



Office of Children and Family Services

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

SHEILA J. POOLE
Commissioner

September 3, 2021

Dear Local District Commissioner, Probation Director, and Youth Bureau Director:

This letter is to inform you that the Dutchess County Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) 2021 Annual Plan Update is approved effective September 3, 2021.

The Office of Children and Family Services is committed to providing the support you need to continue to offer quality services and improve outcomes. We look forward to working with your county to implement the provisions of your CFSP.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Ogundimu", with a horizontal line extending from the end.

Lisa Gharthey Ogundimu, Esq.
Deputy Commissioner
Child Welfare & Community Services
New York State Office of Children & Family Services

cc: File

Signature Page and Attestation

We hereby approve and submit the Child and Family Services Plan for Dutchess County Department of Social Services and Youth Bureau 2021 Annual Plan Update.

We also attest to our commitment to maintain compliance with the Legal Assurances outlined below.

Legal Assurances

All signatures must be included, along with the date(s). The signatures on this page attest to the district's compliance with assurances A through H (below), which are incorporated by reference into your plan. The legal assurances are statutorily mandated; districts must indicate that they are complying with these standards or must provide a remediation plan if they are not.

A. General

1. All providers of service under this plan operate in full conformance with applicable federal, state, and local fire, health, safety and sanitation, and other standards prescribed in law or regulations. Where the county is required to provide licensure for provision of services, agencies providing such services shall be licensed.
2. All recipients of funds are required to operate each program or activity so that, when viewed in its entirety, the program or activity is readily accessible to and usable by persons who are handicapped to the extent required by law.
3. Benefits and services available under the state plan are provided in a non-discriminatory manner as required by Title VI of the *Civil Rights Act of 1964* (as amended).
4. The activities covered by this plan serve only those individuals and groups eligible under the provisions of the applicable state and federal statutes.
5. No requirements as to duration of residence or citizenship will be imposed as a condition of the participation in the State's program for the provision of services.
6. There is in operation a system of fair hearings and grievances under which applicants for or recipients of services and care may appeal denial, exclusion, reduction, termination, or choice of services/care; mandatory nature of service/care; or failure to take timely action upon an application for services/care.
7. Adequate and timely notice is provided to applicants for and recipients of services and care as required by NY 18 NYCRR 407.5(h) (2) (l).
8. Title XX-funded services are available to eligible individuals in every geographic area within the district. Where different services are made available to a specific category of individuals in different geographic areas, services are available to all eligible individuals in that category who reside in that area.
9. Title XX reporting and fiscal systems includes level of care, maintenance, and services provided to children and families and costs of services provided.

B. Child Protective Services

1. The district maintains an organizational structure and staffing, policies, and practices that maintains compliance with 18 NYCRR 432.
2. The district has specifically reviewed 18 NYCRR 432.2 (f)(3) and is in compliance with all assurances outlined in those regulations.

C. Preventive Services for Children

1. Children and families in need of the core preventive services have these services provided to them in a timely manner. Core services include day care, homemaker, transportation, 24-hour access to emergency services, parent aide or parent training, clinical services, crisis respite care,

- services for families with AIDS/HIV+, and housing services.
2. The district maintains efforts to coordinate services with service agencies and other public and private agencies within the district that provide services to children including the use of referral procedures with these agencies and formal and informal agreements.
 3. The district has prepared plans and procedures for providing or arranging for 24-hour access to emergency services for children who are at risk of foster care as specified in 18 NYCRR 423.4. Staff is aware of such plans and procedures.

D. Youth Development

1. Where the county receives state funds pursuant to Executive Law 420, the municipality's youth development program maintains an organizational structure and staffing, policies, and practices that comply with Article 19-A of the Executive Law and 9 NYCRR Subpart 165-1.
2. Executive Law section 420(1)(c) sets forth statutory options for RHYA services in Executive Law 420(2). This information is located in the RHYA/Youth Bureau Administrative Component.

