

Contact: Susan Steele, Acting Director of Communications

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: January 11, 2011

---

**NEW YORK STATE STREAMLINES PAYMENTS TO ADOPTIVE FAMILIES  
-- Speeds Payments, Brings Savings to Counties --**

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), partnering with local social services districts, has instituted a pilot program that streamlines how payments are made to parents receiving adoption subsidies. Adoptive parents in pilot counties will have the option of receiving their subsidy benefits as a direct deposit to checking accounts or through a debit card issued by JP Morgan Chase Bank.

The pilot program initially encompasses adoption subsidy recipients in Rensselaer, Genesee and Onondaga counties, where debit cards became available at the beginning of January, and direct deposits will be an option next month. Plans are also underway to include Erie, Monroe and Nassau counties in February, and the rest of the state (except New York City) by early summer.

OCFS Commissioner Gladys Carrión, Esq., said: "The electronic payment process will save counties an average of \$7 per issuance each month, and will provide much-needed workload relief associated with a paper payment process. Also, adoptive parents will enjoy the convenience of a more timely payment, and no longer have to deal with lost or stolen checks, or waiting in line at the bank to cash them."

During the 2011-12 state fiscal year, OCFS plans to expand this debit card program to include child care subsidy payments to low-income families, which will bring even greater savings to counties and convenience to families.

Further information on the new debit card payment program for adoptive families can be found in English and Spanish on the OCFS website at: [www.ocfs.state.ny.us/electronicpayments/](http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/electronicpayments/).

Children of all ages are waiting to be adopted. New York State Adoption Service, part of OCFS, welcomes responsible, caring adults who are ready to share their time, their hearts, and their lives with waiting children in need of a permanent family and another chance in life. To learn more about the process of adoption in New York State, visit the OCFS website at [www.ocfs.state.ny.us](http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us) or call 1-800-KIDS (5437).

###