



**Office of Children
and Family Services**

Response, Recovery, and Partnership: Meeting Emergent Needs in Child Care

January 20, 2021

Division of Child Care Services

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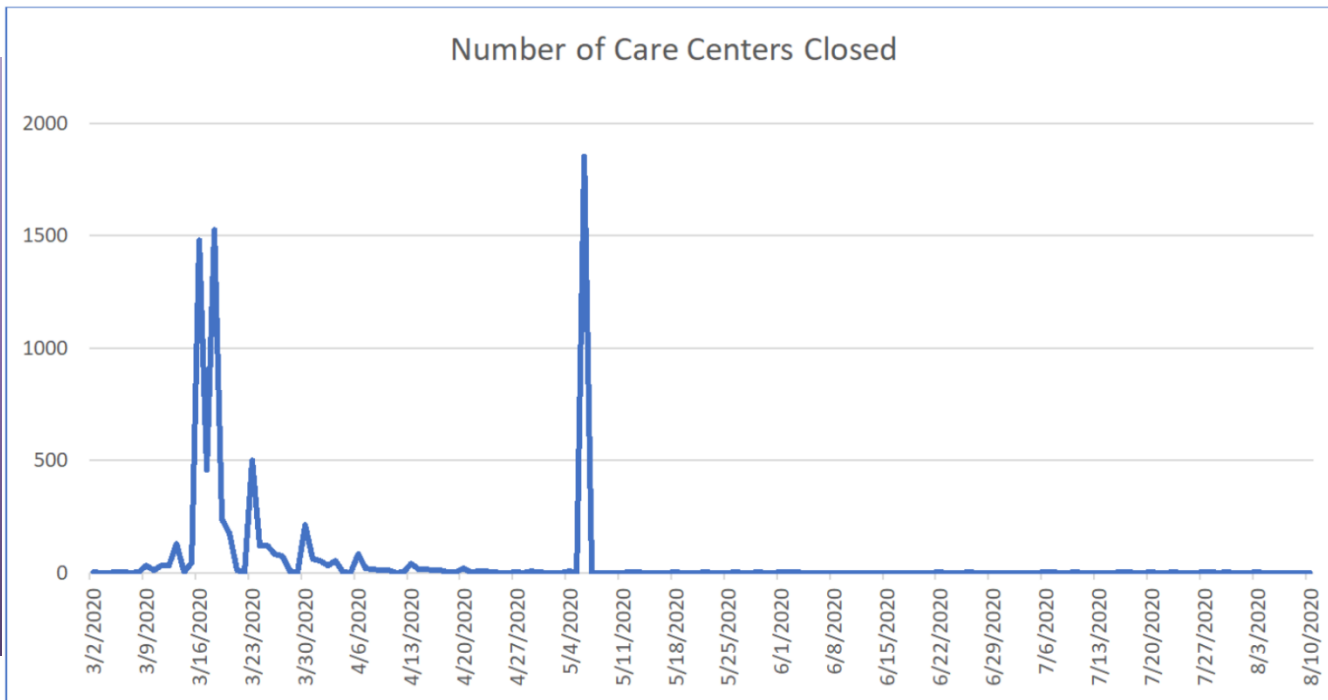
Merideth Infantino, Manager- Child Care Subsidy Program

Agenda

- The impact of COVID-19 on Child Care
- New York State's Actions in Support of Families & Providers
 - Children and Family Services Plan (CFSP) and District Waivers
 - Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plan and Federal Waivers
- The CARES Act: Implementation Activities
- Updates-present and future



