

Child Care

The Child Care section of the plan is effective on the date that it is approved by OCFS. The approval date for the Child Care section of the plan can be found on [the OCFS website](#).

Appendix K: Child Care Administration

Describe how your district is organized to administer the child care program, including any functions that are subcontracted to an outside agency.

1. Identify the unit that has primary responsibility for the administration of child care for:

a. Public Assistance Families:	Employment & Child Care Subsidy Unit
b. Transitioning Families:	Employment & Child Care Subsidy Unit
c. Income Eligible Families:	Employment & Child Care Subsidy Unit
d. Title XX:	N/A

2. Provide the following information on the use of New York State Child Care Block Grant (NYSCCBG) Funds.

Item	Amount
a. FFY 2018-2019 Rollover funds: <i>(available from the NYSCCBG ceiling report in the claiming system)</i>	\$2924557
b. Estimate FFY 2019-2020 Rollover Funds:	\$4900000
c. Estimate of Flexible Funds for Family Services transferred to the NYSCCBG:	\$0
d. NYSCCBG Allocation 2020:	\$11889607
e. Estimate of Local Share:	\$1019127
Total Estimated NYSCCBG Amount:	\$15833291
f. Subsidy:	\$14814164
g. Other program costs excluding subsidy:	\$0
h. Administrative costs:	\$738381

3. Does your district have a contract or formal agreement with another organization to perform any of the following functions using the NYSCCBG?

Function

Organization

Amount of Contract

- a. Subsidy eligibility screening
- b. Determining if legally-exempt providers meet OCFS-approved additional local standards
(must be noted in Appendix Q with the corresponding additional standard)
- c. Assistance in locating care
- d. Child care information systems
- e. Payment processing
- f. Other
Please specify function:

Appendix L: Other Eligible Families if Funds are Available

Listed below are the optional categories of eligible families that your district can include as part of its County Plan. Select any categories your district wants to serve using the NYSCCBG funds and describe any limitations associated with the category.

Optional Categories	Option	Limitations
1. Public Assistance (PA) families participating in an approved activity in addition to their required work activity.	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	When the additional activity is appropriate and consistent with the parent/caretaker's self-sufficiency goals as documented in their individualized employability plan.
2. PA families or families with incomes up to 200% of the State Income Standard when child care services are needed for the child to be protected because the caretaker is:		
a) participating in an approved substance abuse treatment program	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	TA families actual treatment hours will be approved when treatment is required as part of their individualized employability plan. NPA families actual treatment hours will be approved when treatment is court ordered.
b) homeless	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Approval not to exceed 60 days and the parent/caretaker must be involved in documented permanent housing search, and other allowed activities under our current plan. Additional extensions may be granted on a case by case basis.

<p>c) a victim of domestic violence and participating in an approved activity</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p>When the additional activity is appropriate and consistent with the parent/caretaker's self-sufficiency goals as documented in their individualized employability plan.</p>
<p>d) in an emergency situation of short duration</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p>Allowed for households providing the emergency situation and the need for care is documented as essential. All parents/caretakers in the household must be unavailable to care for the child.</p>
<p>3. Families with an open child protective services case when child care is needed to protect the child.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p>Allowed for families that also have a current and active Child Protective Services (CPS) case when the care is recommended and approved by the CPS caseworker AND child protective funding is not available.</p>
<p>4. Families with incomes up to 200% of the State Income Standard when child care services are needed for the child to be protected because the child's caretaker:</p>		
<p>a) is physically or mentally incapacitated</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p>Allowed when the parent/caretaker provides a medical report that they are unable to care for their child(ren) 24/7. Circumstances of the continued need will be periodically reviewed as necessary; every six (6) months minimum.</p>
<p>b) has family duties away from home</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p>Under unusual short term circumstances to be determined on a case by case basis by the Child Care Subsidy Unit supervisor using the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • valid documentation of the need for care • duration is limited to one (1) month • the parent/caretaker cannot bring their child(ren) with them and has no informal resources available • the circumstance leading to the need are outside the parent/caretaker's control

