



**Office of Children
and Family Services**

Child Care in New York

OCFS Programs, Reforms, and More

Acting Commissioner Suzanne Miles-Gustave

August 10, 2023

Agenda

- **Child Care in New York State: Overview**
- **Supporting Families: Child Care Assistance Program**
- **Addressing Child Care Deserts: Building Supply**
- **Connecting More New Yorkers to Child Care: Historic Investments and Recent Reforms**
- **Looking Ahead: Challenges and Opportunities**

Child Care in New York State: Overview

Child Care in New York

- There are millions of child care-aged children in New York State
 - Total Population of New York State: 19,514,849
 - Children under 15 years of age: 3,377,737 (including 1,140,442 children under 5 years old)
- Child care in New York is primarily provided by licensed or registered service providers, as well as by legally exempt (license exempt) providers, including family, friend, or neighbor care
 - ~23,000 licensed/registered providers (including permitted NYC Child Care Centers)
 - ~800,000 children served
 - Child care assistance pays for some or all of the cost of child care for eligible families (authorized families can choose any eligible provider)
- NYS provides child care assistance to eligible families including those who are working, participating in education or job training activities as well as other vulnerable families

~105,000 children across 62,000 families received Child Care Assistance in FFY 2022



Child Care Program and Capacity

- Child care in New York is offered through a range of settings – primarily provided by private and community-based not-for-profit service providers
- Families that receive Child Care Assistance may use that assistance for any of these types of care

Modality	Providers	Children Served
Child Care Center	4,185	320,820
Family Child Care Home	2,738	21,430
Group Family Child Care Home	7,468	114,949
School-Age Child Care Program	2,769	327,469
Legally-Exempt Programs (Enrolled)	5,911	25,517
Total:	23,071	810,185

As of July 1, 2022. Child care needs and provision of child care vary by family and by circumstances of the child. There may be other child care arrangements through which children are covered/cared for that not represented by these broad categories.



Supporting Families: Child Care Assistance Program

Child Care Assistance Program: Administration

- NYS supports working and other vulnerable families with child care assistance – alleviating some or all of the regular cost of child care
 - The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) is a state-supervised, locally-administered program
 - NYS OCFS funds local social services districts (districts or LSSD) to implement the CCAP, with each District reporting how they administer the program in the NYS-required Child and Family Services Plan, and OCFS overseeing the implementation
 - New Yorkers apply for and access child care services through District offices

Child Care Assistance Program: Eligibility

- Children and families in New York may be eligible for up to 12 months of child care assistance:
- Eligibility is based on:
 - Income
 - Need for Care
 - Reason(s) child care is needed:
 - Work
 - Looking for work
 - Attending employment training or an education program
 - Other circumstances including foster care, protective services
 - The age(s) of the child(ren) needing child care
 - Other individual family needs
 - The child being served meets citizenship requirements



Child Care Assistance Program: Eligibility

- Eligible income levels by family size:

Family Size	300% SIS	85% SMI
1	\$43,740	\$51,610.13
2	\$59,160	\$67,490.17
3	\$74,580	\$83,370.21
4	\$90,000	\$99,250.25
5	\$105,420	\$115,130.29
6	\$120,840	\$131,010.33

In FFY22 approximately 31% of families with child care assistance received Temporary Assistance, while 69% qualified based on standards for low income child care

