

OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

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 | INFORMATIONAL LETTER |
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TRANSMITTAL: 00 OCFS INF-3

TO: Commissioners of Social Services
 DIVISION: Development and Prevention Services

DATE: April 7, 2000

SUBJECT: Child Care Subsidies for School Age Children During the Summer

SUGGESTED

DISTRIBUTION: Directors of Social Services
 Directors of Income Maintenance
 Child Care Supervisors and Staff
 Planning Coordinators
 Accounting Coordinators
 Staff Development Coordinators

CONTACT PERSON: Paula Vielkind (518)402-6520, USERID 90A167
 Bureau of Early Childhood Services

ATTACHMENTS: None

FILING REFERENCES

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
99 OCFS- LCM-28		415			
99 OCFS- LCM-29					
00 OCFS- LCM-2					

The purpose of this release is to provide local social services districts with information on the continued use of New York State Child Care Block Grant (NYSCCBG) subsidy funds for summer programming for school age children.

BACKGROUND

The State Budget for State Fiscal Year 1999-2000 contained significant increases in funding for child day care subsidies. In making those increases, the Budget language highlighted the importance of continuing to meet the needs of low income and temporary assistance families, including responding to their needs for care during non-traditional hours as well as care for school age children during school vacations. Child care subsidy funds under the NYSCCBG are specifically designed to provide districts the flexibility to meet these and other emerging needs of temporary assistance and low income families.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

As the summer season approaches, districts are encouraged to outreach to parents already on subsidy to alert them to the potential need to change the hours of child care or to seek additional arrangements for child care while school is not in session. Care may also be needed during the summer months for other school age children in the case who did not receive care while school was in session. Parents should be made aware that it is important to arrange for summer care early. Many summer programs begin enrollment in the early spring and slots fill up quickly.

Districts are also encouraged to outreach to the community to open new cases. Districts may designate such cases that have been newly opened for the purpose of summer care to be the first priority for case closings if available subsidy funds would not support the annualization of this expanded caseload.

Alternately, districts have the option of submitting an amendment to the Child Care section of their Consolidated Services Plan which would stipulate that a specific amount of NYSCCBG funds be a priority set-aside to address summer school age child care needs. This set-aside could only be used to meet summer school age child care needs. Cases opened as part of this set-aside would not automatically be continued beyond the summer program period. Districts would be encouraged to provide these families with information about the availability of continued subsidy support for the school year.

Child care resource and referral agencies and other community resources can be accessed to assist parents plan for and locate appropriate child care services. Parents should be afforded adequate time to arrange for appropriate care. In addition, district procedures should allow ample time for parents to arrange for child care for the new school year once summer vacation is over.

Legally-exempt providers meeting the health and safety requirements in 18 NYCRR Part 415 are eligible to receive reimbursement for child care services under the NYSCCBG. Summer day camps provide an additional source of available slots for parents during the school summer vacation. Note that summer day camps operating in compliance with New York State Department of Health requirements do not have to complete the Facility Safety Checklist section of the Legally-Exempt Group Child Care Program Enrollment form. The other health and safety requirements issued by the Office of Children and Family Services are applicable and those sections of the enrollment form must be completed.

The rate of payment for caregivers of legally-exempt group child care is the actual cost of care up to the applicable market rate for day care center providers as set forth in 00 OCFs ADM-1.

Overnight summer camps are not eligible to receive NYSCCBG funds, since care provided for 24 hours a day does not meet the definition of child care services.

In assessing the funding available for summer programs, each district should compare its level of expenditures against its NYSCCBG allocation. The district should include its Federal fiscal year NYSCCBG allocation issued in 99 OCFs LCM-28 dated September 30, 1999 and 00 OCFs LCM-02 dated February 8, 2000 and any rollover of unspent funds that they may have from the period ending September 30, 1998. If there are questions concerning claiming under the NYSCCBG or the amount of funds available, please contact the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, Bureau of Financial Services:

Regions 1-4 - Roland Levie at 1-800-343-8859, extension 4-7549 or dial direct (518) 474-7549; User ID #FMS001.

Region 5 - Marvin Gold at (212) 383-1733; User ID #0FM270.

Donald K. Smith
Deputy Commissioner