<p>5. Families with incomes up to 200% of the State Income Standard when child care services are needed for the child's caretaker to actively seek employment for a period up to six months. Child care services will be available only for the portion of the day the family can document is directly related to the caretaker engaging in such activities.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p>For TA families and low income families who lose their employment while a recipient of Albany County child care subsidy to actively seek employment for a period not to exceed 4 consecutive weeks, limited to 12 weeks per calendar year.</p>
<p>6. PA families where a sanctioned parent or caretaker relative is participating in unsubsidized employment, earning wages at a level equal to or greater than the minimum amount under law.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p>Parent/caretaker must be working a minimum of 20 hours per week.</p>
<p>7. Families with incomes up to 200% of the State Income Standard when child care services are needed for the child's caretaker to participate in:</p>		
<p>a) a public or private educational facility providing a standard high school curriculum offered by or approved by the local school district</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	
<p>b) an education program that prepares an individual to obtain a NYS High School equivalency diploma</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	
<p>c) a program providing basic remedial education in the areas of reading, writing, mathematics, and oral communications for individuals functioning below the ninth month of the eighth-grade level</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	
<p>d) a program providing literacy training designed to help individuals improve their ability to read and write</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	
<p>e) an English as a second language (ESL) instructional program designed to develop skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing the English language for individuals whose primary language is other than English</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p>Will be approved if the parent is employed a minimum of 20 hours per week and provides monthly verification of consistent attendance defined as 90% of the program schedule. Attendance less than 90% will be evaluated on a case by case basis.</p>
<p>f) a two-year full-time degree granting program at a community college, a two-year college, or an undergraduate college with a specific vocational goal leading to an associate's degree or certificate of completion</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p>Will be approved if the the parent/caretaker provides monthly verification of consistent attendance and maintains a minimum 2.5 GPA. Consistent attendance is defined as 90% of the program schedule. Attendance less than 90% will be evaluated on a case by case basis.</p>

<p>g) a training program, which has a specific occupational goal and is conducted by an institution other than a college or university that is licensed or approved by the State Education Department</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p>Will be approved if the program participation does not exceed 12 months, the parent/caretaker provides monthly verification of consistent attendance and maintains a minimum 2.5 GPA. Consistent attendance is defined as 90% of the program schedule. Attendance less than 90% will be evaluated on a case by case basis.</p>
<p>h) a prevocational skill training program such as a basic education and literacy training program</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p>Will be approved if the program participation does not exceed 12 months, the parent/caretaker provides monthly verification of consistent attendance and maintains a minimum 2.5 GPA. Consistent attendance is defined as 90% of the program schedule. Attendance less than 90% will be evaluated on a case by case basis.</p>
<p>i) a demonstration project designed for vocational training or other project approved by the Department of Labor</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p>Will be approved if the project does not exceed 12 months, the parent/caretaker provides monthly verification of consistent attendance and maintains a minimum 2.5 GPA. Consistent attendance is defined as 90% of the program schedule. Attendance less than 90% will be evaluated on a case by case basis.</p>
<p>Note: The caretaker must complete the selected programs listed within 30 consecutive calendar months. The caretaker cannot enroll in more than one program.</p>		
<p>8. PA recipients or low-income families with incomes up to 200% of the State Income Standard who are satisfactorily participating in a two-year program other than one with a specific vocational sequence (leading to an associate's degree or certificate of completion and that is reasonably expected to lead to an improvement in the caretaker's earning capacity) if the caretaker is also working at least 17½ hours per week. The caretaker must demonstrate his or her ability to successfully complete the course of study.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p>Will be approved if the parent/caretaker provides monthly verification of consistent attendance and maintains a minimum 2.5 GPA. Consistent attendance is defined as 90% of the program schedule. Attendance less than 90% will be evaluated on a case by case basis.</p>

<p>9. PA recipients or low-income families with incomes up to 200% of the State Income Standard who are satisfactorily participating in a two-year college or university program (other than one with a specific vocational sequence) leading to an associate's degree or a certificate of completion that is reasonably expected to lead to an improvement in the caretaker's earning capacity if the caretaker is also working at least 17½ hours per week. The caretaker must demonstrate his or her ability to successfully complete the course of study.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p>Will be approved if the parent/caretaker provides monthly verification of consistent attendance and maintains a minimum 2.5 GPA. Consistent attendance is defined as 90% of the program schedule. Attendance less than 90% will be evaluated on a case by case basis.</p>
<p>10. PA recipients or low-income families with incomes up to 200% of the State Income Standard who are satisfactorily participating in a four-year college or university program leading to a bachelor's degree and that is reasonably expected to lead to an improvement in the caretaker's earning capacity if the caretaker is also working at least 17½ hours per week. The caretaker must demonstrate his or her ability to successfully complete the course of study.</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No</p>	
<p>11. Families with incomes up to the 200% of the State Income Standard when child care services are needed for the child's caretaker to participate in a program to train workers in an employment field that currently is or is likely to be in demand in the future, if the caretaker documents that he or she is a dislocated worker and is currently registered in such a program, provided that child care services are only used for the portion of the day the caretaker is able to document is directly related to the caretaker engaging in such a program.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	<p>Will be approved if the parent/caretaker provides monthly verification of consistent attendance and maintains a minimum 2.5 GPA. Consistent attendance is defined as 90% of the program schedule. Attendance less than 90% will be evaluated on a case by case basis.</p>

Appendix M #1: Reasonable Distance, Recertification Period, Family Share, Very Low Income, Federal and Local Priorities

I. Reasonable Distance for Public Assistance Recipients to Travel to Child Care and Work

Define "reasonable distance" based on community standards for determining accessible child care.

1. The following defines "reasonable distance":

The total travel time between the home and work would not exceed one (1) hour each way with child

care drop-off and pick-up time included. A TA recipient will not be required to travel more than one hour to find child care.

