

(November 18, 2022) ILS is pleased to announce that, after careful review of proposals by a scoring team, the following 17 counties (to include listed providers) will be awarded the Second Upstate Family Defense (Child Welfare) Quality Improvement and Caseload Reduction Grants:

Albany County--[Office of the Public Defender](#), [Office of the Alternate Public Defender \(Conflict Defender\)](#), and [Assigned Counsel Program](#)
Cattaraugus County--[Public Defender](#) and [Legal Assistance of Western New York](#)
Chautauqua County--[Public Defender](#) and Assigned Counsel Program
Dutchess County--[Public Defender](#)
Erie County--[Erie County Bar Association Aid to Indigent Prisoners Society, Inc. Assigned Counsel Program](#)
Genesee County--[Public Defender](#)
Greene County--[Public Defender's Office](#)
Onondaga County--[Hiscock Legal Aid Society](#) and [Onondaga County Bar Association Assigned Counsel Program, Inc.](#)
Ontario County--[Conflict Defender](#)
Putnam County--[Putnam County Legal Aid Society, Inc.](#)
Rensselaer County--[Public Defender](#), [Conflict Defender](#), and [Assigned Counsel Plan](#)
Saratoga County--[Public Defender Office](#), [Conflict Defender's Office](#), and Assigned Counsel Program
Schenectady County--[Public Defender](#)
Steuben County--[Public Defender](#)
Tompkins County--[Assigned Counsel's Office](#)
Ulster County--[Public Defender](#)
Westchester County--[The Legal Aid Society of Westchester County](#) and the Independent Office of Assigned Counsel

ILS is confident that the parent representation providers who will benefit from this funding (for each county, up to \$750,000 over a period of three years) have thoughtfully crafted ways to improve the quality of representation in Family Court Act Article 10 proceedings and, “[i]mprovements in this area will also promote better Family Court decision-making, reduce the needless separation of children from their families, save foster care costs, diminish disparate racial impacts, and reduce long-term costs to the state and to counties.” (RFP p.2)

ILS acknowledges the commitment to quality legal representation from an additional 7 counties who also submitted proposals. All the submitted proposals highlight the critical 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.