



**George E. Pataki**  
*Governor*

**NEW YORK STATE**  
**OFFICE OF CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES**  
52 WASHINGTON STREET  
RENSSELAER, NY 12144

**John A. Johnson**  
*Commissioner*

**Local Commissioners Memorandum**

<b>Transmittal:</b>	04-OCFS-LCM-14
<b>To:</b>	Local District Commissioners
<b>Issuing Division/Office:</b>	Strategic Planning and Policy Development Administration
<b>Date:</b>	October 20, 2004
<b>Subject:</b>	SFY 2004-2005 Foster Care Block Grant Allocations
<b>Contact Person(s):</b>	See page 5
<b>Attachments:</b>	(A) Allocation of \$ 339.5 million base allocation (B) Allocation of \$ 6.25 million set-aside (C) Allocation of \$ 18.75 million set-aside (D) Allocation of the SFY 2004-2005 Foster Care Block Grant including the net State share of \$291.5 million
<b>Attachment Available On – Line:</b>	Yes

**I. Purpose**

The purpose of this Local Commissioners Memorandum (LCM) is to provide social services districts with their Foster Care Block Grant allocations for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2004 – 2005 and program implications as authorized by Chapter 53 of the Laws of 2004.

**II. Background**

The Child Welfare Financing Law promotes a reduction in the use of foster care placements through three components:

1. A Foster Care Block Grant capping State reimbursement to social services districts for foster care services to the annual amounts appropriated;

2. Uncapped 65 percent State reimbursement after applying available Federal funds (Title IV-E and EAF) for all child welfare services except foster care services; and
3. A Quality Enhancement Fund administered by the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) to increase the availability and quality of children and family services programs.

The State appropriation for the Foster Care Block Grant is \$373.5 million of which \$364.5 million is allocated in this LCM for State reimbursement for foster care services. Of the \$364.5 million, \$25 million is held aside to recognize districts that have reduced their use of foster care caredays. The remaining portion (\$339.5 million) of the Block Grant is allocated based on historical claims. Up to \$9 million of the \$373.5 million appropriated shall be made available for State reimbursement for the cost of continuing the worker recruitment and retention add-on rate to the maximum state aid rates of programs located in New York State set by the Office of Children and Family Services. The allocations for that \$9 million will be issued in a separate LCM.

Social services districts already received their allocations of \$105 million for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Emergency Assistance to Families (EAF) Juvenile Delinquents (JD) / Persons In Need of Supervision (PINS) and \$41 million for TANF-EAF NYC Tuition through 04-OCFS-LCM-12. Of these additional Federal funds, 50 percent will be used to offset the Foster Care Block Grant. Therefore, on a statewide basis, the net State share to be available under the Foster Care Block Grant for the districts is up to \$300.5 million as well as the Federally funded \$105 million for TANF-EAF JD/PINS and the federally funded \$41 million for TANF-EAF NYC Tuition.

### III. Program Implications

- A. The Foster Care Block Grant includes State reimbursement for foster care services as follows:
  - care, maintenance, including clothing and special payments, supervision, administrative costs claimed on Schedule D, Schedule D-2 and Schedule K and including tuition for foster children placed in residential treatment facilities;
  - supervision of foster care children in federally funded job corps programs; and
  - care, maintenance, supervision and tuition of adjudicated juvenile delinquents or person in need of supervision placed in residential programs operated by authorized agencies and in out-of-state residential programs.
- B. The Foster Care Block Grant does **not** include Federal reimbursement for foster care costs or State reimbursement for claims for:
  - Committee on Special Education (CSE) payments;
  - Dormitory Authority payments in excess of the Foster Care Block Grant;
  - State reimbursement for foster care services for Indian tribes;
  - Medical Assistance payments for children in foster care; and
  - Independent Living Services.

