

Rural Area Flexibility Analysis

1) Types and Estimated Numbers of Rural Areas

The proposed regulations will apply to all modalities of child care programs operating in 44 rural areas of the state.

2) Reporting, Recordkeeping and Other Compliance; and Professional Services

The changes to the child care regulations are necessary to implement emergency health guidance promulgated by the Department of Health.

The change in paperwork associated with the proposed changes in the child care regulations are anticipated to be minimal.

3) Costs

No additional costs will be assessed on providers with this regulation. Any costs will be incurred by the issuance of the emergency health guidance promulgated by the Department of Health or Executive Chamber in the interest of public health during a designated public health emergency.

4) Minimizing Adverse Impact

The Office does not anticipate any adverse impact to rural area child care programs as a result of the proposed regulations.

5) Rural Area Participation

The Office has held weekly stakeholder calls since mid-March to go over the response to the COVID-19 crisis. Rural areas are represented on the calls, through the union and Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies. Many significant areas of the guidance including the requirement to wear masks and the group size have been discussed on the stakeholder calls. Stakeholders have been nearly unanimous in asking for clear guidance from the Office.