes for communities.

Trust Fund child abuse prevention programs attained the following outcomes:

- 2,512 caregivers increased their nurturing and attachment with children
- 2,309 individuals increased their social connections
- 1,846 individuals increased their knowledge of parenting, and child/youth development
- 1,794 individuals increased their access to concrete supports
- 807 children and parents improved child safety through receipt of respite care, improved knowledge of resources and increased skills to identify potentially unsafe situations
- 697 individuals improved their parental resilience
- More than 99,000 parents of newborns learned about Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) and strategies for coping with a crying baby

Elder Abuse Prevention

Elder abuse prevention program outcomes included:

- 1,487 individuals increased their recognition of elder abuse and knowledge of related community resources
- 35 elders exposed to family violence improved their safety through a safety plan and decreased dependency on abuser

Domestic Violence Programs

Domestic violence program outcomes included:

- 1,135 custodial and non-custodial parents improved their parenting skills
- 950 youth increased their knowledge of healthy relationship characteristics

- 730 children exposed to family violence improved behaviors and/or social skills
- 295 children and adults experiencing domestic violence improved their safety options through the creation of safety plans

Increasing Evidence to Support Investments

The Trust Fund works with programs to incorporate research, collect and analyze data, and glean lessons learned from their experience into their program design. This continuous quality improvement process leads to better outcomes for individuals accessing services.



Research

Five key research projects were used in 2010 to shape programs, allocate resources and provide future direction.

- The Family Resource Center (FRC) Community Study documented the integration of FRCs into the social service safety net. In each FRC community, at least nine organizations such as local departments of social services, Head Start, child care, Family Courts and libraries were aware of the FRC and 78% referred families to FRC programs.
- The FRC Outcomes Study showed that all caregivers who accessed FRC services over time improved some factors that protect against child abuse. Areas assessed included appropriate parent-child roles, avoiding harsh discipline and parental empathy. Participants with lower baseline scores, as well as those with lower income and fewer years of education, were most likely to improve on these and additional protective factor measures.
- The FRC Dosage Analysis focused on the type of services accessed by families, and how often they were accessed. This information identified utilization patterns both at individual sites and across all funded FRCs and provided data leading to program enhancements.
- The *New York State Elder Abuse Prevalence Study* was groundbreaking in its scope and depth. Significant results included identification of the

most common forms of elder abuse. This can shape priorities for policies and allocation of resources affecting families.

- Since 2004, the incidence of Shaken Baby Syndrome has decreased in the pilot region of Western New York through the Shaken Baby Prevention Project. Now expanding statewide to build on this success, the project is expected to reach close to 250,000 parents of newborns each year.

Through Trust Fund support, families accessed evidenced-based practices (supported in research) and evidenced-based programs (specific curriculum validated by research) at 14 programs across the state. These model programs, such as The Incredible Years, Effective Black Parenting and Parent-Child Home program, are built on knowledge of what works for families.

Data

The analysis and dissemination of data is an important element of Trust Fund programs. Staff of OCFS and of programs share information in order to enhance services, create better alignment with OCFS and local social service initiatives, and work toward improved outcomes for families. In 2010, examples of this work included:

- Helping staff at 20 FRCs understand and apply the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) data to the design of their program.
- Collecting standardized data using a validated outcome assessment tool, the Protective Factors Survey, at all funded Family Resource Centers.
- Increasing the awareness of disproportionate minority representation in the child welfare system through discussions and sharing statistics with programs.
- Increasing the focus on families with risk factors for child abuse and maltreatment at 20 FRCs.
- Maintaining fidelity to an evidence-based model, The Incredible Years, by identifying best practices and sharing strategies and tools in conference calls and meetings.

- Undertaking the Program Self-Assessment and Peer Review process at five FRCs—three of them in New York City. FRCs incorporated data collected from stakeholders to promote recommended practices, strategic planning, exchange of valuable resources, meaningful involvement of program participants and reflection on experience. Improving outreach strategies is the current focus of this work.

