



# Office of Children and Family Services

**Kathy Hochul**  
Governor

52 WASHINGTON STREET  
RENSELAER, NY 12144

**Suzanne Miles-Gustave, Esq.**  
Acting Commissioner

## Informational Letter

<b>Transmittal:</b>	23-OCFS-INF-11
<b>To:</b>	Local Departments of Social Services Commissioners
<b>Issuing Division/Office:</b>	Division of Child Care Services Division of Administration
<b>Date:</b>	November 29, 2023
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Methodology for New York State Child Care Block Grant Allocations</b>
<b>Suggested Distribution:</b>	Local Departments of Social Services Financial Staff
<b>Contact Person(s):</b>	Merideth Infantino, Bureau of Child Care Assistance, 518-402-3001 <a href="mailto:Merideth.Infantino@ocfs.ny.gov">Merideth.Infantino@ocfs.ny.gov</a> <a href="mailto:ocfs.sm.districtsupport.subsidy@ocfs.ny.gov">ocfs.sm.districtsupport.subsidy@ocfs.ny.gov</a>
<b>Attachments:</b>	None

### Filing References

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	NYS Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
23-OCFS-LCM-12-R2					

### I. Purpose

The purpose of this Informational Letter (INF) is to inform local social services districts (districts) about updates to the methodology and funding for the New York State Child Care Block Grant (NYSCCBG) Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) and to encourage all districts to continue to authorize cases to spend down available funds.

### II. Background

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) issued 23-OCFS-LCM-12, *New York State Child Care Block Grant Allocations April 1, 2023-September 30, 2024*, on June 30, 2023. That Local Commissioners Memorandum (LCM) provided allocation information for NYSCCBG CCAP funds for the 18-month period beginning April 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024. That allocation methodology was based solely on each district's proportionate share of the block grant funds as determined by the average level of annual child care claims for the three-year period of federal fiscal year (FFY) 2019-20 through FFY 2021-22.

OCFS has been monitoring claims closely in order to respond to districts' spending patterns that indicate that additional supplemental funds are necessary to support recent increases in utilization of CCAP. As a result, 23-OCFS-LCM-12 was revised and reissued as 23-OCFS-LCM-12-R1 on August 18, 2023, to

reflect the addition of \$18.9M, to the allocations for the period April 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024. The following LCM, 23-OCFS-LCM-12-R1, was subsequently revised and reissued as 23-OCFS-LCM-12-R2 on October 16, 2023, to reflect the subsequent addition of \$32M to the allocations for the same period.

### **III. Program Implications**

Pursuant to the LCMs noted above, additional funds were allocated to districts that had spending patterns, demonstrated by actual claims, that indicated that supplemental funds were necessary to support increases in utilization of CCAP. This additional funding became available to districts at the time the applicable revised LCM was issued.

Although the initial allocation methodology for the period April 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, was based solely on a district's proportional share of the block grant funds as determined by the average level of annual child care claims for the three-year period of FFY 2019-20 through FFY 2021-22, the allocation methodology for future allocation periods may be different. OCFS acknowledges that recent CCAP changes may have changed spending patterns and will continue to closely monitor actual claims. This information will be utilized in determining any additional allocations during the current period ending September 30, 2024, and to inform allocations of funds for FFY 2024-25, when such funding is appropriated in the state fiscal year 2024-25 Enacted Budget. Please be aware that any unspent NYSCCBG funds that remain available to districts in subsequent periods, referred to as rollover, may be treated differently. Any rollover from FFY 2022-2023 into FFY 2023-24 will continue to be made available to the respective district. However, such rollover may be considered in the allocation methodology in addition to other claiming patterns when funding is allocated for FFY 2024-25. As a result, maintaining rollover funds in FFY 2023-24 may cause districts to receive a lesser allocation for FFY 2024-25. Considering this, OCFS encourages all districts to continue to authorize cases to spend down available funds.

*/s/ Nora Yates*

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**Issued by:**

Name: Nora Yates

Title: Deputy Commissioner

Division/Office: Division of Child Care Services

*/s/ Sharon Devine*

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**Issued by:**

Name: Sharon Devine

Title: Deputy Commissioner

Division/Office: Division of Administration