



New York State
Office of
Children & Family
Services

www.ocfs.state.ny.us

David A. Paterson
Governor

Gladys Carrión, Esq.
Commissioner

Capital View Office Park
52 Washington Street
Rensselaer, NY 12144

March 6, 2009

Ms. Deborah Schmitt, Commissioner
Wyoming County Department Social Services
466 North Main Street
P.O. Box 231
Warsaw, NY 14569-1080

Dear Commissioner Schmitt:

This letter is to inform you that the child care section found in the administrative component of your Annual Plan Update 2008-2009 was approved on March 6, 2009. The child care section became effective on March 6, 2009.

This approval is being issued separate from the approval of other sections of your plan in order to accommodate your county's need to implement the child care services provisions. A letter approving the remaining sections of your plan will be sent upon their approval.

If you have any questions about this approval or the child care section found in your Annual Plan Update 2008-2009 please contact Ms. Amy Ryan, (518) 474-9620 or by e-mail at Amy.Ryan@ocfs.state.ny.us.

Sincerely,

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

Janice M. Molnar
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Child Care Services



**APPENDIX G-1
CHILD CARE SECTION
DATED 2007-2009**

County: Wyoming

I. Administration (Required Section)

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:

Public Assistance Families: **Temporary Assistance**

Transitioning Families: **Temporary Assistance**

Income Eligible Families: **Temporary Assistance**

Title XX: **Children and Family Services**

Indicate the use of New York State Child Care Block Grant (NYSCCBG) Funds.

FFY 06-07 Rollover Funds (<i>this amount is available from the NYSCCBG ceiling report in the claiming system</i>)	\$534,529
Estimate of FFY 07-08 Rollover Funds	\$385,434
Estimate of Flexible Funds for Families (FFFS) for child care subsidies	\$0.00
NYSCCBG Allocation for SFY 08-09	\$179,982
Estimate of Local Share	\$13,806

Total Estimated NYSCCBG Amount: \$579,222

\$579,222

A. Subsidy	\$550,951
B. Other program costs (excluding subsidy)	\$0.00
C. Administrative costs	\$28,271

3. Does your district have a contract or formal agreement with another organization to perform any of the following functions?

Function:

Organization:

Amount of Contract:

- Eligibility screening
Function
- Assistance in locating care
- Child Care Information
Systems
- Determining if legally-
exempt providers meet
State approved additional
local standards (if
applicable)
- Other

APPENDIX G-2

II. Other Eligible Families if Funds are Available (Required Section)

Listed below are optional categories of eligible families that your district can include as part of its ICP. Select any categories your district wants to serve 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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
2. PA families or families with income up to 200% of the State Income Standard when the caretaker is:		
a) participating in an approved substance abuse treatment program	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
b) homeless	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Providing there is adequate funding available
c) a victim of domestic violence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Providing there is adequate funding available
d) in an emergency situation of short duration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Providing there is adequate funding available
3. Families with an open child protective services case when child care is needed to protect the child.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
4. Families with income up to 200% of the State Income Standard when child care services are needed because the child's caretaker:		
a) is physically or mentally incapacitated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Providing the department has written from a physician or therapist
b) has family duties away from home	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Providing the Department has written

	<input type="checkbox"/> No	verification from the service provider
5. Families with income 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 6 months.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	As long as they are registered with NYS DOL.
6. PA families where a sanctioned parent is participating in unsubsidized employment, earning wages at a level equal to or greater than the minimum amount under law.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
7. Families with income 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
b) an education program that prepares an individual to obtain a NYS High School equivalency diploma	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
d) a program providing literacy training designed to help individuals improve their ability to read and write;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
e) 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
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 degree or certificate of completion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

<p>g) a training program, which has a specific occupational goal and is conducted by an institution licensed or approved by the State Education Department other than a college or university</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<p>h) a prevocational skill training program such as, a basic education and literacy training program</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<p>i) a demonstration project designed for vocational training or other project approved by the Department of Labor.</p> <p>The parent/caretaker must complete the selected programs listed under number seven within 30 consecutive calendar months. The parent/caretaker cannot enroll in more than one program.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<p>8. PA recipients and 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 associates degree or certificate of completion and that is reasonably expected to lead to an improvement in the parent/caretaker's earning capacity) as long as the parent(s) or caretaker is also working at least 17 ½ hours per week. The parent/caretaker must demonstrate his or her ability to successfully complete the course of study.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<p>9. PA recipients and 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 associates degree or a certificate of completion that is reasonably expected to lead to an improvement in the parent/caretaker's earning capacity as long as the parent(s) or caretaker is also working at least 17 ½ hours per week. The parent/caretaker must demonstrate his or her ability to successfully complete the</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

course of study.		
10. PA recipients and 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 degree and that is reasonably expected to lead to an improvement in the parent/caretaker's earning capacity) as long as the parent(s) or caretaker is also working at least 17 ½ hours per week. The parent/caretaker must demonstrate his or her ability to successfully complete the course of study.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

APPENDIX G-3

III. Reasonable Distance, Very Low Income, Child Support, Family Share, Case Closings and Openings and Case Reviews (Required Section)

Reasonable Distance

Your district is required to define reasonable distance based on community standards for determining accessible child care.

