



# Office of Children and Family Services

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## Informational Letter

<b>Transmittal:</b>	21-OCFS-INF-03				
<b>To:</b>	Commissioners of Social Services				
<b>Issuing Division/Office:</b>	Strategic Planning and Policy Development				
<b>Date:</b>	May 6, 2021				
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>2021 Income Standards for the Child and Family Services Plan</b>				
<b>Suggested Distribution:</b>	Directors of Social Services Adoption Supervisors/Staff Foster Care Supervisors/Staff Day Care Subsidy Supervisors Planning Coordinators Accounting Supervisors WMS Coordinators				
<b>Contact Person(s):</b>	Any questions concerning this release should be directed to the appropriate Division of Child Welfare and Community Services regional office, or the Division of Child Care Services:  Buffalo Regional Office – Amanda Darling (716) 847-3145 <a href="mailto:Amanda.Darling@ocfs.ny.gov">Amanda.Darling@ocfs.ny.gov</a> Rochester Regional Office – Chris Bruno (585) 238-8201 <a href="mailto:Christopher.Bruno@ocfs.ny.gov">Christopher.Bruno@ocfs.ny.gov</a> Syracuse Regional Office – Sara Simon (315) 423-1200 <a href="mailto:Sara.Simon@ocfs.ny.gov">Sara.Simon@ocfs.ny.gov</a> Albany Regional Office – John Lockwood (518) 486-7078 <a href="mailto:John.Lockwood@ocfs.ny.gov">John.Lockwood@ocfs.ny.gov</a> Westchester Regional Office – Sheletha Chang (845) 708-2498 <a href="mailto:Sheletha.Chang@ocfs.ny.gov">Sheletha.Chang@ocfs.ny.gov</a> New York City Regional Office – Ronni Fuchs (212) 383-1788 <a href="mailto:Ronni.Fuchs@ocfs.ny.gov">Ronni.Fuchs@ocfs.ny.gov</a> Native American Services – Heather LaForme (716) 847-3123 <a href="mailto:Heather.LaForme@ocfs.ny.gov">Heather.LaForme@ocfs.ny.gov</a> Division of Child Care Services – Merideth Infantino (518) 402-3001 <a href="mailto:Merideth.Infantino@OCFS.ny.gov">Merideth.Infantino@OCFS.ny.gov</a>				
<b>Attachments:</b>	None				
<b>Previous ADMs/INFs</b>	<b>Releases Cancelled</b>	<b>NYS Regs.</b>	<b>Soc. Serv. Law &amp; Other Legal Ref.</b>	<b>Manual Ref.</b>	<b>Misc. Ref.</b>

20-OCFS-INF-07		18 NYCRR 404.5(b)	42 U.S.C. § 9902(2); 86 Fed. Reg. 7732 (Feb. 1, 2021)		
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**I. Purpose**

The purpose of this Informational Letter (INF) is to transmit to the local departments of social services (LDSSs) the 2021 federal poverty guidelines on annual income to be used in determining eligibility for services.

**II. Background**

State income standards are established using [poverty guidelines](#) that are updated periodically in the *Federal Register* [[86 Fed. Reg. 7732](#)] by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, under the authority of [42 U.S.C. § 9902\(2\)](#). LDSS eligibility levels are recorded in Appendix F of the LDSS Child and Family Services Plan. This information is used to update each LDSS’s Welfare Management System services matrix.

**III. Program Implications**

The following are the annual income standards to be used, effective June 1, 2021, to determine eligibility for services between June 1, 2021, and May 31, 2022.

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>Income Standards</u>
1	\$12,880
2	\$17,420
3	\$21,960
4	\$26,500
5	\$31,040
6	\$35,580
7	\$40,120
8	\$44,660

For families/households with more than eight persons, add \$4,540 to the annual income for each additional person.

When determining eligibility for a service, apply the appropriate percentage for that service to the above income standards. For example, if a family of three is applying for an LDSS service and has an annual income below 200% of the income standard, staff would multiply that income standard for a family of three by 200% ( $\$21,960 \times 2.00 = \$43,920$ ) to determine the annual income standard below which the family must be to determine eligibility for that size family for that service.

**/s/ Thomas R. Brooks**

**Issued by:**

Name: Thomas R. Brooks

Title: Deputy Commissioner

Division/Office: Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Development