2. Describe any steps/consultations made to arrive at your definition:

The one (1) hour reasonable distance rule is based on the availability and schedules of public transportation in Albany County and in consultation with parent/caretakers.

II. Recertification Period

The district's recertification period for low income child care cases is every:

- Six months
- Twelve months

III. Family Share

"Family Share" is the weekly amount paid towards the costs of the child care services by the child's parent or caretaker. Your district must select a family share percentage from 10% to 35% to use in calculating the amount of family share. The weekly family share of child care costs is calculated by applying the family share percentage against the amount of the family's annual gross income that is in excess of the State Income Standard divided by 52.

Note: The family share percentage selected here must match the percentage entered in the Program Matrix in the Welfare Management System (WMS) and the Child Care Time and Attendance (CCTA) system.

Family Share Percentage selected by the district:

10%

Additional Description of this Family Share Percentage:

Note: The family share percentage selected here must match the percentage entered in the Program Matrix in the Welfare Management System (WMS).

IV. Very Low Income

Define "very low income" as it is used in determining priorities for child care benefits.

"Very Low Income" is defined as **125%** of the State Income Standard.

V. Federal and Local Priorities

1. The district must rank the federally mandated priorities. Cases that are ranked 1 have the highest priority for receiving child care assistance. These rankings apply to case closings and case openings.

a. Very low income as defined in Section IV:

- Rank 1
- Rank 2
- Rank 3

b. Families with incomes up to 200% of the State Income Standard that have a child with special needs and a need for child care:

- Rank 1
- Rank 2
- Rank 3

c. Families with incomes up to 200% of the State Income Standard that are experiencing homelessness:

- Rank 1
- Rank 2
- Rank 3

2. Does the district have local priorities?

- Yes
- No

If yes, list them below and rank beginning with Rank 4.

- 4. Families with ill or incapacitated parents/caretakers participating in verified therapeutic treatment or rehabilitation
- 5. Teen parents that need child care assistance to enable them to attend high school or an equivalency program

Appendix M #2: Case Openings, Case Closings, and Waiting List

I. Case Openings When Funds Are Limited

If a social services district does not have sufficient funds to provide child care services to all families who are applying, the district may decide to open certain categories of families as funds become available. The district must open federal priorities first. If the district identified local priorities, they must be opened next. **After the federal and local priorities**, identify the basis upon which the district will open cases if funds become available. Select one of the options listed below and describe the process for opening.

- 1. Open cases based on **FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED.**
- 2. Open cases based on **INCOME.**
- 3. Open cases based on **CATEGORY OF FAMILY.**
- 4. Open cases based on **INCOME AND CATEGORY OF FAMILY.**

List below the incomes (from lowest to highest income) or income bands (from lowest income band to highest income band), and the remaining category 2 and 3 families included in 18 NYCRR §415.2(a)(2) and 18 NYCRR §415.2(a)(3) that are not federal or local priorities in the order they will be opened first.

1. Families with income between 150% and 126% of SIS (State Income Standard)
2. Families with income between 175% and 151% of SIS
3. Families with income between 200% and 176% of SIS
4. Families that fall under Appendix L

5. Open cases based on **OTHER CRITERIA.**

II. Case Closings When Sufficient Funds Are Not Available

If a social services district does not have sufficient funds to continue to provide child care assistance to all families in its current caseload, the district may decide to discontinue child care assistance to certain categories of families. The district must close federal priorities last. If the district identified local priorities, they must be closed next to last. **After the federal and local priorities**, describe the basis upon which the district will close cases if sufficient funds are not available.

If no priorities are established beyond the federally mandated priorities and all funds are committed, case closings for families that are not eligible under a child care guarantee and are not under a federally mandated priority must be based on the length of time they have received services (must choose #1 below).

Select one of the options listed below and describe the process for closing.

1. Close cases based on **AMOUNT OF TIME** receiving child care services.
2. Close cases based on **INCOME.**
3. Close cases based on **CATEGORY OF FAMILY.**
4. Close cases based on **INCOME AND CATEGORY OF FAMILY.**

List below the incomes (from the highest to lowest income) or income bands (from the highest income band to the lowest income band), and the category 2 and 3 families included in 18 NYCRR §415.2(a) that are not federal or local priorities in the order they will be closed.

1. Families that fall under Appendix L
2. Families with income between 200% and 176% of SIS
3. Families with income between 175% and 151% of SIS
4. Families with income between 150% and 126% of SIS

5. Close cases based on **OTHER CRITERIA.**

III. Waiting List

The district will establish a waiting list when there are not sufficient funds to open all eligible cases.

- No
 Yes

Appendix M #3: Fraud and Abuse Control Activities and Inspections

I. Fraud and Abuse Control Activities

1. Describe below the criteria the district will use to determine which child care subsidy applications suggest a higher than acceptable risk for fraudulent or erroneous child care subsidy payments in addition to procedures for referring such applications to the district's front-end detection system.

