



SHEILA J. POOLE
Acting Commissioner

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor



MICHAEL C. GREEN
Executive Deputy Commissioner

June 6, 2018

Dear County Executive:

We are pleased to advise you that funding for the Raise the Age Initiative has been included in the SFY 2019 Enacted Budget, and it is time to start implementing the plans that you have been working on. Pursuant to Chapter 53 of the Laws of 2018, funding will be made available to reimburse counties for incremental costs associated with Raise the Age-related activities.

To be eligible for reimbursement, the law requires that counties submit a Comprehensive Plan to the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) and the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) that identifies your anticipated, eligible incremental Raise the Age-related costs. A fiscal planning instrument is required to be submitted and approved by the state Division of the Budget for your county to be reimbursed. This planning document will be shared with local departments of social service as well as probation departments. The documents can be found at the following website: <https://www.ny.gov/programs/raise-age-0>.

There are several points that should be considered when filling out this document:

- Reimbursement will only be made for incremental costs directly related to implementing the Raise the Age legislation;
- All costs will be evaluated for reasonableness based upon projections of arrest and case processing activity which have been shared with each county;
- Only those costs identified in Comprehensive Plans will be considered for reimbursement;
- Each county shall designate one entity that will be responsible for submission of the comprehensive plan, and subsequent claims for reimbursement;
- Reasonable and necessary Raise the Age – related expenditures that have been incurred on or before April 1, 2018 will be considered for reimbursement as approved by the Director of the Budget, and should be included and clearly identified in Comprehensive Plans; and,
- Any capital construction contemplated for detention services must be identified in the Comprehensive Plans, even though separate review, approval, and reimbursement processes will be required for related expenses.

In November 2017, OCFS, in partnership with DCJS issued a Raise the Age Local Planning Guide designed to assist localities and stakeholders in considering the services and programs necessary to support implementation of the legislation raising the age of criminal responsibility for 16- and 17-year-olds in New York State. This tool was strictly voluntary, and was meant to

assist your local/regional team with guidance and questions for consideration as local planning got underway. We encourage you to continue to use that tool as a guide for local planning when considering which programs may be impacted by Raise the Age.

The Raise the Age legislation presents an historic opportunity for all partners in the criminal justice and youth justice fields to work together to improve outcomes for youth, identify needs, and link youth to appropriate services as early as possible; as well as replace detention and placement with services and support whenever possible. Your plans should be structured in a way that reflects our shared vision for better outcomes for our youth. Once your comprehensive plans are approved, counties will be able to submit quarterly claims for reimbursement. Additional claiming instructions will be provided in a separate correspondence.

Please note that expenditures shall not be confirmed as eligible for reimbursement until a county's plan has been reviewed and approved by the Director of the Budget. After approval by the Director of the Budget, amendments may be submitted on a periodic basis as implementation proceeds.

We look forward to your partnership as we continue this very important work. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the OCFS and DCJS contacts with any questions that you may have.

Please submit your completed plans to: LocalRTAGuide@ocfs.ny.gov

Sincerely,



Sheila J. Poole
Acting Commissioner

Sincerely,



Michael C. Green
Executive Deputy Commissioner