

The Dutchess County Department of Community and Family Services has been granted a waiver to provide additional benefits under the Child Care Assistance Program due to COVID-19. **These waivers will initially be in place for 30 days and will be reviewed for possible extension after that 30-day period.** The additional benefits and/or changes to the program procedures are as follows:

- 1) **The recertification period will be extended by 30 days** and consumers will continue to receive Child Care benefits during that extended period.
- 2) **The income eligibility standard has been increased to 85% of the State Median Income Level** from 200% of the Federal Poverty Level during the extended period.
- 3) **For children and families impacted by COVID-19:**
 - If a parent is quarantined due to COVID-19 exposure, the childcare benefit will continue during the quarantine period.
 - The family share payment will be waived for families who have been impacted by COVID-19.
- 4) **For day care programs:**
 - The benefit will include up to 30 days of absences from the Child Care Program on behalf of a child who is temporarily absent from childcare due to extenuating circumstances resulting from the effects of COVID-19. This benefit will cover absences for Day Care Centers, Group Family Day Cares, Family Day Cares, Legally Exempt Group Day Cares, and School Age Child Care Programs.
 - The Department will pay for 30 days per year for program closures for Day Care Providers who close due to COVID-19,. This benefit will cover Day Care Centers, Group Family Day Cares, Family Day Cares, Legally Exempt Group Day Cares, and School Age Child Care Programs.

Below are the COVID-19 Provider and Parent Questionnaires. These forms will give you the opportunity to explain the impact of COVID-19 on your family and will be used to determine your eligibility for the waiver benefits. **These forms should be completed by current Consumers and Child Care Providers and returned to the Dutchess County Department of Community and Family Services, attention Child Care Subsidy Assistance Program, at 60 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601, as soon as possible.**