Separate appropriations are available for these expenditures. The Block Grant contains only those State funds that are available for reimbursement of a district's expenditures for the services included in the Foster Care Block Grant. District claims that are eligible to receive Federal reimbursement under Title IV-E foster care, Independent Living, and TANF-EAF will

be submitted for Federal reimbursement even if the district's claims exceed its Foster Care Block Grant allocation for the current SFY.

The Foster Care Block Grant allocations specified in the attachments to this LCM do not include up to \$9 million appropriation available for the cost of continuing the worker recruitment and retention initiative. As stated, "up to \$9 million" of the \$373.5 million will be allocated in a separate LCM.

In addition, the Foster Care Block Grant does not include State expenditures made on behalf of youth placed in Office of Children and Family Services facilities.

This Block Grant can only be used for Foster Care expenditures. If a local social services district spends less than its allocation, unexpended funds may be used by the district in the next SFY up to the amount remaining from the district's Foster Care Block Grant allocation for the district's expenditures on preventive services, (including re-unification services), independent living services and aftercare services.

### **C. Methodology**

This year's allocation methodology represents a shift from the needs-based approach used for the past two SFYs. This change was made in response to local districts' criticisms that the allocation methodology be more directly related to actual foster care expenditures and be more predictable from year to year. The new allocation methodology implements the recommendations made by many districts that the Foster Care Block Grant be apportioned primarily on the basis of historical claims. This methodology also changed some districts allocations compared to last year. These allocation differences result primarily from one or more of the following four factors depending upon the particular district: the change from a needs-based to a claims-based methodology; year-to-year changes in districts' claims; the annual fluctuation in some districts' claims when compared to the statewide claims; and the distribution of the funds set aside for reductions in foster caredays.

This methodology is designed to continue our focus on safety, well-being, and permanence of children. It is expected that this methodology will enable districts to continue to realize reductions in foster care caredays. The Child and Family Services' Program Improvement Plan at the state and local levels provides a roadmap for advancing an agenda of positive outcomes for children in New York State. This methodology aligns the funding with the program agenda.

Of the \$364.5 million appropriated for State reimbursement for foster care services, \$339.5 million, or 93%, is distributed to the districts according to their respective shares of historical claims, with the remaining \$25 million held aside to reward districts that have succeeded in reducing their use of foster care caredays. The percentage of the \$339.5 million allocated to each district is determined by the district's share of the statewide gross foster care claims (originals and supplementals) for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2003.

The \$25 million set-aside is allocated based on the district's reduction in the utilization of foster care caredays during two periods: from 1999 to 2001 and from 2001 to 2003. Reductions in caredays during the most recent period are weighted more heavily (75%) than reductions during the earlier period (25%). This methodology recognizes all districts that have decreased their

foster care utilization over the past five years, while providing a more generous incentive to those districts that have achieved reductions in the years since the implementation of the Child Welfare Financing legislation and during the period of the Child and Family Services' Program Improvement Plan.

**IV. Allocations**

District allocations of the components of the SFY 2004-2005 Foster Care Block Grant are listed in the Attachments to this publication.

- Attachment A: Allocation of the \$ 339.5 million
- Attachment B: Allocation of the \$6.25 million (25% of \$25 million set aside)
- Attachment C: Allocation of the \$18.75 million (75% of \$25 million set aside)
- Attachment D: Allocation of the SFY 2004-2005 Foster Care Block Grant including the net State share of \$291.5 million

**V. Fiscal and Claiming**

The Foster Care Block Grant is an annual capped allocation for foster care costs that are ordinarily reimbursed during the SFY. The Foster Care Block Grant payments are generally made on a monthly basis and there is no state share settlement of the claims filed for state reimbursement. The reimbursement schedule for SFY 2004-2005 Budget below sets forth the relevant periods for the foster care maintenance, administration and tuition costs covered by this year's allocations.

The scheduled time periods relate to when expenditures are made. If a social services district exceeds its allocation for a particular SFY, there is no additional funding. Any social services district claims submitted for a particular SFY that did not receive state reimbursement during that SFY may not be claimed against that district's block grant apportionment for the next SFY.