The following defines "reasonable distance": **A reasonable distance for Wyoming County residents to travel for the purpose of obtaining child care is 25 miles one way.**

Describe any steps/consultations made to arrive at your definition: **We reviewed the locations of available child care and job sites within the county in relationship to one another.**

Very Low Income

Very Low Income is defined by each district and is used in determining priorities for child care benefits.

Very Low Income is defined as **200%** of the State Income Standard.

Family Share

Family share is the weekly amount paid towards the costs of the childcare services by the child's parent or caretaker. In establishing family share, your district must select a percentage from 10 percent to 35 percent to use in calculating the family share. The family share of childcare is calculated by applying the family share percentage against the amount of the family's gross income that is in excess of the State Income Standard divided by 52.

Family Share Percentage selected by our district **35%**.

Case Closings

1. The district must describe below how priority is given to federally mandated priorities and describe local priorities.

Cases will be closed in the following order:

1st – PA recipients and families with incomes up to 200% of the SIS who are satisfactorily participating in a four-year college or university program as long as the parent(s) or caretaker is also working at least 17 ½ hours per week.

2nd – Families with an open child protective services case when child care is needed to protect the child.

3rd - Families with income up to 200% of the SIS when child care services are needed for the child’s caretaker to participate in approved educational or vocational activities as defined in 415.2.

4th – Families with income up to 200% of the SIS when child care services are needed for the child’s caretaker to satisfactorily participate in an undergraduate or community college program with a vocational sequence leading to an associate degree or certificate of completion within a timeframe not to exceed 30 consecutive months.

5th – Families with income up to 200% of the SIS when child care services are needed for the child’s caretaker to actively seek employment for a period of 6 months.

6th – Families with income up to 200% of the SIS when child care services are needed because the child’s caretaker is physically or mentally incapacitated or has family duties away from home.

7th – PA families or families with income up to 200% of the SIS when the caretaker is participating in an approved substance abuse treatment program, homeless, a victim of domestic violence or in an emergency situation of short duration.

8th – PA families participating in an approved activity in addition to their required work activity.

9th – PA families where a sanctioned parent is participating in unsubsidized employment, earning wages at a level equal to or greater than the minimum amount under the law.

10th - Families whose income is 200-175% of the SIS.

11th - Families whose income is 176%-150% SIS.

12th – Families whose income is 149%-125% SIS.

13th – Families whose income is 124%-100% SIS.

14th – Families with children with special needs.

Case Openings

Described below is how our district will select cases to be opened in the event that there are insufficient funds available.

If there are insufficient funds to open all eligible families the cases will be opened in the following order:

1st – Families with children with special needs.

2nd – Families with income 100%-125% of the State Income Standard (SIS).

3rd – Families with income 126%-150% of SIS.

4th – Families with income 151%-175% OF SIS.

5th – Families with income 175%-200% of SIS.

Fraud and Abuse Control Activities

The district must identify below the criteria it will use to determine which child care subsidy applications suggest a higher than acceptable risk for fraudulent or erroneous child care subsidy payment and procedures for referring such applications to the district's front end detection system.

Wyoming County will use the following indicators from our approved FEDS plan:

- **Working off the books.**
- **Application is inconsistent with prior case information.**
- **Prior history of denial, case closing, or overpayment resulting from an investigation.**
- **No absent parent information or information is inconsistent with application.**
- **No documentation to verify identity or documentation of identity is questionable.**
- **Landlord does not verify HH composition or provides information**

- inconsistent with the application.**
- **Self-employed but without adequate business records to support financial assertions.**
 - **Documents or information provided are inconsistent with application, such as different name used for signature or invalid SSN.**
 - **P.O. Box is used as a mailing address without a reasonable explanation, e.g. high crime area.**
 - **Children under the age of six with no birth certificates available.**
 - **Unsure of own address.**
 - **A daycare provider living in the same residence as the daycare recipient.**

We utilize our local fraud referral flow chart. When an indicator is identified the process is as follows: Interview with the client, complete appropriate referral, supervisor initial review, referral forwarded to community service worker, referral date entered, referral forwarded to investigator, completed investigation forwarded for Commissioner approval, referral back to community service worker for data entry, forwarded to principle program specialist for review and assignment to worker, worker takes appropriate action and sends copy of original referral, with action taken, to the investigator.

