



**Office of Children
and Family Services**

What's the Latest from Child Care Services?

NYPWA

Virtual Winter Conference

January 21, 2022

NYS Office of Children and Family Services

Division of Child Care Services

Presenters

- **Janice Molnar**, Deputy Commissioner
- **Nora Yates**, Associate Commissioner
- **Merideth Infantino**, Director, Bureau of Child Care Subsidy
- **Sonoma Pelton**, Subsidy Unit Manager



Agenda

- Update on federal pandemic relief
- Subsidy updates
- Child care deserts
- More



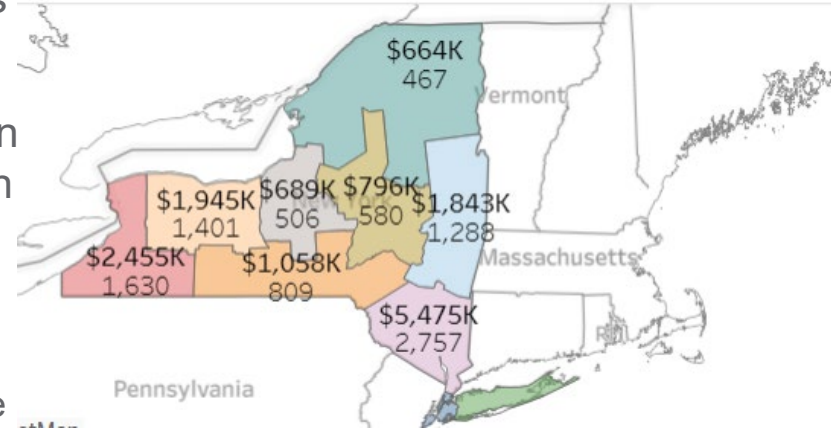
Update on Federal Pandemic Relief



Essential worker scholarship

The Office of Children and Family Services has been honored to administer the Essential Worker Scholarship grant opportunity to support the brave working families who've served throughout the pandemic.

- OCFS has provided more than 42,000 children with a 12-week scholarship, totaling more than \$80 million
 - Grant opportunity will close when remaining scholarships have been fulfilled
 - Our message to participating providers: Please continue to certify eligible children
 - Many thanks to all participating providers!



We Are Here to Assist

1-844-863-9316 ocfs.sm.Essentialworkerquestions@ocfs.ny.gov



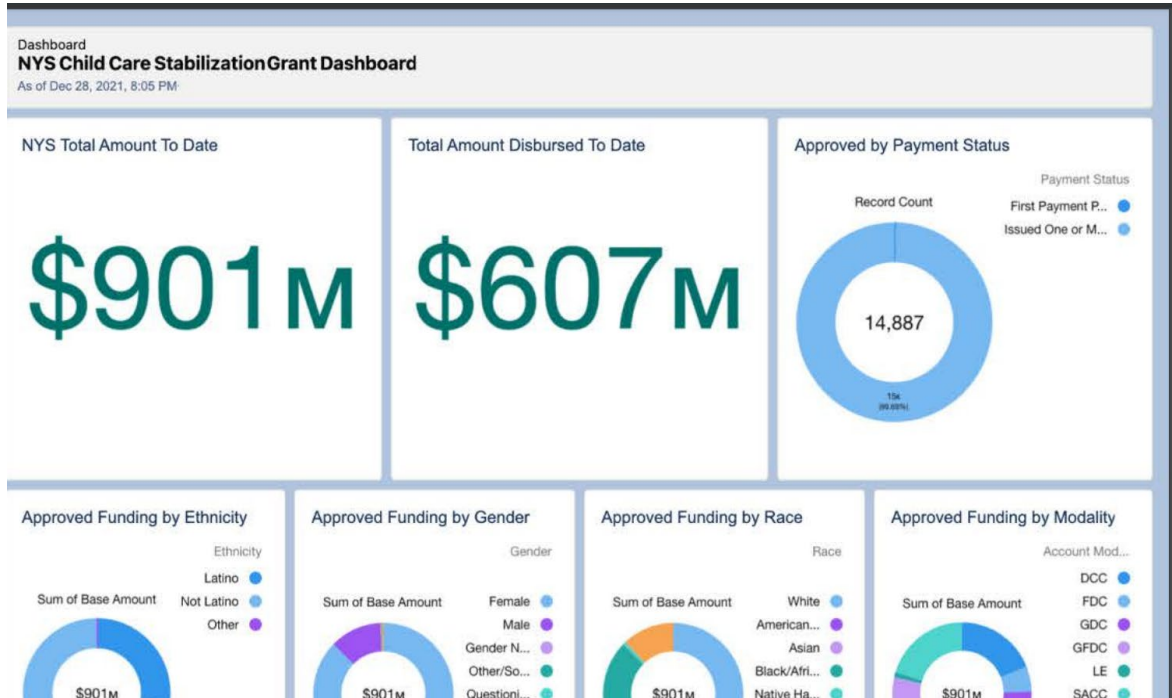
Office of Children
and Family Services

Child care stabilization grant

- Launched on August 3, 2021
- Applications closed on November 30 at 11:59 p.m.
- 95% of eligible providers applied: 14,749 approved applications totaling \$901 million
- Next phase: Long-term business improvement trainings with Early Care and Learning Council and B5 grant partners for ongoing efforts until 2023