There is no Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement associated with the Foster Care Block Grant.

Supplemental claims are paid from the Foster Care Block Grant allocation that covers the period when the expenditures are made for the services or administrative costs regardless of when the supplemental claims are submitted.

Federal reimbursement will not be affected by this Block Grant and will be settled in the normal manner subject to the availability of Federal funds. Expenditures for allocations included in this LCM are claimed as follows:

Foster Care	Schedule K	LDSS-3479
	Schedule H	LDSS-4283
	Schedule D2	LDSS-2347-B

Refer to the Fiscal Reference Manual, Volume 2, Chapter 3 for instructions on completing the Schedules K and H. The instructions for the Schedules D and D-2 are in the Fiscal Reference Manual Volume 3 (or Volume 4 for New York City).

### **Reimbursement Schedule for SFY 2004-2005 Foster Care Block Grant**

- Foster Care Maintenance: January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004
- Foster Care Administration: October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004
- Foster Care Tuition: EAF October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004
- Non-EAF Foster Care Tuition: January 1, 2004 – December 31, 2004

EAF Foster Care Maintenance, Administration and Tuition are only counted toward the Block Grant if the costs are not eligible to be swapped for Public Assistance reimbursement (NYC Tuition excluded).

## **VI. Contact Information**

Any fiscal questions regarding the Foster Care Block Grant should be directed to:

Deborah Hanor, Director, Bureau of Budget Management at 518-474-1361.

Programmatic questions should be directed to the appropriate Regional Office, Division of Development and Prevention Services:

BRO - Linda Brown (716) 847-3145  
User ID: [Linda.Brown@dfa.state.ny.us](mailto:Linda.Brown@dfa.state.ny.us)  
RRO - Linda Kurtz (585) 238-8201  
User ID: [Linda.Kurtz@dfa.state.ny.us](mailto:Linda.Kurtz@dfa.state.ny.us)  
SRO - Jack Klump (315) 423-1200  
User ID: [Jack.Klump@dfa.state.ny.us](mailto:Jack.Klump@dfa.state.ny.us)  
ARO – Glenn Humphreys (518) 486-7078  
User ID: [Glenn.Humphreys@dfa.state.ny.us](mailto:Glenn.Humphreys@dfa.state.ny.us)  
YRO - Pat Sheehy (914) 377-2080  
User ID: [Patricia.Sheehy@dfa.state.ny.us](mailto:Patricia.Sheehy@dfa.state.ny.us)  
NYCRO - Fred Levitan (212) 383-1788  
User ID: [Fred.Levitan@dfa.state.ny.us](mailto:Fred.Levitan@dfa.state.ny.us)

Questions pertaining to claiming should be directed to the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, Bureau of Financial Services:

Regions I - IV: Virginia Scala, 518-474-7549; User ID: [Virginia.Scala@dfa.state.ny.us](mailto:Virginia.Scala@dfa.state.ny.us)

Region V: Michael Borenstein, 631-854-9704, User ID: [Michael.Borenstein@dfa.state.ny.us](mailto:Michael.Borenstein@dfa.state.ny.us)

Region VI: Marian Borenstein, 212-961-8250, User ID: [Marian.Borenstein@dfa.state.ny.us](mailto:Marian.Borenstein@dfa.state.ny.us)