The district must describe below its sampling methodology used to determine which cases it will seek verification of an applicant or recipient's continued need for child care including, as applicable, verification of participation in employment, education or other required activity.

Verification is accomplished at initial and recertification screenings. Recertification screenings are done every 6 months and 100% of the cases are reviewed. These reviews verify the continued need for child care by requiring the recipient to complete the recertification application and submit documentation (i.e. pay stubs, school schedules, etc). They are also required to submit a supplemental sheet on who their current employer is and the number of hours they are working.

The district must describe below its sampling methodology used to determine which child care providers of subsidized child care services they will review for the purpose of comparing the child care providers attendance forms for children receiving subsidized child care services and 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.

This district will implement a system to determine universe size and then draw an appropriate sample size of subsidized childcare services. This sample number of cases will be reviewed monthly to compare the caregiver's attendance forms with any child and adult food program. Wyoming County has 72 child care providers (family day care, group family day care and legally exempt). Our district will need to annually look at approximately 60 participating providers (a minimum of 5 reviews per month). Our district will then determine the last time CACFP did a

home visit for the provider and find out what children were seen during the visit.

The sample number is drawn from a total list of caregivers. When a caregiver is selected that does not participate in child and adult care food programs, that caregiver's attendance forms are not reviewed and another caregiver must be selected until a caregiver that does participate in child and adult care food programs is selected. The district will need to follow up when there is a discrepancy.

APPENDIX G-4

IV. District Options (Required Section)

Districts have certain flexibility to administer the child care subsidy program to meet local needs. Check which options that your district wishes to include in your ICP/CSP. Complete attachments for any area(s) checked.

1. Our district has identified local priorities in addition to the federal priorities (complete Appendix G-5).
2. Our district has chosen to establish funding set-asides for NYSCCBG (complete Appendix G-6).
3. Our district is using Title XX funds for the provision of child care services for low-income eligible families (complete Appendix G-7).
4. Our district has chosen to establish additional local standards for child care providers (complete Appendix G-8).
5. Our district has chosen to make payments to child care providers for absences (complete Appendix G-9).
6. Our district has chosen to make payments to child care providers for program closures (complete Appendix G-10).*
7. Our district has chosen to pay for transportation to and from a child care provider (complete Appendix G-11).
8. Our district has chosen to pay up to a 15% higher than the applicable market rates for regulated child care services that have been accredited by a nationally recognized child care organization (complete Appendix G-11).
9. Our district has chosen to pay up to 15% higher than the applicable market rates for non-traditional hours (complete Appendix G-11).
10. Our district has chosen to pay for child care services while a caretaker who works the second or third shift sleeps (complete Appendix G-11).
11. Our district has chosen to make payments to child care providers who provide child care services, which exceed 24 consecutive hours (complete Appendix G-12).*

APPENDIX G-4 (continued)

12. Our district has chosen to include 18, 19 or 20 year olds in the Child Care Services Unit (complete Appendix G-12).*
13. Our district is seeking a waiver from one or more regulatory provisions. Such waivers are limited to those regulatory standards that are not specifically included in law (complete Appendix G-12).*
14. Our district has chosen to pay for breaks in activity for low-income families (non public assistance families, complete Appendix G-12).
15. Our district has chosen to use local equivalent forms such as, but not limited to, child care application, client notification and/or legally exempt enrollment forms (attach copies of the local equivalent forms your district uses).

Any previous approvals for local equivalent forms will not be carried forward into this ICP/CSP. 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.

**APPENDIX G-5
PRIORITY POPULATIONS-ADDITIONAL LOCAL PRIORITIES**

In addition to the federal priorities of very low income families and families with children who have special needs, the following additional local priorities have been selected:

Category: Rank:

Description:

**APPENDIX G-6
FUNDING SET-ASIDES**

Total NYSCCBG Block Grant Amount Including Local Funds	
Category:	\$
Total set asides	\$

Describe for each category the rationale behind specific set-aside amounts out of the NYSCCBG (e.g. estimated number of children, etc.).