E. Adult Protective Services

1. The district has established a process that enables the commissioner to act as a guardian and representative or protective payee on behalf of a client in need of adult protective services (APS) when no one else is available or willing and capable of acting in this capacity.
2. In providing protective services for adults, the district will implement each responsibility contained in 18 NYCRR Part 457.
3. The district attests that following has been established for PSA:
 - Financial management system with written procedures;
 - The roles and responsibilities have been defined and written for the delivery of protective services for adults for the various divisions and offices of the social services district, including accounting, income maintenance, medical assistance, protective services for adults, and all relevant services; and
 - An interagency service delivery network has been developed with other appropriate agencies including, but not limited to, the Office for the Aging, the Department of Health, community mental health services, psychiatric center(s), legal services and appropriate law enforcement agencies.

F. Domestic Violence Services

1. Domestic violence victims seeking non-residential services are provided with all needed core services directly from the provider in a timely manner and as otherwise specified in 18 NYCRR Part 462.
2. Non-residential services are provided regardless of the person's financial eligibility; must provide services in a manner that addresses ethnic composition of the community; must provide services in a manner that addresses needs of victims who are disabled, hearing impaired, or non-English speaking, and must provide services in a safe and confidential location.

G. Child Care

The district assures that when providing child care services under the New York State Child Care Block Grant (NYSCCBG), the Social Services Block Grant (Title XX), and other child care services funded with state or federal funds, it is in compliance with all pertinent state and federal laws, regulations, and policies, which include but are not limited to the following:

1. Providing parents or other eligible caretakers with information about the full range of providers eligible for payment with child care subsidy funds.
2. Offering child care certificates to assist parents in accessing care.
3. Informing clients of criteria to consider when selecting a child care provider.
4. Allowing parents or other eligible caretakers to select any legal, eligible child care provider (districts may disapprove providers chosen by families with a preventive or protective case under certain circumstances).
5. Establishing at least one method of paying for child care provided by caregivers who do not have

part of the district's CFSP before imposing any additional requirements on child care providers that serve subsidized children.

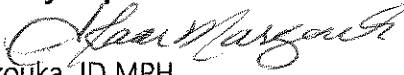
H. Staffing

Organizational Chart requirements will be met by the social services district's assurance that the organizational chart submitted to the Bureau of Financial Operations for the Random Moment Survey process is current.

The Preventive Services Planning requirements will be met by the social services district's assurance that names and addresses of agencies providing purchased preventive services entered into the CONNECTIONS system or the Benefits Issuance and Control System (BICS) is current.

☒ I attest to our commitment to maintain compliance with these legal assurances.

Commissioner County Department of Social Services

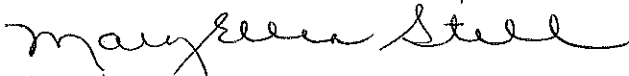
Name / Signature: 
Sabrina Jaar Marzouka, JD MPH

Date: 7-7-21

As the PINS Diversion Service lead, I hereby approve and submit the PINS Diversion Service section of the Child and Family Services Plan for Dutchess County 2021 Annual Plan Update.

PINS Diversion Service Lead

(Director/Commissioner County Probation Department or Commissioner County Department of Social Services)

Name / Signature: 
Mary Ellen Still
7/18/21

Date:

I hereby approve and submit the Youth and Young Adult section of the Child and Family Services Plan for Dutchess County Youth Bureau 2021 Annual Plan Update.

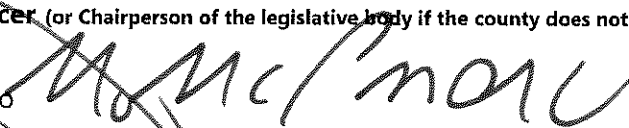
Executive Director County Youth Bureau

Name / Signature: 
Karmen Smallwood

Date: 8/17/2021

Enclosed is the Child and Family Services Plan for Dutchess County. My signature below constitutes approval of this report.

