



Office of Children and Family Services

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

SUZANNE MILES-GUSTAVE, ESQ.
Acting Commissioner

Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS)

Transparency Plan Updates (since 2021)

February 20, 2024

- **Child Welfare**

- The Family First dashboard
 - OCFS Launched a Family First Preventive Services Act dashboard on January 13, 2022. The dashboard provides data and information to assist the public, local communities, and local departments of social services in tracking the State's progress in implementation of the federal Family First Preventive Services Act. It is accessed on the OCFS Family First webpage. Data is updated monthly. The dashboard has been socialized with stakeholders at the State Implementation Team (SIT) as well as in regional meetings with LDSS Commissioners. There has been a high degree of favorable response to this resource.
- Volunteer Agency (VA) Licensing Website
 - OCFS explored ways to streamline its licensing webpage for voluntary foster care agencies to create a one-stop shop for resources, licensing documents, manuals, rates, regulations and links to various state systems they are required to use. VA licensing website has been completed: [Voluntary Agency Licensing | Foster Care | OCFS \(ny.gov\)](#)

- **Child Care**

- Website updates
 - OCFS posts weekly COVID infection data for child care programs on its website.
 - OCFS posts a weekly child care stabilization grant dashboard on its website, showing the total amount of approved grants and amounts disbursed to child care programs statewide.
 - OCFS provides information on its website to indicate when a licensed and registered provider has been disqualified from receiving subsidy payments, for example, due to substantiation of fraud.
- Translation of Vital Child Care documents
 - OCFS now translates all vital child care documents into 12 languages and the IT application for the child care stabilization grants was also translated into 12 languages. OCFS strives to provide the same level of translation for any new grant opportunities going forward.

- **Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (ODEIA) and Strategic Planning and Policy Development (SPPD)**

- [Policy Author's Guide](#): The Policy Author's Guide, also referred to as "PAG" or "the Guide", was developed as a resource for policy teams to engage in pro-equitable policy decisions. This guide is

intended to communicate OCFS' core value which is the safety, permanency and well-being of the children and families that make up the communities we serve. The guide will help ensure that equity is infused throughout the policy process.

- ODEIA also created a calendar of events and celebrations, and footage/video of past presentations/panels/workshops
- **Youth Development and Juvenile Justice**
 - Incident Data
 - OCFS has been posting incident data for youth detention programs on its website since February 2022. These reports are organized by detention facility and show the number and rate of incidents in non-secure, secure and specialized secure detention facilities. Data for NYC non-secure and secure are not in the report because they currently are not reporting those incidents directly into the statewide system but this will change in 2024/2025.
- **Commission for the Blind**
 - Accessibility
 - The New York State Commission for the Blind (NYSCB) and OCFS ensures that all web content and documents are reviewed for accessibility before posting or sharing interagency. Word documents are included to ensure accessibility.
 - OCFS also strives to make sure that any information sent to employees is provided in an accessible manner.

INITIATIVES TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN 2024

- **Child Welfare**
 - OCFS is assessing the feasibility of posting monitoring and oversight reports following reviews of local districts and voluntary foster care agencies and continues to move forward with the plan to post monitoring and oversight reports. Process will mirror current process for the posting of fatality reports. Implementation planning in process, plan to complete by Fall 2024.
- **Child Care**
 - OCFS created a new Child Care Data Page (<https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/data/>) on its website in January 2024 to improve the accessibility of child care related data available throughout the website. Data are updated as available, primarily annually (such as CC Facts and Figures, ACF-800 report) and monthly (such as Licensed and Registered Provider snapshot data, Child Care Assistance Program case and child counts). Updates will continue throughout 2024.
 - OCFS will be holding bimonthly calls for child care providers, starting in February 2024. These calls will cover a variety of topics such as current budget initiatives, updates and new grant opportunities and child care assistance (CCAP) updates. All calls will be available in English and Spanish and posted to the DCCS webpage.