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New York State OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

Office of

LOCAL COMMISSIONERS MEMORANDUM

Children & Family

OCFS-4616EL (Rev. 11/98)

This LCM may be of interest to foster care specialists.

Contact GULP, Allowy

00 OCFS LCM-7

George E. Pataki

Governor

Date: March 06, 2000

Transmittal No:

full copy

John A. Johnson Commissioner

Division: Strategic Planning and Policy Development

Local District Commissioners TO:

SUBJECT: Foster Care Independence Act of 1999

Capital View Office Park

52 Washington Street nsselaer, NY 12144-2796

ATTACHMENTS: Attachment A: Summary of the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 prepared by the American Public Human Services Association

(APHSA)

Attachment B: Letter to Administration for Children and Families (ACF) on the Federal

Independent Living Legislation Attachments not available on-line

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide you with a summary of the provisions of the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 which was signed into law on December 14th (Attachment A). This memorandum also provides an overview of the issues that the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) has brought to the attention of the Federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF) related to implementation of the new statute (Attachment B).

The Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 makes substantial changes to the Title IV-E independent living program for foster care youth. Attachment A provides a detailed summary of the Foster Care Independence Act prepared by the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA). The most significant changes include:

> o a new allocation formula for Title IV-E Independent Living funds;

> o replacement of the 100 percent Federal funding 50/50 State funding with 80 percent Federal funding. The federal statute is silent regarding the use of in-kind or donated funds as a State match;

