



Office of Children and Family Services

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

SHEILA J. POOLE
Commissioner

June 22, 2022

Dear Provider:

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) is excited to share with you some information on changes to the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), previously known as the Subsidy Program, funded under the New York State Child Care Block Grant (NYSCCBG). These changes may impact eligible families as well as licensed, registered, and enrolled legally exempt providers. Outlined below are changes that went into effect on December 1, 2021, June 1, 2022, and additional changes scheduled to take effect August 1, 2022, in accordance with statutory revisions.

Effective December 1, 2021:

- The definition of very low income was standardized across the state. This means that child care assistance is available to eligible families earning up to 200% of the State Income Standard (SIS) for their household size. The eligibility level will increase to 300% on August 1, 2022.
- Child care assistance is now provided for 12 months at a time if the family income stays below the maximum amount allowed and no other case closure reasons are met.
- Family shares cannot be increased during the 12-month eligibility period but can be decreased in some situations.
- Child care assistance must continue through the end of the eligibility period, even after a child turns 13 years old. This means that you may be able to serve children past their 13th birthday.
- Local social services districts (districts) must now pay for up to 24 absence days per child per licensed, registered, or enrolled legally exempt provider per year. If a child receives care from more than one provider in one year, each provider can get paid for up to 24 absences, as needed.
- The definition of “engaged in work” for parents and caretakers who do not receive Temporary Assistance was reduced from a minimum work requirement of 20 hours average per week to 10 hours average per week.

Effective June 1, 2022:

- Market rates have been set at the 80th percentile of the prices reported by providers on the most recent market rate survey. These rates will allow families who receive child care assistance equal access to comparable child care services in the state. Adjustments to the market rate are handled by the paying district, not OCFS. You should contact your paying district with any

questions related to this change. The market rates are posted on the OCFS website at: <https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/policies/external/2022/lcm/22-OCFS-LCM-14-Att-A-Market-Rates.pdf>

- Part-day rates will now be used in place of hourly rates for child care assistance. If you previously charged an hourly rate, you must replace that rate with a part-day rate for subsidized child care assistance. You should contact your paying district with any questions.
- There is a new payment rate available for child care assistance provided to some children with special needs. At this time, OCFS has set this amount at 15% above the market rate that would otherwise apply to such a child if a parent or caretaker can show that the special needs of the child result in additional child care-related services that are not generally required by children of a similar age. The special needs market rate is not a differential payment and does not count toward the payment rules if you qualify for more than one differential payment rate.
- If you have increased your rate and you only care for children receiving child care assistance, and you do not have a contract with the district, you must submit the [OCFS-6060, Child Care Provider Attestation of Costs Form](#), to your district. **This form should not be returned to OCFS.**
- If your rate is above the market rate for your area, a family receiving child care assistance would be responsible for the difference.

OCFS encourages all providers to serve families that receive child care assistance. There are also differential rates if you provide child care during non-traditional hours, and there may be differential rates if you serve families who are homeless, or who have national accreditation. If you do already serve families who receive child care assistance, this letter is also a reminder that any changes to your program, such as when you move or change modalities, require that the families notify their local district that the program has changed, or the district will not be able to pay for child care assistance. You have an important role in helping parents understand this responsibility.

You should contact your paying district with any questions regarding the changes outlined in this letter. Contact information for each district can be found on the OCFS website at: <https://ocfs.ny.gov/directories/localdss.php>

We appreciate providers and your valuable role in the lives of children, families, and the larger community. Thank you for your dedication to the children of New York State.

Sincerely,



Janice M. Molnar, Ph.D.
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Child Care Services