Chief Elected Officer (or Chairperson of the legislative body if the county does not have a Chief Elected Officer)

Name / Signature: 
Marcus J. Molinaro

- a contract with the county.
6. Determining that legally exempt child care providers are operating in compliance with any additional state-approved local standards.
 7. Giving priority for child care subsidies to children of families with very low income, to families that have children with special needs, and to families experiencing homelessness.
 8. Guaranteeing child care services to families that have applied for or are in receipt of public assistance when such services are needed for children under 13 years of age in order to enable custodial parents or caretaker relatives to participate in activities required by a social services official including orientation, assessment, or work activities as defined in 18 NYCRR Part 385.
 9. Guaranteeing child care services to families who are in receipt of public assistance when such services are needed for children under 13 years of age in order to enable the parents or caretaker relatives to engage in work as defined by the social services district.
 10. Guaranteeing child care services to applicants for or recipients of public assistance who are employed and would otherwise be financially eligible for public assistance benefits that choose to receive child care subsidies for children under 13 years of age in lieu of public assistance benefits for such period of time as the applicants/recipients continue to be financially eligible for public assistance.
 11. Guaranteeing child care services to families transitioning from public assistance whose cases have been closed or who voluntarily close their public assistance cases, and who are no longer financially eligible for public assistance due to an increase in earned income or child support. The family must include an eligible child under the age of 13 who needs child care in order for the parent to be engaged in work, and the family's gross income must be at or below 200 percent of the state income standard. For transitional child care, the eligibility period begins with the first month in which a family becomes ineligible for public assistance or "child care in lieu of public assistance" and is limited to 12 months in duration.
 12. Informing recipients of public assistance and former public assistance recipients of the child care guarantees for eligible families.
 13. Informing families in receipt of public assistance of their responsibility to locate child care.
 14. Informing families in receipt of public assistance of the criteria the district will use to determine that a family has demonstrated an inability to obtain needed child care because of the following reasons:
 - Unavailability of appropriate child care within a reasonable distance from the individual's home or work site;
 - Unavailability or unsuitability of informal child care by a relative or under other arrangements; or
 - Appropriate and affordable regulated child care arrangements.
 15. Offering two choices of legal child care, at least one of which must be a licensed or registered provider, to recipients of public assistance who have requested assistance in locating child care for a required work activity and who have demonstrated an inability to obtain care.
 16. Informing recipients of public assistance that their public assistance benefits cannot be reduced or terminated when they demonstrate that they are unable to work due to the lack of available child care for a child under the age of 13.
 17. Advising recipients of public assistance that the time during which they are exempted from their required activity due to the lack of available child care will still count toward the families' time limit on public assistance.
 18. Providing payment for the actual cost of care (rate charged by the provider to non-subsidized families unless a lower payment rate has been established in a negotiated contract) up to the applicable market rate.
 19. Allocating NYSCCBG subsidy funds in a manner that provides eligible families equitable access to child care assistance funds.
 20. Providing child care to families who are eligible, as long as funds are available, and to other families that are eligible if funds are available and if the social services district has listed such families as eligible in the Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP).
 21. Not requiring a contract with child care providers as a condition for payment when providing child care subsidies under the NYSCCBG. The district provides parents or other eligible caretakers the option to either enroll the child with an eligible provider who has a contract with the district or to receive a child care certificate to arrange child care services with any eligible provider.
 22. Obtaining approval from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) as

Date: 8/20/21

11/11/11

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:	Dutchess County Department of Community and Family Services Child Care Unit
b. Transitioning Families:	Dutchess County Department of Community and Family Services Child Care Unit
c. Income Eligible Families:	Dutchess County Department of Community and Family Services Child Care Unit
d. Title XX:	Dutchess County Department of Community and Family Services Child Care Unit

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

Item	Amount
a. FFY 2019-2020 Rollover funds: <i>(available from the NYSCCBG ceiling report in the claiming system)</i>	\$2792887
b. Estimate FFY 2020-2021 Rollover Funds:	\$3520603
c. Estimate of Flexible Funds for Family Services transferred to the NYSCCBG:	\$0
d. NYSCCBG Allocation 2021:	\$6834283
e. Estimate of Local Share:	\$193433
Total Estimated NYSCCBG Amount:	\$6300000
f. Subsidy:	\$5985000
g. Other program costs excluding subsidy:	\$0
h. Administrative costs:	\$315000