- Weekly Dashboard posted online
 - <https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/>



Use of funds: stabilization grants

Providers can use their funds for:



RENT,
MORTGAGE,
UTILITIES



PAYROLL,
BENEFITS



HEALTH & SAFETY
TRAINING



FACILITY
MAINTENANCE OR
IMPROVEMENTS



PPE, CLEANING
& SANITIZING
SUPPLIES



EQUIPMENT
RELATED TO
COVID-19



GOODS TO
CONTINUE
CHILD CARE

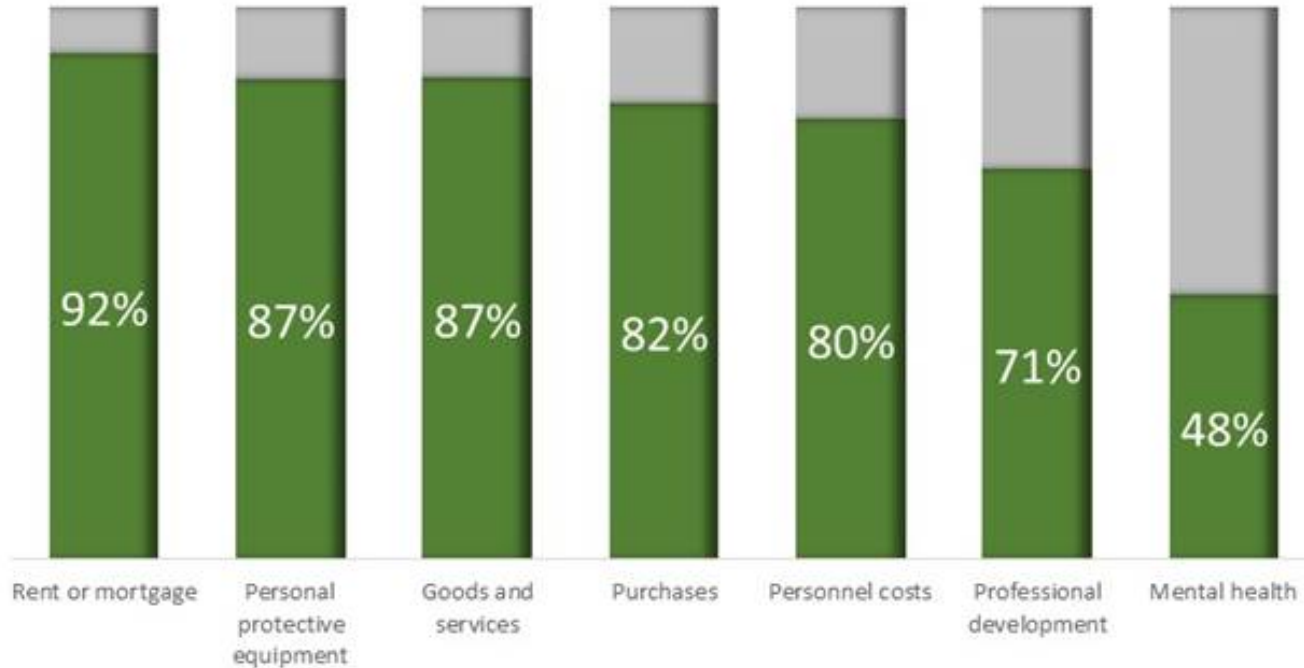


MENTAL HEALTH
SUPPORT FOR
STAFF & CHILDREN



Child care stabilization grant

Percent of Providers Using Funds by Expense Type



Subsidy Updates: Regulations



Subsidy regulation changes

Amendments to Parts 404 & 415

- NPRM published August 4, 2021
- Public comment closed October 4, 2021
- Assessment of public comment completed
- Regulations adopted: filed on November 10, 2021
- **Regulations implemented December 1, 2021**
 - **21-OCFS-ADM-30 released November 24, 2021**
 - Subsidy notices
 - Covers amendments to district CFSP
 - **GIS #21-005 released November 26, 2021 (WMS)**



Key changes

- Establishment of 12-month eligibility period
 - Limits case closing reasons (CCBG case specific)
 - Family share cannot increase during 12-month period
- Expansion of eligibility for child care assistance
 - Very low income=200% SIS (State Income Standard)
- Removes family share requirement for protective/preventive cases and child-only cases
- Definition of engaged in work (ADM sets at 10 hours)
- Payment for minimum of 24 absences per year



Implementation: areas of focus

- Cross jurisdictional transfer with 12-month eligibility
- Forms/Notices
 - Notices posted in IAF
 - Full translation
- CCTA updates
- Plan amendments
- Other challenges/needs?