COVID-19: The Impact on Child Care



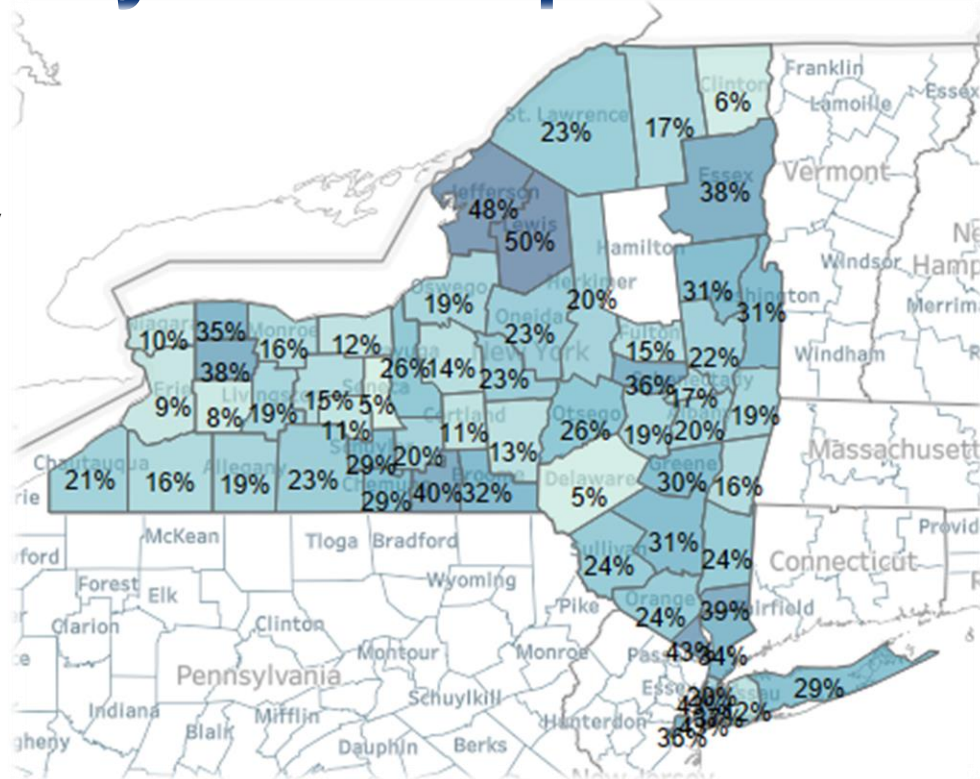
Closure Analysis & Drop-in Care

COVID-19:

OCFS Day Cares by County:

27% Closed (4,251) as of 1/14/2021 6:04:42 AM
(updated daily)

Please Note: CCFS data is subject to change.



- Closure Status
 - Closed
 - Open
- Closure Type
 - *Open
 - Mandatory
 - School Closure
 - Voluntary
- Modality Code
 - DCC
 - FDC
 - GFDC
 - SACC
- County
 - Albany
 - Allegany
 - Bronx
 - Brooklyn
 - Broome
 - Cattaraugus
 - Cayuga
 - Chautauqua
 - Chemung
 - Chenango
 - Clinton
 - Columbia
- Percent of Total

5% 50%

Statewide Supports

Families

Providers

Coordination between OCFS and CCRRs

- Allowed regulatory flexibility
- Supplies
- CARES



Supplies for Providers

OCFS and CCR&Rs



...partnered to deliver supplies

Photos courtesy: Early Care and Learning Council



Office of Children
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Provider Telephone Survey

Row Labels	Kids in Care to Enrollment	Kids in Care to Capacity
DCC	70%	45%
FDC	67%	46%
GFDC	64%	38%
SACC	63%	29%
Grand Total	66%	40%

This chart is the percentage of kids in care compared to their current enrollment, and the percentage of kids in care compared to their licensed capacity.

- In early October, OCFS regional staff contacted more than 13,400 providers and were able to connect with almost 10,000
- Of those, 7,847 (86%) were open
- Of those open, 653 had 0 children in child care



Provider Telephone Survey (cont'd.)



