



# Office of Children and Family Services

**Andrew M. Cuomo**  
Governor

52 WASHINGTON STREET  
RENSSELAER, NY 12144

**Sheila J. Poole**  
Commissioner

## Local Commissioners Memorandum

<b>Transmittal:</b>	21-OCFS-LCM-01
<b>To:</b>	Local District Commissioners
<b>Issuing Division/Office:</b>	Division of Child Care Services
<b>Date:</b>	January 12, 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Update to Expansion of the Child Care Assistance Program</b>
<b>Contact Person(s):</b>	Please contact the following persons for questions regarding this LCM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Program Questions Merideth Infantino, OCFS Division of Child Care Services 518-402-3001, <a href="mailto:Merideth.Infantino@ocfs.ny.gov">Merideth.Infantino@ocfs.ny.gov</a> <a href="mailto:ocfs.sm.ccs.expansion@ocfs.ny.gov">ocfs.sm.ccs.expansion@ocfs.ny.gov</a></li></ul>
<b>Attachments:</b>	None

### I. Purpose

The purpose of this Local Commissioners Memorandum (LCM) is to inform local social services districts (districts) of a change to the required use of funds for the Expansion of the Child Care Assistance Program. This LCM modifies the stipulation that a minimum of 25 percent of a district's allocation be accounted for in year 1, which was first established in 19-OCFS-LCM-26, *Expansion of the Child Care Assistance Program*, but does not replace any other part of that ADM.

### II. Background

On October 17, 2019, the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) issued 19-OCFS-LCM-26, *Expansion of the Child Care Assistance Program*. 19-OCFS-LCM-26 advised districts of the availability of \$20 million of funding for the Expansion of the Child Care Assistance Program for services provided during the period of October 1, 2019, through September 30, 2021. Districts were given the opportunity to apply for this funding, and the funding was awarded to districts in December 2019. In order to

accommodate local needs, districts had discretion for deciding how they used the additional funding over the two-year period. Some might front-load it; others might split it evenly across the two years, etc. OCFS only stipulated that

- district plans must account for a minimum of 25 percent of their allocation in year 1, and
- districts must use these funds to create new slots in year 1 or year 2 (or both) and to maintain the year 1 newly created slots in year 2.

### **III. Program Implications**

Due to the pandemic caused by the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), some districts may have had lower than anticipated expenditures for year one. As such, districts are no longer obligated to account for a minimum of 25 percent of their allocation in year 1. A failure to account for 25 percent of the allocation in year 1 will not affect program allocations for year 2.

***/s/ Janice M. Molnar, Ph.D.***

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**Issued by:**

Name: Janice M. Molnar, Ph.D.

Title: Deputy Commissioner

Division/Office: Division of Child Care Services