*Nancy W. Martinez s/s*

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**Issued By:**

Name: Susan A. Costello

Title: Deputy Commissioner

Division/Office: Administration

## ATTACHMENT A

## ALLOCATION OF \$339.5 MILLION

<b>District</b>	<b>Allocation</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Allocation</b>
Albany	5,942,761	Ontario	616,811
Allegany	798,525	Orange	4,337,467
Broome	3,323,625	Orleans	242,800
Cattaraugus	1,666,931	Oswego	2,457,261
Cayuga	1,278,898	Otsego	1,221,054
Chautauqua	1,052,046	Putnam	463,906
Chemung	2,131,464	Rensselaer	2,673,550
Chenango	559,884	Rockland	3,180,092
Clinton	680,245	St. Lawrence	840,397
Columbia	1,918,754	Saratoga	1,872,913
Cortland	678,265	Schenectady	3,737,497
Delaware	419,304	Schoharie	484,825
Dutchess	4,046,495	Schuyler	268,075
Erie	13,133,438	Seneca	596,316
Essex	280,770	Steuben	1,543,650
Franklin	583,875	Suffolk	11,735,555
Fulton	1,171,125	Sullivan	1,158,768
Genesee	466,264	Tioga	482,827
Greene	1,175,165	Tompkins	974,583
Hamilton	14,652	Ulster	2,573,408
Herkimer	1,013,300	Warren	792,873
Jefferson	1,484,332	Washington	521,914
Lewis	238,550	Wayne	675,185
Livingston	594,938	Westchester	12,954,770
Madison	978,707	Wyoming	465,947
Monroe	10,539,304	Yates	178,572
Montgomery	601,562		
Nassau	7,886,925	Upstate Totals	133,972,519
Niagara	2,675,941		
Oneida	4,216,742	New York City	205,527,481
Onondaga	5,368,716		
		Statewide Totals	339,500,000

**ATTACHMENT B****ALLOCATION OF \$6.25 MILLION**

<b>District</b>	<b>Allocation</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Allocation</b>
Albany	67,694	Ontario	3,238
Allegany	15,638	Orange	-
Broome	28,350	Orleans	-
Cattaraugus	-	Oswego	17,600
Cayuga	11,138	Otsego	-
Chautauqua	7,481	Putnam	-
Chemung	-	Rensselaer	4,875
Chenango	-	Rockland	7,500
Clinton	-	St. Lawrence	11,988
Columbia	-	Saratoga	-
Cortland	1,344	Schenectady	54,419
Delaware	2,438	Schoharie	-
Dutchess	18,094	Schuyler	2,638
Erie	353,175	Seneca	6,975
Essex	8,900	Steuben	-
Franklin	6,469	Suffolk	-
Fulton	-	Sullivan	22,050
Genesee	-	Tioga	2,256
Greene	-	Tompkins	5,438
Hamilton	-	Ulster	-
Herkimer	-	Warren	2,150
Jefferson	-	Washington	-
Lewis	-	Wayne	806
Livingston	5,769	Westchester	10,181
Madison	-	Wyoming	8,256
Monroe	-	Yates	-
Montgomery	3,700		
Nassau	51,344	Upstate Totals	839,536
Niagara	22,363		
Oneida	18,513	New York City	5,410,464
Onondaga	56,756		
		Statewide Totals	6,250,000



## ATTACHMENT C

## ALLOCATION OF \$18.75 MILLION

<b>District</b>	<b>Allocation</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Allocation</b>
Albany	404,250	Ontario	-
Allegany	57,263	Orange	-
Broome	104,063	Orleans	7,650
Cattaraugus	-	Oswego	123,975
Cayuga	-	Otsego	15,338
Chautauqua	103,069	Putnam	1,013
Chemung	14,381	Rensselaer	9,394
Chenango	-	Rockland	34,238
Clinton	-	St. Lawrence	19,481
Columbia	-	Saratoga	26,288
Cortland	-	Schenectady	177,075
Delaware	-	Schoharie	35,756
Dutchess	-	Schuyler	-
Erie	184,894	Seneca	36,544
Essex	-	Steuben	-
Franklin	-	Suffolk	-
Fulton	46,688	Sullivan	31,425
Genesee	23,231	Tioga	27,769
Greene	15,994	Tompkins	244
Hamilton	-	Ulster	107,906
Herkimer	-	Warren	-
Jefferson	-	Washington	-
Lewis	48,525	Wayne	69,356
Livingston	-	Westchester	163,538
Madison	31,238	Wyoming	-
Monroe	529,988	Yates	3,769
Montgomery	63,225		
Nassau	280,256	Upstate Totals	2,928,512
Niagara	130,650		
Oneida	-	New York City	15,821,488
Onondaga	38		
		Statewide Totals	18,750,000