- More than 8,000 providers responded to the question asking about their biggest concern (some providers had multiple biggest concerns)
- The most common concerns were low enrollment, staffing, supplies, and generalized concerns over COVID

OCFS Webcast Training in English & Spanish

This training provided information on ways providers can support children and families as programs re-open or continue to provide child care during the COVID-19 emergency

“Supporting Children in Child Care during the COVID-19 Emergency”/ “Apoyando a los niños en el cuidado infantil durante la emergencia COVID-19”

- Two English sessions held on October 21
- Two Spanish sessions held on October 22

The recorded sessions can be found at: <https://www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu/>



Support for Families and Providers – District Level

District Level Waivers

- Waived family share for families affected by COVID-19
- Expanded subsidy eligibility up to 85% of the state median income
- Expanded the definition of a child needing protective services
- Extended the eligibility period for child care
- Expanded the number of paid child absence days
- Expanded the number of paid program closure days



District Waivers

47 out of 58 districts have had 1 or more waivers

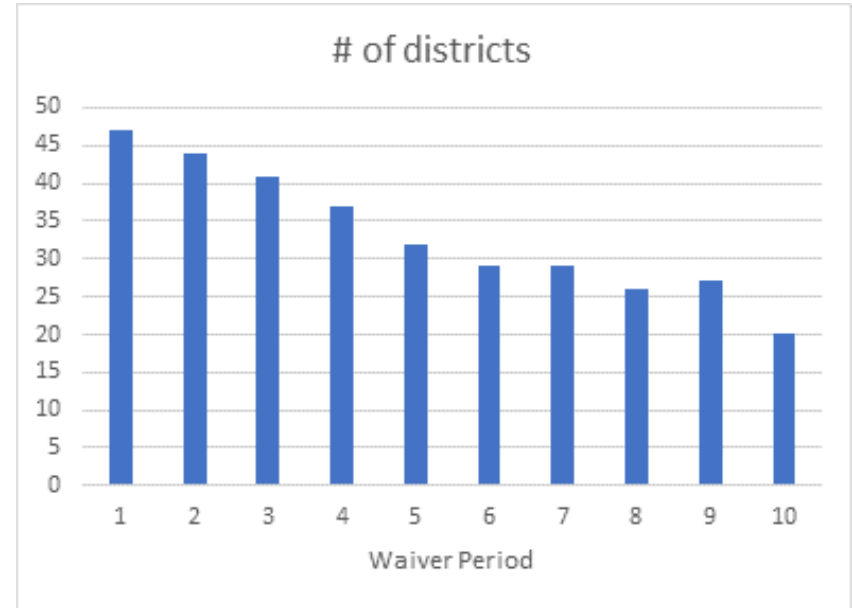
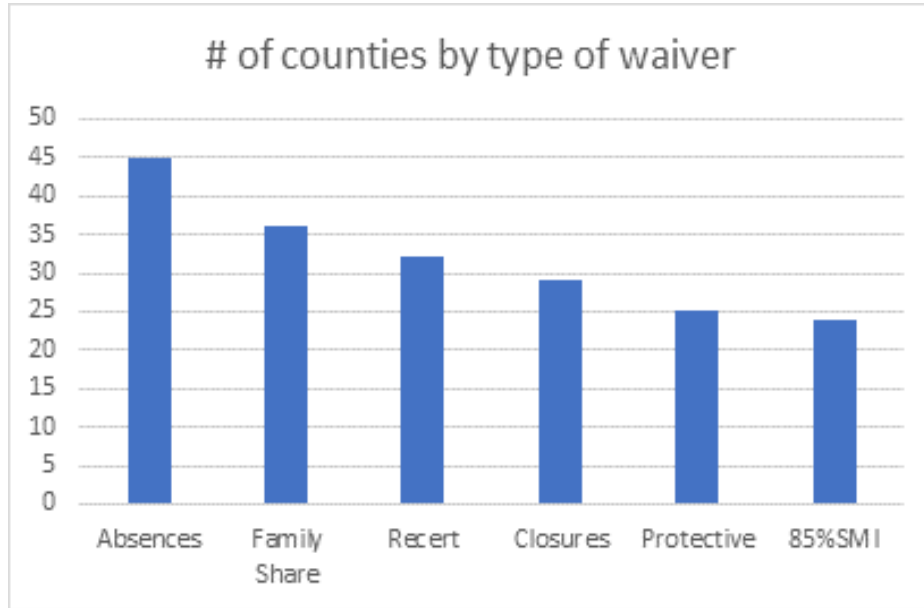
- the average number of waiver periods = 7.2 (out of 10 max; median=8)
- the average number of waivers = 4.1 (out of 6 max; median=4)

