



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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**ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**  
**Administration on Children, Youth and Families**  
330 C Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

September 30, 2021

Sheila J. Poole  
Commissioner  
New York State Office of Children & Family Services  
52 Washington Street  
Rensselaer, New York 12144

Dear Sheila J. Poole:

Thank you for submitting New York's request for a waiver to allow "qualified individuals" with responsibility for performing the assessments relating to a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) under section 475A(c)(1)(A) of the Act to be employees of the title IV-E agency and/or connected to or affiliated with any placement setting in which children are placed by the by the agency per section 475A(c)(1)(D)(ii) of the Act. Your waiver request certifies that the title IV-E agency will ensure that such qualified individuals will maintain objectivity with respect to determining the most effective and appropriate placement for a child in accordance with 475A(c)(1)(D)(ii) of the Act.

Based on your letter submitted September 21, 2021, I understand that New York seeks approval of this waiver in advance of our review and approval of the full title IV-E plan amendment for related provisions to facilitate the hiring and contracting of staff to serve as "qualified individuals."

The Children's Bureau has reviewed the state's request and approves the requested waiver. Attached please find a signed copy of the waiver request. Approval of this waiver means that once the state's full title IV-E plan amendment to address the QRTP provisions is submitted and approved, the state may allow "qualified individuals" with responsibility for performing the assessments under section 475A(c)(1)(A) of the Act to be employees of the agency and/or connected to or affiliated with any placement setting in which children are placed by the by the agency.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch with Alfonso Nicholas, Child Welfare Regional Program Manager, in Region 2, at (646) 905-8141 or by e-mail at [Alfonso.Nicholas@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:Alfonso.Nicholas@acf.hhs.gov). You also may contact Shaniece Edwards, Child and Family Program Specialist, at 202-838-3328 or by e-mail at [Shaniece.Edwards@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:Shaniece.Edwards@acf.hhs.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Aysha E. Schomburg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Aysha E. Schomburg, Esq.  
Associate Commissioner  
Children's Bureau

Enclosure(s)

cc: Gail Collins, Director; CB, Division of Program Implementation; Washington, DC  
Alfonso Nicholas, Child Welfare Regional Program Manager; CB, Region 2; New York, NY  
Shaniece Edwards, Child and Family Program Specialist; CB, Region 2: New York, NY