We will follow criteria as established under the state Front End Detection System (FEDS) mandate and other optional indicators as guidance to identify possible instances of fraud. These indicators include:

- financial obligations are current, but stated expenses exceed income without a reasonable explanation
- working off the books (currently or previously)
- supported by loans or gifts from family/friends
- self-employment with no adequate business records to support financial assertions
- no documentation to verify identity or documentation of identity is questionable
- documentation or information provided is inconsistent with the application, i.e.: different names used for signature, invalid Social Security number
- Post Office box used as a mailing address without a reasonable explanation, i.e.: high crime area
- prior history of denial, case closing or overpayments resulting from an investigation
- application is inconsistent with prior case information
- no absent parent information or information is inconsistent with the application of previous applications

Cases having any of the state mandated or optional indicators will be referred via the Agency's existing FEDS referral process. This Agency's Fraud staff will, as deemed appropriate, investigate by conducting home visits and/or office interviews. Outcomes in all FED's referrals will be reported back to the Child Care Subsidy staff prior to the case opening. Based on the investigator's findings, the Child Care Subsidy worker will determine eligibility.

2. Describe the sampling methodology used to determine which cases will require verification of an applicant's or recipient's continued need for child care, including, as applicable, verification of participation in employment, education, or other required activities.

The district cannot use criteria such as the age of provider, the gender of provider, a post office box address, or evidence that the child lives in the same residence as the provider as indicators in drawing the sample.

A sampling of all cases in receipt of child care subsidy will be reviewed for actual hours of engagement compared to the actual hours billed by the child care providers. The sample will be based on the current unduplicated caseload, To comply with a statistically valid and representative sampling each month we will select 25 cases randomly (300 cases annually) to be reviewed in this area.

3. Describe the sampling methodology used to determine which providers of subsidized child care services will be reviewed for the purpose of comparing the child care provider's attendance forms for children receiving subsidized child care services with any Child and Adult Care Food Program inspection forms to verify that child care was actually provided on the days listed on the attendance forms.

We will select a sampling from our district child care providers for comparison of inspection forms for providers enrolled in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to the actual attendance billing forms in order to verify consistency that the children reported in care under the CACFP were billed appropriately for subsidy. The providers selected for the sample will be based on the current total of all providers participating in the CACFP which is presently 66. To achieve a statistically valid and representative sampling we will select 50 cases annually to be reviewed in this area.

II. Inspections of Child Care Provider Records and Premises

The district may choose to make announced or unannounced inspections of the records and premises of any provider/program that provides child care for subsidized children to determine if the child care provider is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations and any additional requirements imposed on such a provider by the social services district per 18 NYCRR §415.4(h)(3).

The district has the right to make inspections *prior to subsidized children receiving care* of any child care provider, including care in a home, to determine whether the child care provider is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations and any additional requirements imposed on such a provider by the district.

The district must report violations of regulations as follows:

1. Violations by a licensed or registered child care provider must be reported to the applicable Office of Children and Families (OCFS) Regional Office.
2. Violations by an enrolled or enrolling legally-exempt child care provider must be reported to the applicable Enrollment Agency.

Does the district choose to make inspections of such child care providers/programs?

- No.
- Yes. Provide the details of your inspections plan below.

Check the organization that will be responsible for conducting inspections:

- Local social services staff
Provide the name of the unit and contact person:
Albany County Welfare Fraud Unit, Sean Hicks, Supervising Fraud Investigator
- Contracted Agency *(must correspond to Appendix K, Question 3f)*
Provide the name of the agency and contact person:

The following *types* of subsidized child care providers/programs are subject to this requirement:

- Legally-Exempt Child Care**
- In-Home
- Family Child Care

Group programs not operating under the auspices of another government agency

Group programs operating under the auspices of another government agency

Licensed or Registered Child Care

Family Day Care

Registered School-Age Child Care

Group Family Day Care

Day Care Centers

Small Day Care Centers

Appendix N: District Options

Districts have some flexibility to administer their child care subsidy programs to meet local needs. Districts must complete Question I below. Note that all districts must complete the differential payment rate table in Appendix T.

I. The district selects:

None of the options below

One or more of the options below

II. Districts must check the options that will be included in the district's county plan and complete the appropriate appendix for any option checked below.

1. The district has chosen to establish funding set-asides for NYSCCBG (complete Appendix O).

2. The district has chosen to use Title XX funds for the provision of child care services (complete Appendix P).

3. The district has chosen to establish additional local standards for child care providers (complete Appendix Q).

4. The district has chosen to make payments to child care providers for absences (complete Appendix R).

5. The district has chosen to make payments to child care providers for program closures (complete Appendix S).

6. The district has chosen to pay for transportation to and from a child care provider (complete Appendix T).

7. The district has chosen to pay a differential rate for licensed or registered child care providers that have been accredited by a nationally recognized child care organization (complete Appendix T).