Reaching Individuals

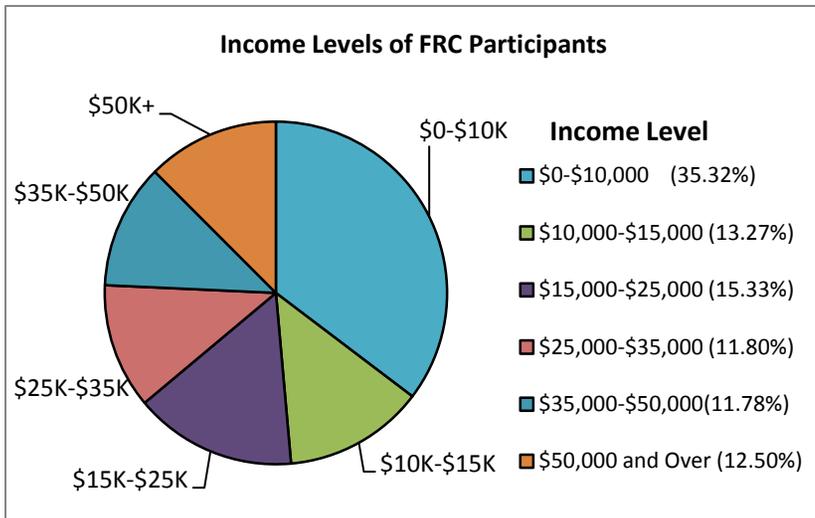
Through direct services and educational programs, more than 109,000 children, adults, and community members were assisted through Trust Fund programs in 2010.

Demographics

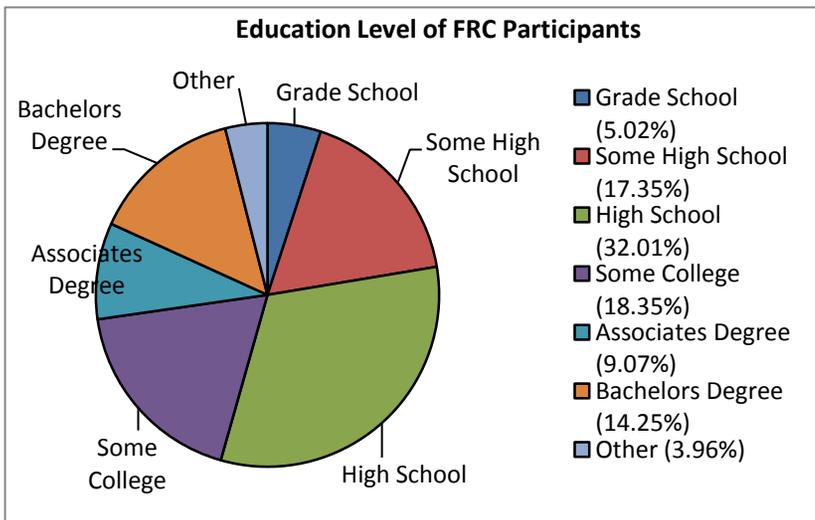
Many participants of Trust Fund supported programs are at increased risk of abuse due to factors such as domestic violence, gender, low income, and low education level.

- All adults and children served by the four domestic violence projects had been exposed to domestic violence.
- Women are at a higher risk of elder abuse; the population served through the elder abuse project in 2010 was 88% female; 27% of the females were over the age of 80.
- While they provide universal access, FRCs serve many individuals with risk factors. Over 76% of families who used FRC services between September 2009 and September 2010 had one or more risk factors. More than 33% had three or more risk factors.

In 2010, over 48% of those served at FRCs had family incomes under \$15,000, regardless of family size. During this same time period, the federal definition of poverty was \$14,570 for a family of two.



Over 54% of FRC participants reported high school as their highest education level. *Some* high school is the highest level for more than one in five.



