



RENSSELAER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Steven F. McLaughlin
County Executive

Randy J. Hall
Acting Commissioner

March 28, 2022

Janice Molnar Deputy Commissioner
Division of Child Care Services
New York State Office of Children and Family Services
52 Washington Street, Room 309 South
Rensselaer, NY 12144

Deputy Commissioner,

Rensselaer County is requesting a change to our current County Plan. We are requesting all changes be effective April 1, 2022. Changes requested are listed below:

Appendix L: Other Eligible Families if Funds are Available

- 1. Public Assistance (PA) families participating in an approved activity in addition to their required work activity.
Option: Yes
Limitations: A referral for daycare assistance for a family receiving public assistance will be made from the recommendation of the Project Hire/Public Assistance worker assisting the family.
- 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 three 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.
Option: Yes
Limitations: Families will be given daycare assistance for 3 months; at which time they must show verification of employment.
- 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:

- 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 eighth-grade level
Option: Yes
Limitations: Parent/Caretaker will have to provide verification of enrollment into the program along with program schedule.
- D) a program providing literacy training designed to help individuals improve their ability to read and write
Option: Yes
Limitations: Parent/Caretaker will have to provide verification of enrollment into the program along with program schedule.
- 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
Option: Yes
Limitations: Parent/Caretaker will have to provide verification of enrollment into the program along with program schedule.
- F) a two-year full-time degree granting program at a community college, or an undergraduate college with a specific vocational goal leading to an associate's degree or certificate of completion
Option: Yes
Limitations: Parent/Caretaker will have to provide verification of enrollment into the program along with program schedule.
- 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
Option: Yes
Limitations: Parent/Caretaker will have to provide verification of enrollment into the program along with program schedule.
- H) a prevocational skill training program such as a basic education and literacy training program
Option: Yes
Limitations: Parent/Caretaker will have to provide verification of enrollment into the program along with program schedule.
- I) a demonstration project designed for vocational training or other project approved by the Department of Labor
Options: Yes
Limitations: Parent/Caretaker will have to provide verification of enrollment into the project along with program schedule.

Note: Caretaker must complete the selected program listed within 30 consecutive calendar months. Caretaker cannot enroll in more than one program.

- 8. PA recipients of 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 of 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 17.5 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.
Option: Yes

Limitation: Parent/Caretaker will have to provide verification of enrollment into the program along with program schedule and verification of employment.

- 9. PA recipients of 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 of 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 17.5 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.

Option: Yes

Limitations: Parent/Caretaker will have to provide verification of enrollment into the program along with program schedule and verification of employment.

- 10. PA recipients of 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 17.5 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.

Option: Yes

Limitations: Parent/Caretaker will have to provide verification of enrollment into the program along with program schedule and verification of employment.

- 11. 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 program to train workers in an employment field that currently is or 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.

Option: Yes

Limitations: Parent/Caretaker will have to provide verification of enrollment into the program along with program schedule.

Appendix M #1: Family Share

- III. Family Share Percentage: 1%

Appendix N: District Options

- 5. The district has chosen to make payments to child care providers for program closures.
- 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.

Appendix S: Payment to Child Care Providers for Program closures

- 1. Following providers are eligible for payment for program closures:
 - Daycare Center

- Group Family Daycare
 - Family Daycare
 - 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.
 - 3. Number of days allowed for program closures: 5
 - 4. Allowable program closures for which the district will provide payment
 - Snow days
 - COVID-19 exposure
 - Unplanned emergency situations

Appendix T: Differential Payment Rates

- II. Non-traditional Hours Differential Rates 15%

After review of our requested changes, please contact us for any further questions or discussion regarding our County Plan. Thank you for your time and assistance.

Respectfully,



Randy J. Hall

Acting Commissioner

Rensselaer County Department of Social Services