

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:

Currently, 46 of the 58 social services districts will need to update their Child and Family Services Plan to reflect a new sliding fee scale income factor. The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) will assist in this process.

3) Costs:

There are no new costs associated with this rule in rural areas.

4) Minimizing Adverse Impact:

OCFS does not anticipate any adverse impact to rural area child care programs or social services districts as a result of this rule.

5) Rural Area Participation:

OCFS had calls with stakeholders about the need for child care assistance in the field and the need to obligate the listed funds in accordance with the relevant requirements.

OCFS will provide guidance, technical assistance, and outreach to those that are impacted by this rule. Specifically, OCFS will assist social services districts that need to update their Child and Family Services Plan to reflect a new sliding fee scale income standard. OCFS will send notice of this rule via email to child care programs for which it has a valid email address, and post this information on the OCFS child care website. This will include the contact information of someone in OCFS to answer questions on this rule and the email

address for the regulations mailbox (regcomments@ocfs.ny.gov) to provide public comments.