Personal Success

Just as individuals participating in services have their own strengths, they also have their own goals for success. Increasing protective factors is realized in many different ways. Here are the stories of a few 2010 participants:

- A father was awarded custody of his newborn child—actions due to his involvement in the Parenting Wisely Program.
- A young family in and out of the shelter system learned to interact and play with their 2-year old child through home visiting services.
- An elderly women is safer because she pursued legal action against her boyfriend, with counseling and support from her social worker.
- A mom had unrealistic expectations and little verbal interaction with her baby until she participated in a facilitated play group that resulted in more smiles, laughter and verbal interaction.
- A teen mom with multiple challenges, including an abusive relationship, completed home health aide certification and committed to earning her GED to work at a local hospital, made possible by supports from a family resource center.

Bridging Local, State and Federal Systems

Universal System of Support

The Trust Fund staff and supported programs contribute to cross-system efforts implemented at local, state and federal levels. Increasing connections between systems increases access to services that decrease the need for system intervention with families. A wide range of government and community-based organizations link with Trust Fund programs to coordinate and share resources, refer families, and identify emerging needs. These alliances were especially crucial in 2010 as the economic situation added stress to families already in need of support and stretched the resources available to provide a safety net.

Local Departments of Social Services

Trust Fund programs worked to enhance their connections to local departments of social services (LDSS) during 2010. This continuing work helps align services supported by the Trust Fund with county priorities and needs of families.

Throughout the year, staff of the Trust Fund and of funded programs based much of their work on the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) data, the Family Assessment Response (FAR) approach, targeting populations at higher risk for system intervention, and family engagement strategies that also shapes LDSS work. Examples of Trust Fund program and LDSS staff collaboration include identification of local high risk populations, caseworkers bringing families to FRCs, LDSS staff joining OCFS Trust Fund staff on site visits and joint participation in logic model training. The strengths-based philosophy of Trust Fund programs mirrors the family engagement approach that local social service districts implement across the state.

New York State Parenting Education Partnership

OCFS is increasing access to high quality parenting education through the New York State Parenting Education Partnership (NYSPEP). NYSPEP is a collaborative of over 800 individuals and is co-convened by OCFS through the Trust Fund, Prevent Child Abuse New York, the New York State Council on Children and Families, and the New York State Office of Mental Health. Effective parenting education can improve child well-being, promote factors that protect against abuse, and support school success. Accomplishments during 2010 included providing training to identify strategies that support FAR in local districts, conducting 10 parent focus groups to better align services with family needs, and providing 20 skill-building sessions for parent educators. NYSPEP is currently developing an on-line searchable database of parenting education offerings and a resource-rich, evidence-based “New Parent Kit” that will reach all new parents. For more details, see the newly retooled website at www.nyspep.org.



Early Childhood Advisory Council

Trust Fund staff represents OCFS on the Governor’s Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC). ECAC includes a wide range of State and community-based organizations designing a comprehensive system of care incorporating local front-line work and state level initiatives.

Keeping Children Safe and Healthy

In addition to supporting New York’s effective Shaken Baby Prevention Program, the Trust Fund staff continues other work to reduce infant fatalities, prevent injuries and distribute materials to families and child caregivers. In 2010, this work included aligning efforts with the New York State Department of Health (DOH) through the “Keeping Kids Alive” initiative. Additionally, DOH, with Trust Fund support, is creating a video on Shaken Baby Syndrome. Efforts to increase the use of safe sleep practices included coordinating written materials used by front-line caseworkers, and starting production of a video on the topic for county child welfare staff. Distribution of the video is expected in 2011.

Organizations from a broad range of family-serving systems rely on New York Loves Safe Babies materials produced through the Trust Fund in collaboration with DOH. In 2010, over 100,000 printed publications and DVDs were requested by individuals, county government, health care providers, homeless shelters, and organizations across the state. Others accessed materials through the OCFS website. Materials, available in English and Spanish, include:

- Tips Sheets (also available in Chinese, Russian and Arabic)
 - Safe to Sleep
 - Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)
 - Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
 - Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS)
 - Safe at Play
 - Safety In or Around Vehicles
- “Helpful Strategies for Keeping Infants and Young Children Safe” DVD
- Keeping Sleeping Babies Safer brochure
- Personalized Safety Tips and Emergency Contact Sheet

Federal Systems

The Trust Fund works with FRIENDS, the National Resource Center for the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) program. FRIENDS supports states' efforts to build capacity in the full array of federal requirements including parent leadership, evidenced-based program and practices, peer review, and social marketing, among others. The Trust Fund staff contributed to the development of a peer review toolkit, and continuously utilizes FRIENDS resources through monthly webinars and annual network meetings.

