

Memo of Support for Funding
Preventive, Protective, Independent Living,
Adoption, and After Care Services
at 65% State Share

As organizations, providers, board members, advocates and citizens concerned about the safety and well-being of children, we urge the Legislature to increase the State share for Preventive, Protective, Independent Living, Adoption and After-Care Services to the **statutorily required 65%**.

The safety and welfare of children should be the State's highest priority. New York State Social Services Law Section 153-k provides for a 65% state reimbursement rate for protective, preventive, independent living, after care and adoption administration services; however, for several years budget bills have reduced the level of state support down to 62%, leaving counties to increase their expenditures to simply maintain a flat level of program funding. Consequently, counties find it more difficult to provide the critical services needed to keep children safe, to find them permanent homes and realize reduced stays in foster care at the same time they struggle with meeting various demands on their local budgets with a property tax cap in place. The SFY 2014-2015 Executive Budget once again proposes a reduced State share of 62% for these services for our most vulnerable children and families.

We urge an increased State reimbursement that would support county priorities such as:

- Child protective investigation and supervisory staff for local social service districts;
- Evidence-informed, evidence-based and promising preventive services practices designed to support families, provide in-home services, and reduce the re-occurrence of abuse/neglect;
- Community-based programs in school or community settings designed to link families and children to existing community supports.

Each county should be required to:

- Report number of families served, services received by each family and outcomes, including re-entry and re-reporting over a 6 month period, and related impacts.
- Submit a plan developed with public input on how it intends to spend its funding allocation.
- Ensure that additional State dollars supplement (add to) rather than supplant (replace) current local investment.

The effective date would be October 1, 2014.

Services provided with this funding help to keep our most vulnerable children safe. We urge the Legislature's support to include an increase to 65% for the state share and an appropriate level of funding to support the increase in the 2014-15 enacted budget.

Thank You.

[Your Organization's Name]