



Office of Children
and Family Services

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ROBERTO VELEZ
Acting Commissioner

July 8, 2015

Ms. Sarah G. Merrick, Commissioner
Onondaga Department of Social Services – Economic Security (DSS-ES)
421 Montgomery St.
8th Floor Civic Center
Syracuse, NY 13202-2923

Dear Commissioner Merrick:

This letter is in response to your request to amend Onondaga County's 2015 Child and Family Services Plan Annual Plan Update. Onondaga County proposed to request the following waivers of regulatory provisions that are non-statutory for the Early Head Start Child Care Partnership program.

Flexibility in reporting changes in family circumstances: Waive 18 NYCRR § 415.4(b)(2), 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. If fraud is committed by the responsible parent, the County will deny day care eligibility for all children in the household, including those participating in the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership program.

Flexibility in extending day care subsidies for parents who are 19-years old or younger: Waive 18 NYCRR § 415.2(a)(2)(iii)(a). This waiver will keep the children of teen parents, who are still in school, in the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership program full-time. Onondaga County will continue to pay day care subsidies during school holidays, breaks, and summer vacation.

This request has been approved and is effective July 8, 2015. If you have any questions about this approval or the child care section found in your district's 2012-2016 Child and Family Services Plan, please contact Mr. Michael Miller at (518) 408-3395 or Michael.Miller@ocfs.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

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