Established in 1989, the National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds provides member states with critical tools to support effective programs; advance the protective factor framework; fund opportunities to collaborate with early childhood initiatives; reframe communication to create change; and build effective partnerships with parents. New York's Trust Fund contributes to the national network as a member of the Board of Directors and by sharing its experiences in growing and sustaining child abuse prevention strategies. A notable example is the New York State Shaken Baby Prevention (SBS) Program research that spurred replication of this model across the country and helped create a unified message in response to the increasing number of child fatalities due to SBS.

Trust Fund child abuse prevention projects mirror the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) strategic direction to promote safe, stable and nurturing relationships. These projects also fit with the philosophy of the federal Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) funding. This approach is based on the belief that all families have strengths, that caregiving practices are influenced by social context, and that long-term change is possible.

Other Key Partnerships

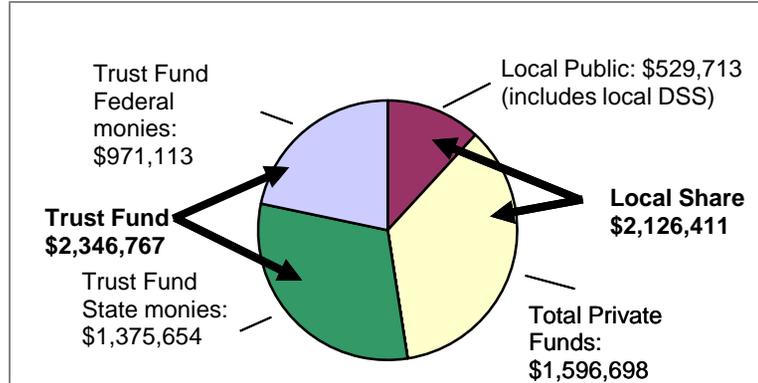
The Trust Fund has partnered with Prevent Child Abuse New York since 1995 to support shared goals of promoting effective programs, sharing best practice strategies and shaping discussion about prevention. The Trust Fund also supports the Prevent Child Abuse New York conference, an annual training for professionals supporting families across the state.

The New York State Council on Children and Families and the Trust Fund partner to work on a common aim of creating a coordinated, comprehensive system of care for all families, and to advance the New York State Parenting Education Partnership (NYSPEP), a statewide network to promote, provide, and improve parenting education. This collaboration also focuses on using the protective factor framework to promote partnerships between early childhood and family support programs to create a more systematic way to reach very young children and their families.

Leveraging Resources

The Trust Fund administers monies from two different sources: New York State funds that are designated to the Trust Fund and the federal Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) grant. CBCAP funds are allocated to each state based on child population, and require that a minimum level of state funding be directed toward CBCAP priorities. In 2010, Trust Fund dollars provide this required match for the Federal funds, maximizing resources for New York's families.

Trust Fund support also serves to attract other funding and support. In 2010, Trust Fund programs secured over 47% of their budget from sources outside of the Trust Fund. Local organizations, individuals and government entities such as local Departments of Social Services (LDSS) donate financially, provide in-kind services, refer families to programs, and volunteer their time. These collaborations enrich families and communities while stretching scarce resources.