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 <i>(must be noted in Appendix Q with the corresponding additional standard)</i>		
☐ c. Assistance in locating care		
☐ d. Child care information systems		
☐ e. Payment processing		
☐ f. Other <i>Please specify function:</i>		

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.	☒ Yes ☐ No	
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	☒ Yes ☐ No	
b) homeless	☒ Yes ☐ No	Individuals must apply for Temporary Assistance and comply with eligibility requirements such as referrals to the Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board or other approved programs. Payments may be made for 90 days.
c) a victim of domestic violence and participating in an approved activity	☒ Yes ☐ No	

d) in an emergency situation of short duration	☒ Yes ☐ No	Payments may be made as follows: • Death in the family -- up to two weeks • Medical emergency of parent or child who is a member of the household, or in hospice care - up to six weeks
3. Families with an open child protective services case when child care is needed to protect the child.	☒ Yes ☐ No	
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:		
a) is physically or mentally incapacitated	☒ Yes ☐ No	
b) has family duties away from home	☐ Yes ☒ No	
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.	☒ Yes ☐ No	The individual must be actively participating in either DC DCFS's contracted employment services program or verifiably participating in an employment or training program operated by the Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board or other DCFS approved program..
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.	☒ Yes ☐ No	If working towards lifting the sanction.
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:		
a) a public or private educational facility providing a standard high school curriculum offered by or approved by the local school district	☒ Yes ☐ No	
b) an education program that prepares an individual to obtain a NYS High School equivalency diploma	☒ Yes ☐ No	Individual must be participating in a program operated either by Dutchess County BOCES or Dutchess County Community College or other recognized entity upon DCFS review and approval.

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	☒ Yes ☐ No	Individual must be participating in a program operated either by Dutchess County BOCES or Dutchess County Community College or other recognized entity upon DCFS review and approval.
d) a program providing literacy training designed to help individuals improve their ability to read and write	☒ Yes ☐ No	Individual must be participating in a program operated either by Dutchess County BOCES or Dutchess County Community College or other recognized entity upon DCFS review and approval.
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	☒ Yes ☐ No	Must be a recognized entity and approved by DC DCFS
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	☒ Yes ☐ No	
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	☒ Yes ☐ No	
h) a prevocational skill training program such as a basic education and literacy training program	☒ Yes ☐ No	If approved by the DC DCFS Employment Worker and the program does not exceed 6 months.
i) a demonstration project designed for vocational training or other project approved by the Department of Labor	☒ Yes ☐ No	Participation must be documented by the Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board
Note: The caretaker must complete the selected programs listed within 30 consecutive calendar months. The caretaker cannot enroll in more than one program.		
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 and earning wages at a level equal to or greater than the minimum amount required under Federal and State	☒ Yes ☐ No	Temporary Assistance and low income families for attendance at a college or university in courses that are conducted on the campus. Online courses require review and approval by DCFS.

Labor Law. The caretaker must demonstrate his or her ability to successfully complete the course of study.		
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 and earning wages at a level equal to or greater than the minimum amount required under Federal and State Labor Law. The caretaker must demonstrate his or her ability to successfully complete the course of study.	☒ Yes ☐ No	Temporary Assistance and low income families for attendance at a college or university in courses that are conducted on the campus. Online courses require review and approval by DCFS.
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 and earning wages at a level equal to or greater than the minimum amount required under Federal and State Labor Law. The caretaker must demonstrate his or her ability to successfully complete the course of study.	☒ Yes ☐ No	Only Temporary Assistance recipients at a college or university in courses that are conducted on the campus. Online courses require review and approval by DCFS.
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.	☒ Yes ☐ No	Participation must be documented by the Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board.

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":

For the purpose of determining whether child care is accessible to a TANF recipient who is a caretaker relative of a child under the age of 13 Dutchess County defines a reasonable distance as one-way travel time up to one and one half hours from home to a work activity with a stop at a child care provider.

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

Dutchess County has a public transportation system and uses the "2 mile" rule for employment purposes. If an individual resides outside of the two mile radius to public transportation, alternate arrangements are explored. This is consistent with Dutchess County's employment plan.

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:

10% family share is retroactive to April 16, 2021.

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 **100%** 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.

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**.

If opening based on income...