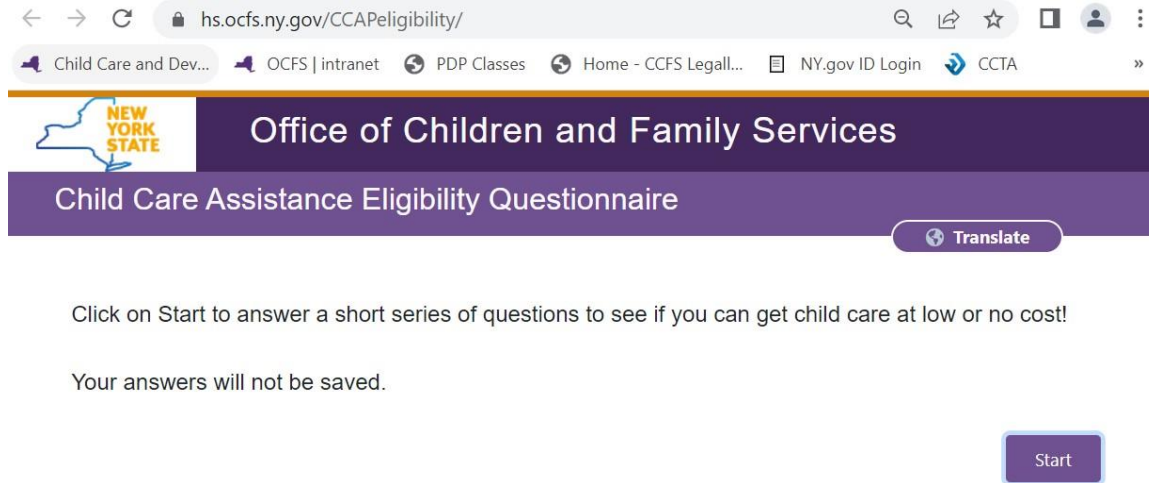


Child Care Assistance Program: Funding and Value

- SFY 2022-2023 more than \$894M allocated to local social services districts for the Child Care Assistance Program
- During FFY 2022, the CCAP served approximately 105,000 children in 62,000 families through ~7,100 enrolled providers
 - 59% in NYC; 41% in ROS
- Average value of assistance provided:
 - \$909 per child per month

Child Care Assistance Program: Accessibility and Outreach

- Eligibility questionnaire and informational materials are available to all New Yorkers on the OCFS web site, can be linked to from other web sites including local districts and other Stakeholder groups



Division of Child Care Services

Eligibility Requirements

Families may qualify based on income, reasons for needing day care, and a child's age or individual needs.

Do I Qualify for CCAP?

CCAP Eligibility Questionnaire

New Eligibility Questionnaire!

Answer a short series of questions to see if you may be able to get child care at low or no cost - in 10 minutes or less!

[Do I qualify for CCAP?](#)



**Office of Children
and Family Services**

Child Care Assistance Program: Accessibility and Outreach

CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CCAP)

Need help paying for child care?

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services' Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) provides eligible families across New York State with financial assistance for child care. CCAP promotes early childhood learning and development while allowing parents/caretakers to work, get training or go to school. The CCAP is administered by local departments of social services (LDSS) in 57 counties and NYC.

Are you eligible?

- You could be eligible if your income is less than the income eligibility level* and you:
 - Are receiving public assistance; or
 - work a minimum of 10 hours per week; or
 - are going to school or a vocational program; or
 - are seeking employment; and
 - your child is one of the following:
 - younger than 13
 - younger than 18 with special needs; or
 - under court supervision
 - younger than 19 in a secondary school or equivalent program and has special needs
 - younger than 19 in a secondary school; or
 - equivalent program and under court supervision

How do you apply?

- To apply complete the following steps:
 - Contact your LDSS. <https://ocfs.ny.gov/dsr/locates.asp>
 - Ask for a child care assistance application
 - Complete the application and return it 1
 - You will need the following:
 - Identification for everyone in it (include proof of citizenship if income verification is required)
 - Income verification (pay stubs, documentation to prove earned income)
 - Proof of residence
 - Work or school schedule

What happens if you are approved?

- Choose a provider and enroll your child. You can choose any of the following types of care:
 - Licensed day care center (permitted in NYC)
 - Licensed family day care
 - Registered group family day care
 - Registered school-age child care
 - Enrolled legally exempt child care provider
- *You may have to pay part of (family share cost) unless assistance, experiencing financial hardship, or when it is a foster care or when it is a household income.

CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CCAP)

Need help paying for child care?

Office of Children and Family Services

Family Size	Annual Income Limit
1	\$40,770
2	\$54,930
3	\$69,090
4	\$83,250
5	\$97,410
6	\$111,570
7	\$125,730

For families with more than 7 people, information on income limits can be found on the web site.

PARENTS & CARETAKERS

Did you know?

ELIGIBLE FAMILIES CAN RECEIVE HELP WITH CHILD CARE COSTS

The New York State Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) helps eligible families with some or all of the cost of child care. Under CCAP, parents/caretakers have the choice to use different types of care including choosing family, friends, or neighbors to care for their child(ren). This is known as legally exempt informal child care. In order for family, friend or neighbor care to be paid, the person must enroll with an OCFSS.

CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL AGENCIES (CCRAs) provide services to parents and child care providers. If you are looking for child care, the CCR in your county is a great place to start as they can assist you with child care needs. Please visit this link for more information: ocfs.ny.gov/programs



Did you know?

YOU COULD BE PAID TO PROVIDE ENROLLED LEGALLY EXEMPT CHILD CARE?

LEGALLY EXEMPT CHILD CARE is an option for families. The Office of Children and Family Services, Division of Child Care Services allows parents/caretakers to hire individuals to care for their child(ren). This is known as legally exempt child care. A legally exempt provider is not required to be licensed or registered to provide child care. Families eligible for child care assistance can choose this type of care, but the legally exempt provider/program must enroll with an enrollment agency to be paid.

A legally exempt child care provider can be someone that the parent/caretaker is familiar with like a friend, a neighbor, family, or someone else known to the family. Care can be provided in the child(ren)'s home, your home, or in another residence.

HOW TO APPLY TO BE A LEGALLY EXEMPT PROVIDER? A family who is eligible for CCAP can say that they want to use a legally exempt provider. They will be given an enrollment packet which must be completed by the family as well as the provider. The enrollment forms are then returned to the enrollment agency (EA) which starts the enrollment process.

WHAT DOES AN ENROLLMENT AGENCY DO? A New York state contracted enrollment agency (EA) can help a prospective provider enroll to provide legally exempt child care. They can provide technical assistance, eligibility and share information about the regulatory requirements you must follow in order to be enrolled.

Contact your local department of social services for further information and to apply!

Scan me for more information!

Contact your local department of social services for further information and to apply!

Scan me for more information!

MORE FAMILIES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE.

Office of Children and Family Services

apply today

MÁS FAMILIAS SON ELEGIBLES PARA RECIBIR ASISTENCIA DE CUIDADO INFANTIL.

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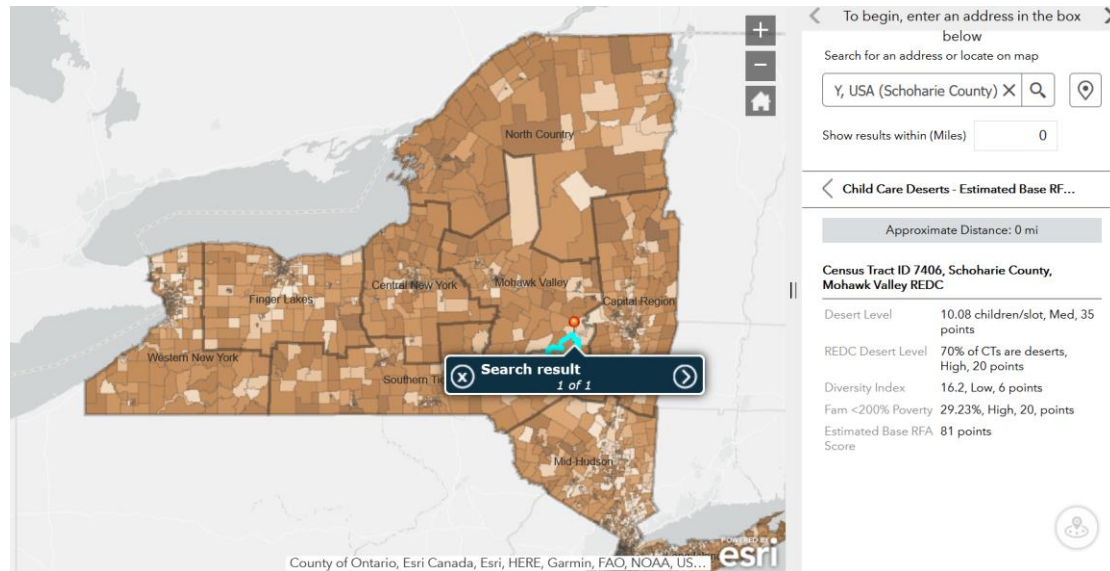
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Addressing Child Care Accessibility: Building Supply