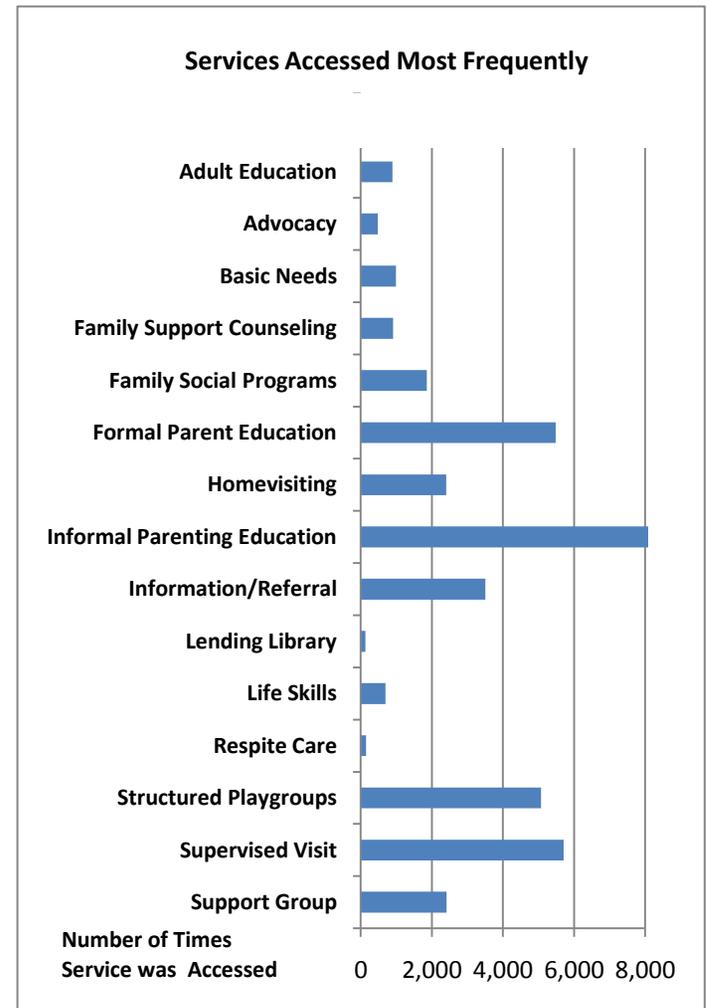
The amount of public and private funds used for each type of Trust Fund-supported programs are indicated on the chart below. This illustrates the fact that for every \$1.00 of public funding invested in these programs, \$1.56 in services were provided to children, adults and elders across New York State.

Service type	Funding Details				Value of services delivered to children and adults
	Trust Fund State allocation	Trust Fund Federal funds (CBCAP)	Local public funds other public entities	Private funds Donations, in-kind services, other grants	
Child abuse	\$809,838	\$901,670	\$424,262	\$1,552,673	\$3,688,443
Domestic Violence	\$314,995	\$69,443	\$0	\$25,267	\$409,705
Elder Abuse	\$250,821	\$0	\$105,451	\$18,758	\$375,030
Totals	\$1,375,654	\$971,113	\$529,713	\$1,596,698	\$4,473,178

A full 100% of Trust Fund State funds are awarded to programs. Of the CBCAP funds, approximately 20% is used to offset administrative costs incurred by New York State Office of Children and Family Services.

Using Funds Wisely: 2010 Grantees

In 2010, 28 programs received Trust Fund grants. These programs provided a range of resources, all working toward meaningful outcomes for children, adults and families. Individuals accessed services from these programs more than 40,000 times. The services used most frequently by individuals were formal and informal parenting education, supervised visits between parents and their children, and structured playgroups.



Family Resource Centers

One type of child abuse prevention program supported by the Trust Fund is the nationally recognized Family Resource Center (FRC) model.

FRCs provide vital services to families in a nurturing environment. Services are open to all families, with an emphasis on those with children ages five and under at higher risk of child abuse.

Core services provided by FRCs include:

- parent education and support
- parent/child/family activities
- information and referral to other community services
- programs promoting family health
- parent leadership and peer support opportunities

Based on community needs, programs may also link to or provide complementary services such as home visiting, clothes closets and food pantries, supervised visitation, support groups, Early Intervention (EI) services, mental health services, and substance abuse services.

