The Child Support Connection:
Giving Children a Brighter Future

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Program

CONFERENCE PROGRAM
Please note that this agenda is subject to change

8:00 - 9:00 am	**Conference Check-in and Continental Breakfast**
9:00 - 9:15 am	**Welcome** Robert Doar, NYC HRA Commissioner
9:15 - 9:45 am	**Opening Remarks** Vicki Turetsky, Office of Child Support Enforcement, ACF Frances Pardus-Abbadessa, OCSE Executive Deputy Commissioner
9:45 - 10:45 am	**Child Support in the Context of Fragile Families: A Review and Reassessment** Irv Garfinkel, Columbia University and Lenna Nepomnyaschy, Rutgers University
10:45 - 11:00 am	**Morning Break**
11:00 - 12:30 pm	**Breakout Sessions**

Why Child Support Matters: Connecting Families to the Child Support Program

Studies have shown the positive impact child support has on families, in many cases serving as a catalyst in preventing families from living in poverty. One of the challenges OCSE faces is engaging more families to participate and establish formal orders. The goal of this break out session is to strategize on ways to connect more families to the child support program.

Panel members:
Moderator: Lauren Moore, Future of Children
Practitioner: Mark Kleiman, Community Mediation Services, Inc
Research Presenter: Maureen Waller, Cornell University
Research Presenter: James McHale, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg

Employment and Incarceration
Having a positive relationship with one's family, securing employment and reintegrating into one's community reduces the likelihood of recidivism. Upon release, many NCPs have difficulty obtaining employment and successfully paying their child support orders. The goal of this break out session is to discuss the best approaches to connect formerly incarcerated NCPs to employment while assisting them with their child support orders.

Panel members:

Moderator: Valentina Duque, Columbia University
Practitioner: George T. McDonald, The Doe Fund
Practitioner: Kathleen Coughlin, NYC Department of Probation
Research Presenter: Amanda Geller, Columbia University

Linking Child Support to Workforce Programs
The goal of this break out session is to strategize on ways that workforce programs and the child support program can work together to achieve the goal of connecting low income fathers to employment. High child support arrears and orders can potentially serve as a barrier for both employment and job retention. The discussion around managing your child support should be part of the intake assessment or screening process for workforce programs as a means to support NCPs and strengthen job retention.

Panel members:
Moderator: Rae Linefsky, Consultant
Practitioner: Virginia Cruickshank, F.E.G.S.
Research Presenter: Elaine Sorensen, The Urban Institute
Research Presenter: James Riccio, MDRC

12:30 - 2:00 pm **Lunch**

2:00 - 2:30 pm **Conference Keynote**

2:30 - 3:30 pm **Recommendations From morning Breakout Sessions**

3:00 - 3:15 pm **Afternoon Break**

3:15 - 4:45 pm **Roundtable: Reactions to Recommendations**
Moderator: Robert Doar, NYC HRA Commissioner
Panel members:
Vicki Turetsky, Commissioner, Office of Child Support Enforcement, ACF
Larry Mead, New York University
Liberty Aldrich, Center for Court Innovation

4:45 - 5:00 pm **Closing Remarks**
Frances Pardus-Abbadessa, OCSE Executive Deputy Commissioner

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