Category:

Category:

Category:

Category:

Category:

APPENDIX G-6 (continued)

The following amounts are set aside for specific priorities out of the Title XX block grant:

Category:	\$
Category:	\$
Category:	\$
Total set asides (Title XX)	\$

Describe for each category the rationale behind specific set aside amounts out of the Title XX block grant (e.g. estimated number of children, etc.).

Category:

Category:

Category:

Category:

**APPENDIX G-9
PAYMENT TO CHILD CARE PROVIDERS FOR ABSENCES**

The following providers are eligible for payment for absences:
(Check any that are eligible)

- Day Care Center School Age Child Care
 Group Family Day Care Family Day Care
 Legally Exempt Group

Our district will only pay for absences to providers with which the district has a contract or letter of intent*. Yes No

Base period selected (check one) 3 months 6 months

Number of absences allowed during base period:

Period	Routine Limits (# of days)	Extenuating Circumstances (# of days)	Total Number of Absences Allowed (# of days)
In a month	4	3	7
Base period	12	9	21

List reasons for absences for which the district will allow payment:
Illness of child or provider, suspension of parents education or training, and holidays.

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

We will only pay for 12 absences in a 3 month period of time to providers who are contracted with us. We will only pay for a total of 4 days in any 1 month period unless we have written documentation of extenuating circumstances.

Note: Legally exempt family childcare and in-home childcare providers are **not** eligible to receive payment for absences.

APPENDIX G-10
PAYMENT TO CHILD CARE PROVIDERS FOR PROGRAM CLOSURES*

The following providers are eligible for payment for program closures:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day Care Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Legally Exempt Group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Group Family Day Care | <input type="checkbox"/> School Age Child Care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Day Care | |

Our district will only pay for program closures to providers with which the district has a contract or letter of intent. Yes No

Enter the number of days allowed for program closures (maximum allowable program closures is five days).

Note: Legally exempt family child care and in-home child car providers are **not** allowed to be reimbursed for program closures.

APPENDIX G-11

TRANSPORTATION, DIFFERENTIAL PAYMENT RATES, SLEEP

Transportation

Describe below under what circumstances and limitations if any your district will use to reimburse for transportation, what type of transportation will be reimbursed (public vs. private), and how much your district will pay (per mile or trip). Note if paying for transportation, Appendix F will need to reflect this choice.

N/A

Differential Payment Rates

Indicate below the percentage above the market rate your district has chosen.

Accredited Programs may receive a differential payment up to zero percent above market rate.

Care during non-traditional hours may be paid up to 15% percent above market rate.

Limitations to the above differentials are as follows: N/A

Payments may not exceed 15 percent above market rate. However, if your district wishes to establish a payment rate that is in excess of 15 percent above the applicable market rate you must describe below why the 15 percent maximum is insufficient to provide access within the district to accredited programs and/or care provided during non-traditional hours.

Sleep

The following describes the standards that will be used in evaluating whether or not to pay for child care services while a parent or caretaker that works a second or third shift sleeps and any limitations pertaining to payment:

N/A

Indicate the number of hours allowed by your district (maximum number of hours allowed is eight). N/A

APPENDIX G-12
CHILD CARE EXCEEDING 24 HOURS, CHILD CARE SERVICES UNIT,
WAIVERS, BREAKS IN ACTIVITIES

Child Care Exceeding 24 Hours*

Child care services may exceed 24 consecutive hours when such services are provided on a short-term emergency basis or in other cases where the caretaker's approved activity necessitates care for 24 hours on a limited basis.

Describe any limitations for payment of child care services that exceed 24 consecutive hours.

Child Care Services Unit*

The Child Care Service Unit is the basis upon which a district will determine which household and/or family should be counted in determining family size and countable family income.

Our district will include the following in the Child Care Services Unit (check which ones apply).

18 year old 19 year old 20 year old

Our district will include only the following in the Child Care Services Unit when it will benefit the family (check which ones apply).

18 year old 19 year old 20 year old

Describe the criteria your district will use to determine whether or not an 18, 19 or 20 year old is included in the Child Care Services Unit. **Our district will include 18, 19 and 20 year olds when they are part of a sibling group, and their inclusion in the family eligibility and determination for receiving Child Care Services has a direct benefit for the family.**

Waivers*

Districts have the authority to request a waiver of any regulatory provision that is non-statutory. Describe and justify why your district is requesting a waiver.

Breaks in Activities

Districts may pay for child care services for low income families during breaks in activities for a period not to exceed two weeks or for a period not to exceed one month where child care arrangements would otherwise be lost and the subsequent activity is expected to begin within that period (check one).

two weeks four weeks

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 any that are eligible):

entering an activity waiting to begin employment break between activities