- 8. The district has chosen to pay a differential rate above the required 5% minimum differential rate for child care services during non-traditional hours (complete Appendix T).
- 9. The district has chosen to pay a differential rate for child care providers caring for children experiencing homelessness above the required minimum differential rate (complete Appendix T).
- 10. The district has chosen to pay a differential rate in excess of the 25% maximum differential rate for child care providers that qualify for multiple differential rates to allow sufficient access to child care providers or services within the district (complete Appendix T).
- 11. The district has chosen to pay up to 75% of the enhanced market rate for legally-exempt family and in-home child care providers who have completed 10 hours of training, which has been verified by the Legally-Exempt Caregiver Enrollment Agency (complete Appendix T).
- 12. The district has chosen to pay an enhanced market rate for eligible legally-exempt group child care programs that meet required health and/or training requirements (complete Appendix T).
- 13. The district has chosen to pay for child care services while a caretaker who works the second or third shift sleeps (complete Appendix T).
- 14. The district has chosen to make payments to child care providers who provide child care services exceeding 24 consecutive hours (complete Appendix U).
- 15. The district has chosen to include 18-, 19- or 20-year-olds in the Child Care Services Unit (complete Appendix U).
- 16. The district requests a waiver from one or more regulatory provisions. Waivers are limited to those regulatory standards that are not specifically included in law (complete Appendix U).
- 17. The district has chosen to pay for breaks in activity for low income families (non-public assistance families) (complete Appendix U).
- 18. The district has chosen to use local equivalent(s) of OCFS required form(s). Prior to using a local equivalent form the district must obtain OCFS, Division of Child Care Services (DCCS) written approval. **Any previous approvals for local equivalent forms will not be carried forward into this county plan. Therefore, any local equivalent forms a district wishes to establish or renew must be included in this plan and will be subject to review and approval by OCFS.**

List below the names and upload copies of the local equivalent form(s) that the district would like to use.

- 19. The district elects to use the OCFS-6025, Application for Child Care Assistance. The local district may add the district name and contact information to the form.

Appendix O: Funding Set-Asides

I. Total NYSCCBG Block Grant Amount, Including Local Funds

Category

Amount

	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
Total Set-Asides (NYSCCBG):	\$

Describe the rationale behind specific set-aside amounts from the NYSCCBG (e.g., estimated number of children) for each category.

Category:

Description:

Category:

Description:

Category:

Description:

Category:

Description:

II. The following amounts are set aside for specific priorities from the Title XX block grant:

Category	Amount
	\$
	\$

	\$
Total Set-Asides (Title XX):	\$

Describe the rationale behind specific amounts set aside from the Title XX block grant (e.g., estimated number of children) for each category.

Category:

Description:

Category:

Description:

Category:

Description:

Appendix P: Title XX Child Care

1. Enter the projected total of Title XX expenditures for the plan's duration: \$

Indicate the financial eligibility limits (percentage of State Income Standard) your district will apply based on family size. Maximum reimbursable limits are 275% for a family of one or two, 255% for a family of three, and 225% for a family of four or more. Districts that are utilizing Title XX funds only for child protective and/or preventive child care services must not enter financial eligibility limits as these services are offered without regard to income.

Family Size	Eligibility Limit
Two People	%
Three People	%
Four People	%

2. Programmatic Eligibility for Income Eligible Families (check all that apply)

- Employment
- Seeking employment
- Homelessness
- Education / training
- Illness / incapacity
- Domestic violence
- Emergency situation of short duration
- Participating in an approved substance abuse treatment program

3. Does the district apply any limitations to the programmatic eligibility criteria?

- Yes
- No

If yes, describe eligibility criteria:

4. Does the district prioritize certain eligible families for Title XX funding?

- Yes
- No

If yes, describe which families will receive priority:

5. Does the district use Title XX funds for child care for open child protective services cases?

- Yes
- No

6. Does the district use Title XX funds for child care for open child preventive services cases?

- Yes
- No

Appendix Q: Additional Local Standards for Child Care Providers

The district may propose local standards in addition to the State standards for legally-exempt providers who will receive child care subsidies issued by the district. This appendix must be completed for **each** additional local standard that the district wants to implement.

The district must coordinate with the local Enrollment Agency, including, but not limited to:

- Informing the Enrollment Agency of the intent to request an additional standard.
- Developing the stepwise process referenced in Question 5.
- Ensuring that no significant burden of work shall be incurred by the Enrollment Agency as a result of the additional local standard, unless such work is addressed in a separate contract or a formal agreement is in place, which are referenced in Question 3.
- Sharing any consent/release form that may be required.
- Keeping the Enrollment Agency informed of the approval status.

