

## **Rural Area Flexibility Analysis**

### **1) Types and Estimated Numbers of Rural Areas:**

This rule will apply to licensed/registered and enrolled legally exempt child care programs and social services districts in all 44 rural areas of the state.

### **2) Reporting, Recordkeeping and Other Compliance, and Professional Services:**

Each of the 58 social services districts that make changes to the Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) as a result of these regulatory changes will have to update their individual plan to reflect such changes in eligibility, reduce time frames within which to process claims, and comply with new program integrity measures. The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) will assist in this process. There are no new professional services anticipated to be required as a result of this rule.

### **3) Costs:**

The amendments to reducing time frames to process claims and implementing new program integrity measures may place additional administrative costs on the district, however these expenses can be absorbed as an expense to the districts' child care block grant allocation.

### **4) Minimizing Adverse Impact:**

OCFS believes there will be no adverse impact on child care programs, and in fact a positive impact on programs is anticipated. OCFS believes there may be minimal adverse impact on social services districts to update CFSPs and comply with claim processing timelines and program integrity measures.

### **5) Rural Area Participation:**

OCFS will provide guidance, technical assistance, and outreach to those that are impacted by this rule. Specifically, OCFS will assist social services districts that have to update their CFSPs to reflect changes to eligibility. OCFS will also post this information on the OCFS' website, including contact information for questions on this rule and the email address of the regulations' mailbox ([regcomments@ocfs.ny.gov](mailto:regcomments@ocfs.ny.gov)) to provide public comments.