



Social Workers and Psychologists

Dear Friend,

We've made a lot of positive changes during this first half of the school year. Chief among them is our contract, which was ratified with an 87 percent approval vote from 90,000 UFT members. Over the past few weeks, we've held meetings throughout the boroughs discussing the contract in detail. We discussed the ways this new contract provides us with a stronger voice. We plan on leveraging these gains to help strengthen our chapter and improve your experience as a member. You can [read more about the new contract](#) on the UFT website.

Chapter updates

- **Social Worker Continuing Education Units (CEUs):** In October, the UFT began offering CEU courses for social workers at a discounted rate. We'll continue to provide weekly CEU courses at the Manhattan borough office through the first week of December. Topics are tailored to address common issues in school. You can [learn more and register](#) on the UFT website.
- **Psychologist Appreciation Day on Tuesday, Nov. 20:** Our chapter will host a free professional development day for psychologists on Tuesday, Nov. 20, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at UFT headquarters, 52 Broadway. We'll offer two workshops: The Application of the Ortiz Picture Vocabulary Acquisition Test (PVAT) with English Language Learners, and Dyslexia and Assessment Tools. Breakfast and lunch will be served. You can [register online](#).
- **More upcoming professional development days:** There will also be a Clinician Appreciation Day on Wednesday, Jan. 23, and a Social Worker Appreciation Day on Thursday, March 14. I'll be in touch soon with more details and registration.

Issues we're working on

- **Per session payment:** In collaboration with the DOE, we obtained outstanding per session payment for many members. To ensure members are paid on time this year, the DOE has created a tracking sheet of per session hours submitted and paid. This tracking sheet will help

us identify reasons why payments may be delayed. If you have any outstanding payments, please email me at rgarcia@uft.org.

- **Clerical and family worker vacancies:** Per our contract, school psychologists should be assigned administrative support in the form of a clerical or family worker. It's come to my attention that many of you have not been provided with this team member. We worked with a DOE to create a tracking sheet to identify vacancies, and the DOE is working to fill these vacancies. If you have a vacancy, please email your [UFT borough representative](#) and me to ensure that it's documented.

Sincerely,

Raul Garcia
Social Workers and Psychologists Chapter Leader

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