☒ The district will open cases starting from the lowest income to the highest income.

- ☐ The district will open cases based on income bands, starting from the lowest income band to the highest income band.

If using income bands, list the bands, starting from the one that will be opened first:

- ☐ 3. Open cases based on **CATEGORY OF FAMILY**.
- ☐ 4. Open cases based on **INCOME AND CATEGORY OF FAMILY**.
- ☐ 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.

If closing based on amount of time...

☐ The district will close cases starting from the shortest time receiving child care services to the longest time.

☒ The district will close cases starting from the longest time receiving child care services to the shortest time.

- ☐ 2. Close cases based on **INCOME**.
- ☐ 3. Close cases based on **CATEGORY OF FAMILY**.
- ☐ 4. Close cases based on **INCOME AND CATEGORY OF FAMILY**.
- ☐ 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.

Below is the approved Front End Detection System Plan for Operations for NYSCCBG Child Care Cases and Investigative Unit Operations Plan for Dutchess County:

DUTCHESS COUNTY FRONT END DETECTION SYSTEM PLAN FOR OPERATIONS FOR NYSCCBG CHILD CARE CASES

Prepared by: Theresa Giovanniello, Covering Supervisor of Special Investigations, (845) 486-3003
FEDS Contact Person:

Theresa Giovanniello, Covering Supervisor of Special Investigations, (845) 486-3003
60 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601

1. The following criteria will prompt a Child Care FEDS Referral:

- Self-employed but without adequate business records to support financial assertions
- Childcare provider lives in the same household as child
- Working off the books
- Applicant unsure of own address
- Applicant has no documentation to verify his/her identity or the identification is suspect
- Documents or information provided are inconsistent with application, such as different name used for signature
- Prior history of denial, case closing, or overpayments resulting from an investigation
- No absent parent information or information is inconsistent with application
- P.O. Box used as a mailing address without reasonable explanation

2. Childcare Unit Process and Procedure:

The FEDS referral will be reviewed for each Childcare eligibility interview. When one or more of the circumstances listed above occurs, the referral form and the appointment notice are completed by the Childcare worker. The referral is given to the Childcare supervisor with the case record. The supervisor reviews the referral and, if appropriate, sends the FEDS referral to the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) within 24 hours of the date of application.

3. Special Investigations Unit Process and Procedure:

The FEDS referral will be logged in and assigned immediately. The investigation will begin within forty-eight (48) hours. The investigation will include collateral contacts and home visits when necessary, computer checks and further interviews with the applicant. A written report will be provided to the Childcare worker within five (5) days of the completion of the investigation. If an investigation cannot be completed within five (5) days, an oral report will be given to the Childcare worker within forty-eight (48) hours and a written report as soon as the investigation can be completed. All investigations will be completed in a manner that is consistent with the processing of applications within thirty (30) days.

a) Investigative unit processing, includes logging, tracking and brief description of investigative unit processes (i.e., home visit, collateral contact, age, etc.). Also includes the targeted timeframes for reporting investigative results back to eligibility worker for final determination.

4. Procedure for Reporting Final Disposition:

The lower section of the Investigation Unit's report has a section for the case disposition. The childcare worker will complete this section when processing the case. The original of the form will be sent to SIU for report purposes. The copy will be filed in the case record.

5. Methodology for completing the monthly FEDS report:

The SIU Supervisor has a program in place on his computer to summarize the monthly FEDS activity. The SIU Supervisor will prepare the monthly report of FEDS complaints and investigations and forward

the report to OTDA via e-mail by the 10th of the following month.

The FEDS program has been operational for Family Assistance, Safety Net and Medicaid since 1/93. SIU currently has four (4) Investigators involved with both FEDS and fraud referrals.

Dated: 6/29/21

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.

For all Low income and Transitional Child Care cases, a recertification application is completed yearly (copy attached). An Employment Questionnaire (copy attached) is also completed yearly. This results in contact every six months. Verification of income is required at each contact. A new enrollment form is only required at recertification.