Mapping Child Care Access in NYS

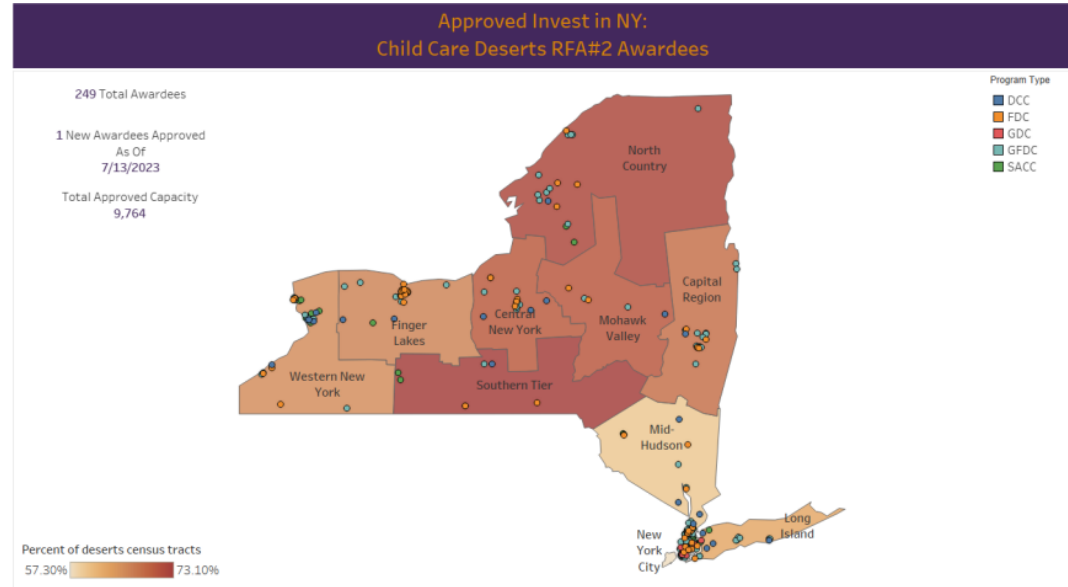
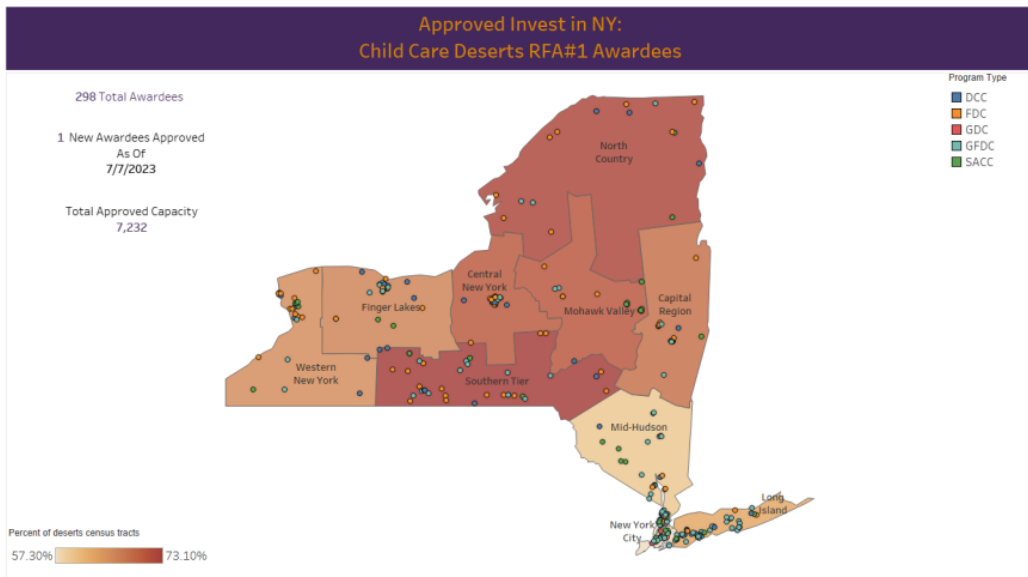
- The standard definition of a child care desert involves not having enough licensed/registered child day care slots to adequately serve the number of children in a geographic area.
 - An area is identified as a child care “desert” if there are three or more children under the age of five per available child care slot in local day care centers, family day care, or group family day care programs. More than 60% of the state is considered a child care desert.
- Under Governor Hochul, NYS has set about systematically mapping these underserved desert areas in order to strategically improve service delivery



Example of the Mapping Tool developed by NYS. The darker the area, the more of a shortage of child care that area has.

