



Office of Children and Family Services

Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

SHEILA J. POOLE
Acting Commissioner

MICHAEL P. HEIN
Acting Commissioner

March 22, 2019

Dear Commissioner:

We are writing to extend an invitation to your staff to attend the upcoming New York Welfare Fraud Investigators Association (NYWFIA) 36th Annual Training Seminar to be held at the Desmond Hotel in Albany, New York on June 3-5, 2019.

The New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) and the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) are co-hosting this seminar with NYWFIA, whose members work actively every day to combat welfare fraud. This training program is an excellent forum for social services experts from a wide range of backgrounds to share best practices in fraud detection and prevention and discuss new ideas.

New York State continues to be a leader in establishing innovative programs and processes to ensure the integrity of the State's public benefit programs, including Temporary Assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Child Care Subsidy and Medicaid. The training seminar will feature multiple tracks with breakout sessions tailored to new and experienced investigators, administrators, and eligibility staff. Our focus in every seminar remains the sharing of best practices and presenting new ideas that will enhance your agency's efforts to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute fraud.

At this year's seminar, OTDA staff will conduct breakout sessions devoted to Program Integrity initiatives and updates, along with additional training on the new SNAP Intentional Program Violation (IPV) submission process. State and local staff will also hold sessions on recent successful retailer and recipient SNAP trafficking investigations and proper investigation and disqualification practices. Additionally, due to its popularity with social service district staff, OTDA will again host a Fraud Directors meeting as an open forum to discuss topics, initiatives, and any issues of concern to local fraud investigators.

OCFS will be providing two separate presentations on the Child Care Program Integrity (CCPI) technical solution during this year's seminar. CCPI was deployed to all local districts outside of New York City in 2016 and was designed as an automated data mining and analytical tool to identify potential cases of child care subsidy fraud for investigation and provide relevant background data to support an investigation. One session is designed to be an overview of CCPI, which will be targeted for new staff or those unfamiliar with the system. The other session is intended to be a more advanced offering that will be a technical training for users familiar with the system. This session will address enhancements that have been made to CCPI and provide the opportunity for user feedback. This presentation will also include some discussion regarding the new training and technical assistance initiative that has been implemented to support local district utilization of CCPI. OCFS looks forward to hearing from local district staff regarding their use of the CCPI system and hopes to solicit feedback about how the system can be enhanced to better support their needs in anticipation of OCFS mandating the use of CCPI by the end of 2019.

OCFS will also be providing a presentation that highlights the power of partnership during investigations. This session will focus on collaborative investigative efforts between OCFS regional office staff, local social services district staff and staff from the Inspector General's office during child care subsidy fraud investigation. This presentation will examine a successful collaborative investigation through to conclusion and focus on the power of partnership in the process. This session will also provide the opportunity for local social services district staff to meet their respective OCFS regional office managers from the Division of Child Care Services.

OTDA and OCFS are offering 178 registration scholarships to local districts for the seminar. Attached to this letter is a memo to your Staff Development Coordinator providing more detailed information about the application process for these registration scholarships.

We hope your agency will take advantage of this important training opportunity.

Sincerely,



Sheila J. Poole
Acting Commissioner
Office of Children and Family Services



Michael P. Hein
Acting Commissioner
Office of Temporary & Disability Assistance

Enclosures

cc: Local District Staff Development Coordinators
Directors of Services
Welfare Fraud Directors
Day Care Supervisors