1. Select the additional local standard that will be required of child care providers/programs.

Verification, using the district's local records, that the provider has given the caretaker complete and accurate information regarding any report of child abuse or maltreatment in which he or she is named as an indicated subject

Local criminal background check

Require providers caring for subsidized children for 30 or more hours a week participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

Note that districts are required to notify the Enrollment Agency, using the OCFS-2114, District Notification to Legally-Exempt Caregiver Enrollment Agency, of all providers on the referral list for whom the requirement is "not applicable."

Site visits by the district

Other

Please describe:

2. Check below the type of child care program to which the additional local standard will apply and indicate the roles of the persons to whom it will apply in cases where the standard is person-specific.

Legally-exempt relative-only family child care program

Provider

Provider's employee

Provider's volunteer

Provider's household member age 18 or older

Legally-exempt relative-only in-home child care program

Provider

Provider's employee

Provider's volunteer

Legally-exempt family child care program

Provider

Provider's employee

Provider's volunteer

Provider's household member age 18 or older

Legally-exempt in-home child care program

Provider

Provider's employee

Provider's volunteer

Legally-exempt group program

Director

Employee

Volunteer

2a. Exceptions: There may be instances when the district may be unable to enact the additional standard, such as, the applicable person may reside outside of the district's jurisdiction, or the site of care may not be located within the district. In such cases, the district may create an exception to the applicability stated above.

Note: The Child Care Facility System cannot track such exceptions and, therefore, the district remains responsible for notifying the applicable Enrollment Agency, using the OCFS-2114, District Notification to Legally-Exempt Caregiver Enrollment Agency, that an additional standard is "not applicable" to the specific provider/person named on the referral list.

Place a check mark below to show any exception to the applicability of this Local Additional Standard to programs or roles previously identified.

a. The district will not apply this additional local standard when the applicable person **resides** outside of the subsidy-paying district.

b. The district will not apply this additional local standard when the **program's site of care is located outside** of the subsidy-paying district.

3. Districts are responsible for implementation of the additional local standard unless they have a formal agreement or contract with another organization. Check the organization that will be responsible for the implementation of the additional local standard.

Local social services staff

Provide the name of the unit and contact person:

Child Care Subsidy Unit, Michelle Dibble, Supervising Eligibility Examiner

- Contracted agency (must correspond to Appendix K, Question 3b)
Provide the name of the agency and contact person:

Note: Costs associated with the additional local standard cannot be passed on to the provider.

4. Are there any fees or other costs associated with the additional local standard?

- Yes
 No

Note: Costs associated with the additional local standard cannot be passed on to the provider.

5. Describe, in chronological order, the steps for conducting the additional local standard. Include how the district will retrieve referrals from CCFS, communicate with providers and other applicable persons, determine compliance with the additional local standard, inform the Enrollment Agency whether the additional local standard has been "met," "not met" or is "not applicable" and monitor its timeliness. Include all agencies involved and their roles. Note that the district's procedures must be in accordance with 12-OCFS-LCM-01.

The district will conduct a local criminal history background check to verify the truthfulness of the attestations pertaining to the criminal history of the individuals checked in question #2. In the enrollment package, the district will provide the Albany County DSS Legally Exempt Release of Information form, which will authorize local criminal history database checks. The individuals checked in #2 above will be required to sign a release which will allow our Department to conduct a local criminal history check. The individual will be instructed to return the enrollment package including the signed release form to the Enrollment Agency. If the individual checked in question #2 above refuses to sign an authorization for a local criminal history check, the enrollment package will be considered incomplete, no E-Notice will be sent to Albany County and Albany County will not conduct its check, and the enrollment package will be withdrawn by the enrollment agency. To initiate the additional standards check, per 12-OCFS-LCM-01, the Child Care Facility System will automatically generate the E-Notice, LE-CCFS LD-003 Legally Exempt Additional Standard Referral, to inform the local district that the additional standards check must be conducted. Designated district staff must run the CCFS report, LE Additional Local Standard Referral List, to obtain the list of persons subject to the additional local standard, as specified in question #2 above, and to obtain specific information regarding the child caregiver(s) for whom Legally Exempt Additional Standard Reviews must be conducted.

The district will arrange for a local database check for the criminal convictions to be conducted by either the local sheriff's department or the local probation department. In accordance with 12-OCFS-LCM-01, Albany County Department of Social Services will complete the OCFS-2114, District Notification to Legally-Exempt Caregiver Enrollment Agency, and send it to the applicable Enrollment Agency to notify the Enrollment Agency of the determination of "Met" or "Not met."

Additionally, when a search results in a criminal convictions history, the child care staff will provide the convictions history information to the Enrollment Agency so that any discrepancies as to what was reported in the enrollment packet by the potential provider and others, are identified and the Enrollment Agency may take proper action.

The standard is "Met" when: all the applicable criminal background checks are conducted.

The standard is considered to be "Not Met" when: the applicable criminal background checks cannot be completed due to the lack of cooperation of the provider or other person who is required to participate.