For Child Care for TA individuals in training, participating in WEP, attending approved drug/alcohol treatment, or employed, a new enrollment form is required yearly. All informal providers must submit forms to the Child Care supervisor who reviews them and forwards them to the Child Care Council for approval. Payment is made only if provider is approved and verification of attendance/participation is received. Payment is made for actual hours of participation plus reasonable travel time.

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.

Dutchess currently has approximately 55 providers who are not day care centers in the CACFP Program. The Council forwards the attendance forms from each inspection to the Department where annually 20 % of the providers are selected for a point in time review. The Supervisor of the Day Care Unit contacts the Child Care Council member who is in charge of the site visits on a monthly basis and requests a list of 3-4 providers that had site visits done that month along with the names of the children present at the time of the visit. He will then compare the information to the attendance forms for that provider to verify that DC DCFS was billed correctly. Any discrepancies will be referred to the Special Investigations Unit for further action.

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:

- ☐ 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 **Dutchess County: Child Care**

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 **licensed/registered** child care providers caring for children experiencing homelessness above the 5% required minimum differential rate (complete Appendix T).
- ☐ 10. The district has chosen to pay a differential rate for **legally-exempt** child care providers caring for children experiencing homelessness (complete Appendix T).
- ☐ 11. 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).
- ☐ 12. 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).
- ☐ 13. 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).
- ☒ 14. The district has chosen to expand eligibility for child care assistance beyond the requirements of SSL 410-w(9), in order to allow a parent or caretaker who works non-traditional hours to sleep (complete Appendix T).
- ☐ 15. The district has chosen to make payments to child care providers who provide child care services exceeding 24 consecutive hours (complete Appendix U).
- ☒ 16. The district has chosen to include 18-, 19- or 20-year-olds in the Child Care Services Unit (complete Appendix U).
- ☒ 17. 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).
- ☒ 18. The district has chosen to pay for breaks in activity for low income families (non-public assistance families) (complete Appendix U).

☐ 19. 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.

☐ 20. 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:
- ☐ 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.

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

1. The Standard will be applied (check all that apply):

- ☐ At initial enrollment and re-opening
- ☐ At each re-enrollment
- ☐ During the enrollment **review** period

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

Appendix R: Payment to Child Care Providers for Absences

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

☐ Yes

☒ No

2. 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

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)
In a Month	12	3	15
Base Period	12	8	20

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 adult or child or a temporary crisis, absence due to mandated quarantine

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

Payment will only be made when the provider charges all customers the same rates with 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):

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

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%	5%	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>	0%	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

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.

If the district chooses to expand eligibility for child care assistance beyond the requirements of SSL 410-w(9), in order to allow a parent or caretaker who works non-traditional hours to sleep, please describe below:

Additionally, the district will pay for child care for a child over the age of six while a parent or caretaker relative works a second or third shift when the parent or caretaker relative requests it and the Social Welfare Manager II who oversees the Day Care unit and the Deputy Commissioner determine that it is necessary to allow him/her to get 8 hours sleep per day.

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.

If the additional HH member is included and it will benefit the family making them eligible for child care assistance.

III. Waivers

Dutchess County: Child Care

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.

DC DCFS requesting waiver approval for the following regulatory requirements under Part 404 and child care services regulations under Part 415 of Title 18 of the official Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York so that Dutchess County can encourage participation in the Early Head Start Child Care Partnership BSF program by allowing flexibility in areas that will promote continuity of service for children.

1. Flexibility in eligibility periods: For BSF participants only, waive 18 NYCRR sec. 404.1(d) which requires that re-determination be made not less frequently than every 12 months. The waiver will allow districts to match child care eligibility periods to the Early Head Start Child Care Partnership program period regardless of disruption in the parent's eligibility. This waiver applies only to the children participating in an Early Head Start-Partnership Babies Step Forward (BSF) program and not to other children who may be receiving child care services in the same household. If there are other children receiving child care subsidies in the same household, changes impacting eligibility MUST be reported to DCDCFS.

2. Flexibility in reporting changes in family circumstances: For BSF participants only, waive 18 NYCRR sec. 415.3(b) which requires applicants and recipients to report immediately any change in financial circumstances, living arrangements, employment, household composition, or other circumstances that affect the family's need or eligibility for child care services.