## ATTACHMENT D

## SFY 2004-2005 FOSTER CARE BLOCK GRANT

<b>District</b>	<b>Initial Foster Care Block Grant Allocation</b>	<b>50 % EAF JD/PINS Allocation Offset</b>	<b>NYC EAF Tuition Offset</b>	<b>Net Foster Care Block Grant Allocation</b>
Albany	6,414,705	2,649,925		3,764,780
Allegany	871,426	205,204		666,222
Broome	3,456,038	1,370,956		2,085,082
Cattaraugus	1,666,931	859,824		807,107
Cayuga	1,290,036	609,705		680,331
Chautauqua	1,162,596	63,827		1,098,769
Chemung	2,145,845	1,000,156		1,145,689
Chenango	559,884	202,953		356,931
Clinton	680,245	34,613		645,632
Columbia	1,918,754	875,449		1,043,305
Cortland	679,609	167,613		511,996
Delaware	421,742	-		421,742
Dutchess	4,064,589	2,265,445		1,799,144
Erie	13,671,507	4,189,123		9,482,384
Essex	289,670	99,347		190,323
Franklin	590,344	221,699		368,645
Fulton	1,217,813	667,869		549,944
Genesee	489,495	88,034		401,461
Greene	1,191,159	568,898		622,261
Hamilton	14,652	-		14,652
Herkimer	1,013,300	285,645		727,655
Jefferson	1,484,332	488,180		996,152
Lewis	287,075	73,240		213,835
Livingston	600,707	172,626		428,081
Madison	1,009,945	155,535		854,410
Monroe	11,069,292	2,302,870		8,766,422
Montgomery	668,487	122,600		545,887
Nassau	8,218,525	3,543,875		4,674,650
Niagara	2,828,954	1,074,383		1,754,571
Oneida	4,235,255	1,992,868		2,242,387
Onondaga	5,425,510	885,338		4,540,172

## ATTACHMENT D

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## SFY 2004-2005 FOSTER CARE BLOCK GRANT

District	Initial Foster Care		NYC EAF Tuition Offset	Net Foster Care Block Grant Allocation
	Block Grant Allocation	50 % EAF JD/PINS Allocation Offset		
Ontario	620,049	142,287		477,762
Orange	4,337,467	1,360,884		2,976,583
Orleans	250,450	12,082		238,368
Oswego	2,598,836	1,603,043		995,793
Otsego	1,236,392	198,070		1,038,322
Putnam	464,919	91,506		373,413
Rensselaer	2,687,819	1,222,625		1,465,194
Rockland	3,221,830	927,530		2,294,300
St. Lawrence	871,866	141,263		730,603
Saratoga	1,899,201	1,573,322		325,879
Schenectady	3,968,991	907,822		3,061,169
Schoharie	520,581	354,712		165,869
Schuyler	270,713	171,578		99,135
Seneca	639,835	278,950		360,885
Steuben	1,543,650	497,597		1,046,053
Suffolk	11,735,555	4,521,451		7,214,104
Sullivan	1,212,243	332,860		879,383
Tioga	512,852	238,350		274,502
Tompkins	980,265	349,577		630,688
Ulster	2,681,314	877,489		1,803,825
Warren	795,023	576,776		218,247
Washington	521,914	116,633		405,281
Wayne	745,347	421,949		323,398
Westchester	13,128,489	3,140,511		9,987,978
Wyoming	474,203	125,599		348,604
Yates	182,341	72,588		109,753
Upstate Totals	137,740,567	47,494,854		90,245,713
New York City	226,759,433	5,005,146	20,500,000	201,254,287
Statewide Totals	364,500,000	52,500,000	20,500,000	291,500,000