Child Care Deserts: Invest in NY Grant

- To build and expand child care capacity in areas with the least supply, NYS has invested \$100 million



Current Awardees (as of 7/7/2023) <https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/deserts/>

Connecting More New Yorkers to Child Care: Historic Investments and Recent Reforms



Major Investments and Reforms Since 2021

- **Investing in provider stability:** \$1B in Child Care Stabilization grants directly to child care providers to stabilize the system and improve access to care
- **Reaching more families with subsidies:** Increased income eligibility threshold for child care subsidies to 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$83,250 for a family of four), extending eligibility to more than half of young children in New York
- **Capping family copays to alleviate child care cost burdens:** Capped family co-pay contributions to no more than 10% of their annual income
- **12-month eligibility:** Ensured that families can receive 12-months of child care assistance even if their income increases during that period but remains under federal cap of 85% SMI



NYS Budget Updates – 2023/2024

Historic Child Care Assistance Program Expansion:

\$7.6 billion over four years along with an expansion of eligibility for the Child Care Assistance Program, raising the income limit to the maximum allowed by federal law, from 300% of the federal poverty level (or \$83,250 for a family of four) to 85% of the state median income (or \$93,200 for a family of four), assisting over 100,000 additional New York families.

Families participating in the Child Care Assistance Program will see co-pay costs limited to 1% of the total family income above the poverty line.

The state will increase the number of required reimbursable annual absences from 24 to 80 in an effort to standardize eligibility for child care assistance across the local districts.

Statutory changes go into effect 10/1/2023.



NYS Budget Updates

Expedite Eligibility Determinations for Families

NYS will improve access to child care assistance by streamlining the application process for those who are enrolled in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), Medicaid and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

An estimated 83,400 children who are currently enrolled in these programs would have an easier time receiving child care assistance with these changes.



NYS Budget Updates – 2023/2024

Workforce Retention Grant Program:

\$500 million in underutilized federal funds to support New York State's child care workforce, with bonuses and new recruitment strategies

New Tax Credit for Employer-Created Child Care Seats:

\$25 million annually for a new state tax credit that will be available to businesses that create new child care seats and expand child care options for their workers

Employer-Supported Child Care Pilot and Resources:

\$4.8 million for a new Employer-Sponsored Child Care Pilot Program through which the state and participating employers will split the cost of child care

Business Navigator Program

\$1 million to create a statewide business navigator program to assist businesses that are interested in supporting the child care needs of their employees



NYS Budget Updates – 2023/2024

Workforce Retention Grant Program:

As part of the State's child care workforce retention efforts, and thanks to the Governor's recent investments, OCFS has rolled out a grant application process and a creative new ad campaign to recruit new staff



Looking Ahead: Challenges and Opportunities

Looking Ahead: Challenges Remain, Work To Do

- Historic investments and major reforms in recent years will help reach more New Yorkers with vital child care assistance and achieve the following key goals:
 - distributing funds to create new seats, especially in child care deserts,
 - stabilizing child care providers,
 - recruiting more child care staff to ensure a sustainable thriving industry, and
 - getting more subsidies/support to those eligible New Yorkers who need it (increasing take-up)
- Uptake is too low – which is why Governor Hochul reimagedined the State’s Child Care Availability Task Force
 - ~10% of eligible families are currently receiving childcare subsidies
 - Goal is to increase take-up/utilization over time as new investments are disbursed
 - Child Care Availability Task Force re-convened, including to help figure out how best to increase take-up and reach more New Yorkers
 - As part of CPRAC, Urban Institute will analyze the effect on child poverty of higher utilization rates, up to 75% of eligible households



Looking Ahead: Child Care Availability Task Force

- Task force kicked-off on March 13, 2023.
- Bringing together stakeholders from across the state.
- Task force is charged with:
 - Building on work of the 2021 final task force report and recommendations
 - Examining the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on child care
 - Advising the state on a phased-in rollout of universal child care
 - Making recommendations to address the child care workforce crisis
 - Assessing the impact of federal pandemic funding
 - Other areas as determined by the taskforce

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/availability/>



Conclusion

- Questions? Comments?