This waiver would relax the income documentation/verification requirement and revise the re-determination process to relax/eliminate the need for parents to report even small changes in their circumstances that lead to a loss of eligibility for child care. This waiver would pertain if the parent only* has a child or children participating in an Early Head Start Partnership BSF program. This waiver would NOT apply to households that move out of Dutchess County. The household MUST inform DC DCFS when it moves out of Dutchess County. *Households with additional children in the household receiving subsidies who are not participating in the Early Head Start BSF program would continue to be required to report all changes impacting eligibility.

Potential adverse impact: Some eligible households may be denied child care subsidies but only if all funding for the Low Income Subsidy program is exhausted and no other funding is available.

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):

- ☒ 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



Office of Children and Family Services

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

SHEILA J. POOLE
Commissioner

February 2, 2022

Ms. Sabrina Marzouka, Commissioner
Dutchess County Department of Social Services
60 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601-3299

Dear Commissioner Marzouka:

As a result of 21-OCFS-ADM-30, *Changes to Child Care Subsidy Regulations: Parts 404 and 415*, amendments were required to your 2021 Child and Family Services Plan. This letter is to inform you that Attachment A: Required 2021 Child and Family Services Plan Amendment for Child Care Regulations as of December 1, 2021 was approved and became effective December 1, 2021.

The changes in the Attachment A address and bring your approved Child and Family Service Plan into compliance with Child Care Development Block Grant and OCFS regulatory changes.

If you have any questions regarding this approval for the Attachment A or your district's Child and Family Services 2021 Child Care Plan, please contact Darci Primeau at (518) 474-9095 or via email at Darci.Primeau@ocfs.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Janice Molnar".

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

Attachments

Attachment A:
**Required 2021 Child and Family Services Plan Amendment for Child
Care Regulations as of December 1, 2021**

The district must complete the information below, which will serve as its CFSP Amendment for regulatory changes as of December 1, 2021.

NAME OF DISTRICT: Dutchess		
NAME OF DISTRICT CONTACT PERSON:	CONTACT INFORMATION PHONE:	CONTACT INFORMATION EMAIL:
Christian Jones	845-486-3009	Christian.jones@dfa.state.ny.us

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

The following sections of Appendix M#1 of the CFSP are replaced with this form as of December 1, 2021.

II. Recertification Period

- ☒ Our district acknowledges that the district's recertification period is every 12 months.

IV. Very Low Income

- ☒ Our district acknowledges that "Very Low Income" is defined as 200% of the state income standard (SIS).

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.

The district ranks the federal priorities as follows (number 1 through 3):

1 Very low income (200% SIS)

2 Families with income up to 200% of the SIS who have a child with special needs and a need for child care

3 Families with income up to 200% of the SIS who are experiencing homelessness

2. If the district has local priorities, list them below and rank beginning with rank 4. Local priorities cannot replace the federally mandated priorities, cannot be based on income, and cannot have the effect of limiting parental choice of eligible child care providers.

The district has the following local priorities (rank beginning with 4; if none, write "none"):

None

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

The following sections of Appendix M#2 of the CFSP are replaced with this form as of December 1, 2021.

II. Title XX. Case Closings When Sufficient Funds Are Not Available

If the district does not use Title XX funds for child care assistance, indicate below.

If the district elects to use Title XX funds to provide child care assistance and the district does not have sufficient funds to continue to provide such assistance to all families in its current caseload, the district may decide to discontinue assistance. The district may establish priorities upon which the district will close cases if sufficient funds are not available. If no priorities are established and all funds are committed, case closings for families must be based on the length of time they have received services (must choose #1 below).

Select a closing plan from the options below and indicate how it will be implemented (e.g., shortest length of time to longest length of time).

_____ The district does not use Title XX funds for child care assistance.



_____ The district uses Title XX funds for child care assistance and has the following plan to close such cases when funds are not available:

1. Close cases based on AMOUNT OF TIME receiving child care services.
Note: This option must be selected if the district indicated in Appendix M#1 that it does not have local priorities.

☐ The district will close cases starting from the shortest time receiving child care services to the longest time.