The FRC Network of 20 sites from across the State meets quarterly to share solutions, develop strategies, align data collection efforts and give a voice to families served. In 2010 the Network developed strategies to use CFSR data to design services and to focus FRC work on high risk families. The Network also enriches other OCFS initiatives such as Healthy Families New York and Kinship Care.



<i>Grant recipient</i>	<i>County served; program location</i>	<i>Funding source*</i>	<i>Grant amount</i>
Association to Benefit Children	New York; Manhattan	CBCAP	\$112,500
Catholic Charities of Montgomery County	Montgomery; Amsterdam	CBCAP	\$39,668
Child & Family Resources Inc. of Ontario and Yates Counties	Ontario; Geneva	CBCAP	\$26,601
Child Care Coordinating Council of the North Country	Clinton; Plattsburgh Essex; Elizabethtown Franklin; Tupper Lake and Malone	CBCAP	\$112,500
Chinese-American Planning Council, Inc.	New York; Manhattan	CBCAP	\$33,750
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cortland County	Cortland; Cortland	CBCAP	\$56,247
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tioga County	Tioga; Waverly and Owego	CBCAP	\$66,251
Family Resource Centers of Crestwood Children’s Center	Monroe; Rochester	CBCAP	\$63,000
Mothers & Babies Perinatal Network of South Central New York, Inc.	Broome; Binghamton	CBCAP	\$33,446
Niagara Falls City School	Niagara; Niagara Falls	CBCAP	\$112,500
North Country Prenatal/Perinatal Council, Inc.	St. Lawrence; Gouverneur	CBCAP	\$57,938

<i>Grant recipient</i>	<i>County served; program location</i>	<i>Funding source*</i>	<i>Grant amount</i>
Phipps Community Development Corporation	Bronx; South Bronx	CBCAP	\$112,500
Pro-Action of Steuben & Yates, Inc.	Steuben; Addison, Bath, Corning, Woodhull	CBCAP	\$72,769

* CBCAP Federal Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) grant.

Child Abuse Prevention Programs

In addition to Family Resource Centers, the Trust Fund supports six other programs working to strengthen families and prevent child abuse through education, home visiting, respite care and family support services.

Each program designs performance measures for their services based on community need, best practice, and the families they serve.

<i>Grant recipient</i>	<i>County served; program location</i>	<i>Funding source*</i>	<i>Grant amount</i>
Child Abuse Prevention Services	Nassau; Roslyn	State	\$36,156
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County	Tompkins; Groton, Ithaca	State	\$47,088
Gateway Longview	Erie; Buffalo	State	\$108,757
Homes for the Homeless	New York; Bronx	State	\$109,125
SCO Family of Services	Kings; Brooklyn	State	\$108,659
Women's Prison Association	Kings; East New York	State	\$109,125

also see Statewide Initiatives

* State New York State funds designated to the Trust Fund.

Domestic Violence Programs

The Trust Fund supports four programs working with families experiencing, or at risk of, domestic violence. Services include:

- supervised visitation
- group and individual counseling
- parenting education
- safety planning
- advocacy
- school-based prevention programs for elementary grades K-6
- teen dating violence prevention programs

<i>Grant recipient</i>	<i>County served; program location</i>	<i>Funding source*</i>	<i>Grant amount</i>
Cattaraugus Community Action, Inc.	Cattaraugus; Salamanca, Olean	State	\$108,980
Oswego County Opportunities, Inc.	Oswego; Fulton, Richland	State	\$99,668
Putnam/Northern Westchester Women's Resource Center	Putnam; Mohopac	State	\$106,347
Salvation Army	Chautauqua; Jamestown	CBCAP	\$69,443

* CBCAP Federal Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) grant.
State New York State funds designated to the Trust Fund.

Elder Abuse Programs

The Trust Fund supports prevention and intervention programs that reach adults over the age of 60 who are, or may be, at risk of physical abuse, emotional abuse, and/or financial exploitation primarily by family members. Program activities also include education of community members and professionals to increase the safety net for elderly who may be at risk.