Market Rate Survey

New York child care market rate survey

- State Plan: 1-year waiver for MRS (Start of data collection moved from Fall 2020 to Fall 2021)
- 8/30/2021: Dear Provider letter with survey worksheet mailed
- 9/8/2021: Survey announcement posted to the OCFS website
 - <https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/#t1-Updates-and-Important-Announcements>
 - <https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/letters.php>
- 9/10/2021: CCFS email blast to all providers
- 9/13/2021: The Human Services Call Center began making survey phone calls
- 10/21, 11/10, 11/29, 12/21/2021: CCFS email reminders
- Spring 2022: Data analysis
- October 1, 2022: Target date for new subsidy payment rates



New York child care market rate survey - 2021

- Telephone survey: 4 modalities of LR care & 5 county groups
- Total target # of survey completions = 4,454 surveys
- Progress to date
 - 2,475 surveys completed (55%)
 - Homes: FDC 63% of goal & GFDC 55%
 - Centers: DCC 63% goal & SACC 24%
 - **Biggest challenge: Not answering the phone!**



Subsidy Organizational Changes

Bureau of Child Care Subsidy

Three Subsidy Units

Support compliance
with state and federal
requirements

Monitoring and
Quality
Assurance Unit

Project development and
implementation, system
support, special projects

Program
Development
and Operational
Support

Develop regulations and
policy; provide interpretation
and guidance

Policy



Impact on local districts

- Increased communication
- Site visits
- Regularly scheduled CCTA meetings
- Quarterly local district meetings
- Focus groups/increased stakeholder input

District questions should continue to be sent to the subsidy mailbox:
ocfs.sm.districtsupport.subsidy@ocfs.ny.gov



Subsidy 2022 Agenda



Subsidy 2022 agenda

- Waivers - pandemic response
- Regulatory review and revision
- Policy updates
- Implementation of Case File Review Tool
- Collaboration with CWCS
- Consumer education (websites, pub-ed, marketing, outreach)
- Increasing accessibility to subsidy
- Retroactive payment of absences (OCFS)



Invest in Child Care: Child Care Deserts



New York child care budget for SFY 2021-22

- NYS identified \$100 million to build and expand quality and affordable child care capacity to those areas with the least supply.

Using funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), child care desert funding represents an unprecedented opportunity and investment to build capacity and strengthen the state's economy by addressing the issues that impact businesses including chronic absence, productivity reductions and turnover due to inadequate options for quality child care in the most needed parts of the state.



Child care desert planning process update

Engaged stakeholders in child care desert planning

- External and internal workgroups formed
- Mapping function drafted and in process

Funding 7 regional support positions at CCR&Rs

- Positions will support applicants as they proceed through start-up process

Drafting request for proposals

- Engage each REDC in identifying local priorities for child care



REDC and CCR&R engagement

- Planning for desert RFP release - Target release sometime this month; application portal targeted to release February 2022
- Outreach when RFP announced - Multilevel outreach plan in partnership with local stakeholders
- Capital funding support and engagement from Regional Economic Development Councils

More

Elijah's Law

Where to find information:

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/elijahs-law.php>

Division of Child Care Services

Child Care Home

Search for Child Care

COVID-19 Information

▼ Information

Resources for Families

Info for Parents

Info for Providers

Become a Child Care Provider

Elijah's Law

▶ Training

▶ Programs

▶ Resources and Publications

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Elijah's Law

In 2019 Governor Cuomo signed new legislation called "Elijah's Law". The law is named after 3-year-old Elijah Silvera from New York City who was given a grilled cheese sandwich while at day care despite having a known severe dairy allergy. After Elijah went into anaphylaxis, his family was not told what he had eaten and 911 was not called. Elijah died in November 2017. Implementation of Elijah's Law requires changes to your child care program, valuable, potentially life-saving changes, that are intended to prevent further tragedy.

As a child care professional, you play a critical role in protecting the health and safety of the children in your program. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 1 in 13 children is impacted by allergies. Allergies have the potential to create a life-threatening situation. Anaphylaxis must be treated right away. By gaining knowledge about allergies, prevention of anaphylaxis, and what action is to be taken during a medical emergency, child care providers can save lives.



Questions