6. Indicate how frequently the additional local standard will be applied. Answer both questions.

1. The Standard will be applied:

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- At initial enrollment and re-opening
- At each re-enrollment

2. The district will assess compliance with the additional local standard:

- During the enrollment **review** period*, and the district will notify the Enrollment Agency of the results within 25 days from the E-Notice referral date.
- During the 12-month enrollment period*, and the district will notify the Enrollment Agency of the results promptly. Note that this option is always applicable to an additional local standard requiring participation in CACFP.

7. Describe the justification for the additional local standard in the space below.

Relatives are not included in the new federal background checks therefore our district chooses to have the relative providers meet the additional standard of local criminal background checks to ensure the health and safety of the child(ren) they will be providing care for.

Appendix R: Payment to Child Care Providers for Absences

1. The following providers are eligible for payment for absences (check all that are eligible):

- Day care center
- Group family day care
- Family day care
- Legally-exempt group
- School-age child care

2. Our district will only pay for absences to providers with which the district has a contract or letter of intent.

- Yes
- No

3. Base Period:

- 3 months
- 6 months

4. Number of absences allowed per child during base period:

Period	Routine Limits (# of days)	Extenuating Circumstances (# of days)	Total Number of Absences Allowed (# of days)
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In a Month	6	3	9
Base Period	24	16	40

Note: The number of absences per month and base period selected here must match the attendance group numbers entered in CCTA.

5. List reasons for absences for which the district will allow payment:

- illness of the child(ren) or parent/caretaker (extenuating circumstance will require medical documentation)
- routine medical appointment of the child(ren)
- the child(ren) and/or parent/caretaker must appear in court or keep other appointments related to the provision of preventive, foster care, adoption or child protective services or other needs as set forth in the child services plan (extenuating circumstances require supporting documentation)
- vacation of the child or parent/caretaker

6. List any limitations on the above providers' eligibility for payment for absences:

- a child who did not begin care on the date authorized by this Agency is not considered "absent" and will not be paid for
- the district will not consider a child "absent" if the program is not open and providing care
- payments will only be made for days on which the parent/caretaker is scheduled to work or attend an approved program
- if a child was removed from care by the parent/caretaker without notice absences will not be paid
- vacation is limited to 5 absences in a base period
- a child absent for more than 5 consecutive days will only be paid for 5 absences

Note: Legally-exempt family child care and in-home child care providers are **not** eligible to receive payment for absences.

Appendix S: Payment to Child Care Providers for Program Closures

1. The following providers are eligible for payment for program closures:

- Day care center
- Group family day care
- Family day care
- Legally-exempt group
- School-age child care

2. The district will only pay for program closures to providers with which the district has a contract or letter of intent.

- Yes
- No

3. Enter the number of days allowed for program closures (maximum allowable time for program closures is five days):

5

4. List the allowable program closures for which the district will provide payment.

- Extenuating circumstances beyond the provider's control, such as a natural disaster, severe weather and/or a documented emergency other than a regulatory violation that necessitates a closing
- State, federal and/or nationally recognized holidays

Note: Legally-exempt family child care and in-home child care providers are not allowed to be reimbursed for program closures.

Appendix T: Transportation, Differential Payment Rates, Enhanced Market Rate for Legally-Exempt Providers, Legally-Exempt Programs, and Sleep

1. Are there circumstances where the district will reimburse for transportation?

- No
- Yes

2. If the district will reimburse for transportation, describe any circumstances and limitations the district will use to reimburse. Include what type of transportation will be reimbursed (public and/or private) and how much your district will pay (per mile or trip). Note that if the district is paying for transportation, the Program Matrix in the Welfare Management System (WMS) should reflect this choice.

II. Differential Payment Rates

1. Districts must complete the Differential Payment Rate Percent (%) column in the table below for each of the four (4) differential payment rate categories. For the two (2) categories that require a state minimum five percent (5%) differential payment rate, the district must enter "5%" or, if it chooses, a higher rate up to 15%.

The other two (2) differential payment rate categories in the table below are optional. If the district chooses not to set differential payment rates, the district must enter zero. If the district chooses to set a differential payment rate, enter the appropriate percentage up to 15 percent (15%). Note that if the district selects a differential payment rate for nationally accredited programs, then that rate must be in the range of five

percent (5%) to 15 percent (15%).

Differential Payment Rate Category	Differential Payment Rate Percent	Instructions
Homelessness: Licensed and Registered Providers State required minimum of 5%	5%	Enter a percentage (%): 5% to 15%. (Must enter at least 5%)
Homelessness: Legally-Exempt Providers	0%	Enter 0% or a percentage (%) up to 15%.
Non-traditional Hours: All Providers State required minimum of 5%	10%	Enter a percentage (%): 5% to 15%. (Must enter at least 5%)
Nationally Accredited Programs: Licensed and Registered Providers <i>Legally-exempt child care providers are not eligible for a differential payment rate for accreditation.</i>	10%	Enter 0% or a percentage (%) from 5% to 15%.