Grant recipient	County served; program location	Funding source*	Grant amount
Equinox	Albany; Albany	State	\$45,321
Family Justice Center of Erie County	Erie; Buffalo	State	\$60,000

also see Statewide Initiatives

* State New York State funds designated to the Trust Fund.

Statewide Initiatives

In 2010, Trust Fund statewide projects included: research on the prevalence of elder abuse led by Lifespan of Greater Rochester; and hospital-based education programs, led jointly by Kaleida Health/ Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo and WMC-NY, Inc., reaching parents of newborns through all birthing and maternity hospitals

Grant recipient	County served; program location	Funding source*	Grant amount
Lifespan of Greater Rochester	statewide; Rochester	State	\$145,500
Kaleida Health/Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo	statewide; Buffalo	State	\$145,419
WMC-NY, Inc. (formerly Children's Hospital Foundation at Westchester Medical Center)	statewide; Valhalla	State	\$145,500

also see Child Abuse

* State New York State funds designated to the Trust Fund.

Additional Information

Further information about the New York State Children and Family Trust Fund is available by contacting the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS).

OCFS Contact Information

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Judy.Richards@ocfs.state.ny.us
(518) 474-9613
- Cheryl Cannon, Program Manager
- Karen Kissinger, Program Manager
- Veronica Cartier, Program Aide

Trust Fund 2010 Advisory Board Members

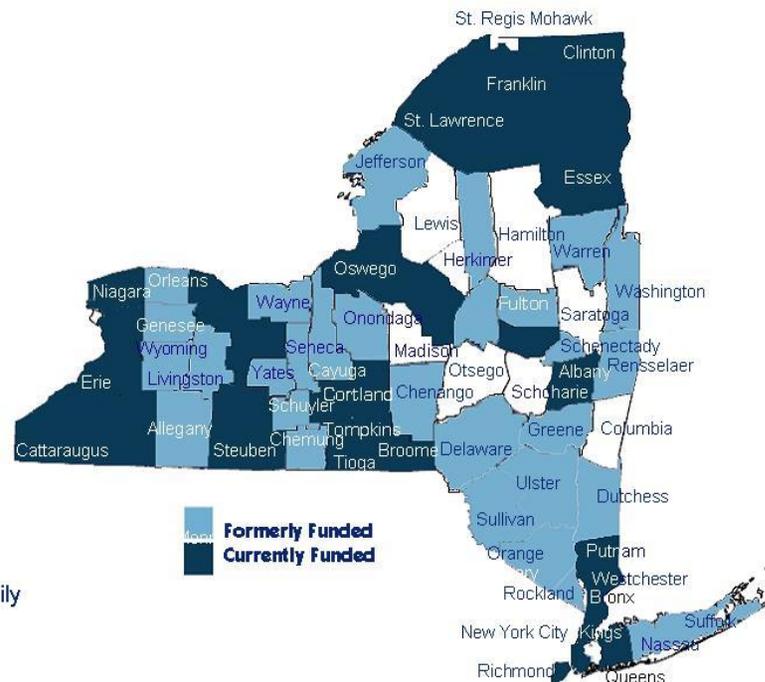
- Sarah Brewster*
- Paula Campbell
- Linda James*
- Bernadette Njoku
- Kenneth Onaitis
- Carolyn Hoyt Stevens
- Herbert Stupp
- Gwen Wright

* appointed in 2010; additional slots remained unfilled in 2010

Publications

Publications related to the Trust Fund can be downloaded or requested through the OCFS website at www.ocfs.state.ny.us.

- Trust Fund Annual Reports
- New York State Family Resource Center Network Brochure (OCFS Pub. 5070)
- Guidelines for New York State Family Resource Centers (OCFS Pub. 5071)



Since 1986, the Trust Fund has funded 252 projects across New York State. The map illustrates the current statewide distribution of programs.

* **NOTE:** There are three statewide family violence prevention programs.

The William B. Hoyt Memorial Children and Family Trust Fund has been supporting essential family violence prevention programs since 1986.