☒ The district will close cases starting from the longest time receiving child care services to the shortest time.

2. Close cases based on INCOME.

3. Close cases based on CATEGORY OF FAMILY.

4. Close cases based on INCOME AND CATEGORY OF FAMILY.

5. Close cases based on OTHER CRITERIA.

APPENDIX N: District Options

☐ The district has chosen to make payments to child care providers for more than 24 absences (only check if electing to pay for absences in addition to the mandated 24 in Appendix R).

Please note that, due to the implementation of 12-month eligibility, the district option related to payment for breaks in activities has been deleted from Appendix N.

APPENDIX R: Payment to Child Care Providers for Absences

Appendix R of the CFSP is replaced with this form as of December 1, 2021.

Required 24 absences acknowledgement

☒ Our district will pay for 24 absences per child per provider per year. Check box to confirm.

Additional absences

1. Our district will pay for additional absences.

☒ NO

☐ YES (If yes, complete all questions below.)

2. How many absences per year will the district pay?

24 Required absences paid per year

 Additional absences paid per year at district option (enter a number from 1-56)

24 Total number of absences paid per year (enter a number from 24-80, must add up to required + additional absences)

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

☐ NO

☐ YES

4. Our district will only pay for additional absences to the following types of eligible providers (check all that apply):
- ☐ Day Care Center
 - ☐ Group Day Care (New York City only)
 - ☐ Family Day Care
 - ☐ Group Family Day Care
 - ☐ School-Age Child Care Programs
 - ☐ Enrolled Legally Exempt Group Child Care Programs
 - ☐ Enrolled informal child care providers
5. Our district will only pay for additional absences for the following reasons (list all reasons for absences that are eligible for reimbursement; if no limitations write "all"):
6. Our district also has the following limitations to reimbursement for absences (list any other limitations):

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

The following sections of Appendix U of the CFSP are replaced with this form as of December 1, 2021.

IV. Breaks in Activities

☒ Our district acknowledges that the district must provide recipients of services funded under the New York State Child Care Block Grant with such services for at least 12 months, unless the recipient has experienced a non-temporary cessation in work or attendance at a training or education program or otherwise meets regulatory case closure criteria.

Other (only complete if your district has other sections of the county plan not included above that require revision to comply with the new regulatory changes):

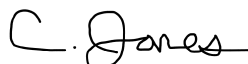
In Appendix L 2(b), remove time limitation in the comments to reflect meeting 12 month eligibility. Remaining limitations will still exist.
In Appendix L 2(d), remove "Death in the family-up to two weeks" and remove time limitation for medical emergency to reflect meeting 12 month eligibility. *Will be decided on a case by case basis
In Appendix L 7(h), remove time limitation in the comments to reflect meeting 12 month eligibility. Remaining limitations will still exist.
In Appendix L 5 Child Care Services will be available for a period up to three months

Christian Jones

Social Welfare Manager II

NAME

TITLE



12 / 21 / 2021 *Amended 1/31/2022

SIGNATURE

DATE



Office of Children and Family Services

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

SHEILA J. POOLE
Commissioner

April 4, 2022

Ms. Sabrina Marzouka, Commissioner
Dutchess County Department of Social Services
60 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601-3299

Dear Commissioner Marzouka:

This letter is in response to your request to amend Dutchess County's Child and Family Services 2021 Child Care Plan. Dutchess County has proposed to amend the following:

Proposed changes:

1. Appendix M#1: III. Family Share

Dutchess County has requested to lower their family share percentage to 1% from the current 10% effective April 1, 2022.

2. Dutchess County has requested to increase the number of additional paid absences to 24 days, for a total of 48 with no restrictions on the reason(s) for the absences effective April 1, 2022.

Your request has been approved with an effective date of April 1, 2022.

If you have any questions regarding this approval or the child care section found in your district's Child and Family Services 2021 Child Care Plan, please contact Darci Primeau at (518) 474-9095 or via email at Darci.Primeau@ocfs.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

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

Attachment



Office of Children and Family Services

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

SHEILA J. POOLE
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Janice M. Molnar, Ph.D.
Deputy Commissioner
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Attachment