

(November 9, 2021) ILS is pleased to announce that, after careful review of proposals by a scoring team, the following counties (to include listed providers) will be awarded the Upstate Family Defense (Child Welfare) Quality Improvement and Caseload Reduction Grants:

Cortland County--[Public Defender](#)

Erie County--[Erie County Bar Association Aid to Indigent Prisoners Society, Inc. Assigned Counsel Program](#)

Monroe County--[Conflict Defender's Office](#)

Steuben County--[Public Defender's Office](#)

Suffolk County--[Legal Aid Society](#) and [Suffolk County Assigned Defender Plan](#)

ILS is confident that the parent representation providers who will benefit from this funding (\$500,000 over a period of three years) will significantly advance, in their respective jurisdictions in a myriad of creative ways, the quality of representation in Family Court Act Article 10 proceedings, as is required by the RFP. "Quality legal representation for parents in these proceedings is of heightened importance since the individuals targeted are disproportionately poor, Black and Indigenous, and typically lack the information, resources, and social capital necessary to respond effectively to government action which often includes temporary or permanent removal of a child from the parent." (RFP p.2)

ILS wishes to acknowledge the commitment to quality legal representation of an additional 19 other counties who also submitted proposals. All the submitted proposals highlight the pressing need for state commitment to improving the quality of representation by reducing caseloads and providing interdisciplinary representation for parents in alignment with the ILS Standards for Parental Legal Representation in State Intervention Matters.