



# Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

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## Informational Letter

### Section 1

<b>Transmittal:</b>	22-INF-07
<b>To:</b>	Social Services District Commissioners
<b>Issuing Division/Office:</b>	Employment and Income Support Programs
<b>Date:</b>	June 22, 2022
<b>Subject:</b>	Requirement to provide information on availability of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) services
<b>Suggested Distribution:</b>	Temporary Assistance Directors, SNAP Directors, Employment Coordinators, Staff Development Coordinators
<b>Contact Person(s):</b>	Temporary Assistance Bureau 518-474-9344 or <a href="mailto:otda.sm.cees.tabureau@otda.ny.gov">otda.sm.cees.tabureau@otda.ny.gov</a>
<b>Attachments:</b>	<a href="#">Attachment 1 - ACEs Brochure</a>

### Filing References

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
			SSL 20-d(1)(c) SSL 131-aaa Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2021		

### Section 2

#### I. Purpose

The purpose of this Informational Letter (INF) is to inform social services districts (districts) of their responsibilities required by Social Services Law (SSL) § 131-aaa to provide information on the availability of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) services.

#### II. Background

Part JJ of Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2021 amended the SSL to add a new section 131-aaa regarding information on the availability of ACEs services. Specifically, this new section of the SSL requires that each district make available to applicants and recipients of Public Assistance (PA) that are a parent, guardian, custodian or otherwise responsible for a child's care, educational materials about ACEs which includes information on the importance of protective factors and the availability of services for children at risk of or suffering from the effects of ACEs.

For purposes of this new law, the term ACEs is defined in SSL §20-d(1)(c) as:

“...stressful or traumatic experiences experienced during childhood, which are strongly related to the development and prevalence of a wide range of health problems throughout a person's lifetime, including, but not limited to physical or sexual abuse; domestic violence; parental mental illness; substance abuse; and incarceration.”

ACEs are common in every population group. Individuals who have experienced ACEs may benefit from an array of community-based services. ACEs can impact child well-being such as the ability to succeed in school and ACEs can produce negative outcome for adults including poor health and reduced employment outcomes. An understanding of the impact of ACEs can help organizations strengthen policies and program design by incorporating trauma-informed, strength-based practices.

### III. Program Implications

The attached brochure (Attachment 1) has been developed by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) in consultation with non-profit entities that have expertise in providing services to individuals suffering from the effects of ACEs and the following New York State agencies: the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA); the Office of Mental Health (OMH); the Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS); and the Department of Health (DOH).

To ensure that districts comply with the requirements of SSL § 131-aaa, OTDA requires that the brochure be made available to all applicants and recipients of PA who are a parent, guardian, custodian or are otherwise responsible for a child's care. Districts are required to provide this information electronically or by physical hard copy at the time of initial PA application and at the time of recertification. This requirement may be met by making hard copies of the brochure available in district waiting rooms or by making information available on the district's website.

Copies of the brochure may be downloaded and printed here  
<https://ocfs.ny.gov/publications/OCFS-Pub5222.pdf>.

Brochures may be available free of charge depending on availability. If you are interested in ordering hard copies of these brochures for distribution, please contact:  
[OCFS.sm.ACEsBrochureOrders@ocfs.ny.gov](mailto:OCFS.sm.ACEsBrochureOrders@ocfs.ny.gov).

OTDA will be posting the following link on its website and the myBenefits website, but districts are encouraged to post the link on their district websites as well:  
<https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/cwcs/aces.php>. This website will be maintained by OCFS.

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### Issued By:

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