The most popular waivers:

- Absences
- Family share



District Waivers (cont'd.)



CCDF Plan and Federal COVID-19 Waivers

- On 6/8/2020, the Office of Child Care approved waivers for the following requirements for one year, not to exceed 3/17/2021:
 - In-state criminal registry or repository checks with fingerprints requirements
 - National FBI criminal fingerprint search requirements
 - Interstate criminal registry, sex offender registry and child abuse and neglect registry check requirements (including in any other state where the individual has resided in the past 5 years)
 - Family co-payments
 - Pre-service or orientation training requirements
 - Inspections for licensed CCDF providers



CCDF Plan and Federal Waivers (cont'd.)

- On 11/24/2020, the Office of Child Care approved waivers for the following requirements thru 9/30/2021:
 - National Crime Information Center (NCIC) National Sex Offender Registry (NSOR) checks
 - Provisional hires
 - In-state check of sex offender and child abuse/maltreatment registry for existing staff
 - Posting monitoring and inspection reports
 - Posting aggregate data on serious injuries, deaths, and substantiated cases of child abuse
 - Graduated phase-out of assistance
 - 12-month eligibility
 - Option to discontinue assistance during the 12-month eligibility period
 - Change reporting during the 12-month eligibility period
- On 1/5/2021, OCFS requested waiver extensions going thru 9/30/2021, for all requirements that have waivers expiring in March 2021. The status of this request is pending. If approved, all the current waivers will expire on 10/1/2021



CARES Act

CARES Act Funding to NYS: \$163.6 Million

CARES 1

- \$20 million for scholarships for essential workers
- \$10 million in supplies

CARES 2

- \$5 million in re-opening/restructuring grants to support supplies and materials needed to support social distancing (PPE, room dividers, individual art kits)
- \$45 million in temporary operating support to support program bringing classrooms/groups online

CARES Act (cont'd.)

CARES Act Funding to NYS: \$163.6 Million

CARES 3

- \$20 million essential worker scholarship (up to 300% of poverty)
- \$20 million temporary rental assistance for displaced school-based programs
- \$22.6 million for another round of temporary operating support



New Funding

- The FFY 2021 appropriation of Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) discretionary money includes an \$85 million increase nationwide in discretionary funds over FFY 2020.
- On 12/27/20, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, was signed into law.
 - It contained a \$900 billion Coronavirus Relief package, which included \$10 billion for child care.
- New York State stands to receive an estimated \$465 million for child care.

Local District Allocations

- In response to COVID uncertainties, OCFS kept allocations flat in SFY 2020-21
- We are concerned about the high level of rollover we're seeing
- 55 districts rolled over child care funds from FFY 2018-19 into FFY 2019-20

What To Look For In 2021

- Continuation of Waivers
- Evaluation of Family Share
- Additional funding to support providers and families
- OCFS virtual inspections pilot
- Virtual training and conference opportunities
- CCDF Plan FY 2022-2024



CCDF Plan FY 2022-2024 Timeline

- Final template will be issued by the Office of Child Care this Spring
- New York's draft Plan will be posted on the OCFS website mid to late-April: <http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/stateplan/default.asp>
- Public hearings will be held virtually late April or early-May (tentative)
- Deadline for the FY 2022–2024 CCDF Plan is June 30, 2021
- Plan will be effective September 1, 2021 to September 30, 2024



*Thank
you*



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