2. Generally, differential payment rates may not exceed 25% above the applicable market rate or actual cost of care. However, a district may request a waiver from the Office to establish a payment rate that is in excess of 25% above the applicable market rate upon showing that the 25% maximum is insufficient to provide access within the district to child care providers or services that offer care addressing more than one of the differential payment rate categories. However, if your district wants to establish a payment rate that is more than 25% above the applicable market rate, describe below why the 25% maximum is insufficient to provide access to such child care providers or services.

III. Increased Enhanced Market Rate for Legally-Exempt Family and In-Home Child Care Providers

1. The enhanced market rate for legally-exempt family and legally-exempt in-home child care providers who have completed 10 or more hours of training annually is a 70% differential applied to the market rates established for registered family day care. Indicate if the district is electing to establish a payment rate that is in excess of the enhanced market rate for legally-exempt family and in-home child care providers who have completed 10 or more hours of training annually and the training has been verified by the legally-exempt caregiver enrollment agency.

- No
- Yes

2. If yes, indicate the percent (71%–75%), not to exceed 75% of the child care market rate established for registered family day care.

%

IV. Enhanced Market Rates for Legally-Exempt Group Child Care Programs

Answer both questions:

1. Indicate if the district is electing to establish an enhanced market rate for child care services provided by legally-exempt group child care programs that have prepared an approved health care plan and have at least one caregiver in each classroom with age appropriate cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification and the enhanced requirements have been verified by the enrollment agency.

- No

Yes

If yes, indicate the percent (76%–81%), not to exceed 81% of the applicable market rate for day care centers.

%

2. Indicate if the district is electing to establish an enhanced market rate for child care services provided by legally-exempt group child care programs when, in addition to the training required in 18 NYCRR §415.4(f), the caregiver has completed an approved course and a minimum of 15 hours of approved training annually and each employee with a caregiving role completes a minimum of 5 hours of approved training annually and the enhanced requirements have been verified by the enrollment agency.

No

Yes

If yes, indicate the percent (76%–81%), not to exceed 81% of the applicable market rate for day care centers.

%

If a district chooses to establish both legally-exempt group child care enhanced rates and a program is eligible for both enhanced rates, then the enhanced market rate must be based on the percentages selected for each individual market rate, up to a maximum of 87%.

V. Sleep

1. Does the district choose to pay for child care services while a caretaker that works a second or third shift sleeps?

No

Yes

2. The following describes the standards the district will use to evaluate whether to pay for child care services while a caretaker that works a second or third shift sleeps, as well as any limitations pertaining to payment:

In accordance with SSL 410-w(9), up to eight hours of additional child care assistance must be authorized for all eligible children in a family, as needed, in order to allow a parent or caretaker to sleep, if the parent or caretaker works non-traditional hours, is eligible for and provided with child care assistance, and has a child under the age of six and not in school for a full day.

3. Indicate the number of hours allowed by your district per day (maximum number of hours allowed is eight).

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Appendix U: Child Care Exceeding 24 Hours, Child Care Services Unit, Waivers, and Breaks in Activities

I. Child Care Exceeding 24 Hours

1. Child care services may exceed 24 consecutive hours when such services are provided on a short-term emergency basis or in other situations where the caretaker's approved activity necessitates care for 24 hours on a limited basis. Check below under what circumstances the district will pay for child care exceeding 24 hours.

- On a short-term or emergency basis
- The caretaker's approved activity necessitates care for 24 hours on a limited basis

2. Describe any limitations on the payment of child care services that exceed 24 consecutive hours.

II. Child Care Services Unit (CCSU)

1. Indicate below if your district will include 18-, 19-, or 20-year-olds in the CCSU for determining family size and countable family income.

a. The district will include the following in the CCSU (check all that apply)

- 18-year-olds
- 19-year-olds
- 20-year-olds

OR

b. The district will only include the following in the CCSU when it will benefit the family (check all that apply)

- 18-year-olds
- 19-year-olds
- 20-year-olds

2. Describe the criteria your district will use to determine whether or not 18-, 19-, or 20-year olds are included in the CCSU.

This will be determined by budget and family choice.

III. Waivers

1. Districts have the authority to request a waiver of any regulatory provision that is non-statutory. The waiver must be approved by OCFS before it can be implemented. Describe and justify why your district is requesting a waiver.

IV. Breaks in Activities

1. Districts may pay for child care services for low-income families during breaks in activities either for a period not to exceed two weeks or for a period not to exceed four weeks when child care arrangements would otherwise be lost and the subsequent activity is expected to begin within that period. If your district will pay for breaks in activities, indicate below for how long of a break that the district will pay for (check one):

Albany County: Child Care

- Two weeks
- Four weeks
- The district will not pay for breaks in activities

2. Districts may provide child care services while the caretaker is waiting to enter an approved activity or employment or on a break between approved activities. The following low-income families are eligible for child care services during a break in activities (check all that are eligible):

- Entering an activity
- Waiting for employment
- On a break between activities