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**STATE OF NEW YORK
STATEWIDE FINANCIAL SYSTEMS PROGRAM
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For nearly eighteen months, the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) and the Executive have been working together to design and develop a statewide financial system. To date, this effort has been structured around the implementation and integration of two separate financial applications – a new Central Accounting System to be implemented by OSC’s Future of the Central Accounting System (FOCAS) project, and the Executive’s centralized, statewide financial management system to be implemented by the New York Financial Management System (NYFMS) project.

Over the past several months, a comprehensive review of both projects (FOCAS and NYFMS) was undertaken with the goal of maximizing business benefits while reducing the program’s complexity, cost and implementation challenge. **At this time, we would like to announce a restructuring of the joint program that will consolidate the current FOCAS and NYFMS projects into a single project and lead to the design and implementation of a single, statewide financial management system.**

We firmly believe that this new direction, which will result in a merger of the two project efforts and teams, and the implementation of a single instance of Oracle’s PeopleSoft financial management software, is the right decision for New York State. The move to a single system will reduce the need for data reconciliation among agency and central systems, streamline processing, and provide improved visibility into the status of agency transactions. The restructuring of the teams will result in administrative efficiencies by consolidating and simplifying interactions with agency staff. In a time of severely constrained resources, when everyone is being asked to look for opportunities to decrease costs and find creative ways to use limited resources, we hope it will serve as a meaningful example, and we are confident that it will generate benefits and savings.

We thank you for your agency’s support and contributions to the FOCAS and NYFMS projects thus far. Moreover, we want to assure you that engaging and actively involving agency stakeholders will continue to be a top priority.

Additional information about the statewide financial system program will be made available on a website that is currently under construction. As always, we welcome your thoughts and suggestions.