



Office of Children and Family Services

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Hello Parent/Caregiver,

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (NYS OCFS) was proud to administer the Essential Worker Scholarship (EWS) last fall. This letter is to inform you of additional funding opportunities that may be available to you to cover some of the ongoing costs of child care.

NYS OCFS believes the work you do to support your family, and serve the community, is important and we are glad you received assistance with child care costs through the EWS. We recognize that balancing work and family has never been simple. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has made child care even more challenging. We are reaching out to let you know that many families who applied for the Essential Workers Scholarship may also be eligible for Child Care Assistance (CCA). Depending on certain factors, CCA funding may be available to cover some or all of your child care costs.

Child Care Assistance

CCA can provide funding for full-time child care, part-time child care, after school or before school care for kids in school, and for care during evenings or weekends if you work those hours. CCA can also be used for school vacations and summer care. This funding is typically available for children up to age 13, but some older youth with special needs may qualify up to age 18 or 19. More information about the CCA funding opportunity is below.

How do I know if I am eligible?

Eligibility depends on factors like your annual income, activities like work or school attendance and what county you live in. So, your best path to a clear answer on eligibility is to reach out to your local department of social services (LDSS) and work with them on completing the application.

How can I apply?

You can apply in the county where you live by reaching out to your LDSS. You can find contact information for each LDSS on the OCFS web site at <https://ocfs.ny.gov/directories/localdss.php>.

We look forward to serving as many families as possible with Child Care Assistance. This funding is not limited to essential workers, so please feel free to share this information with family, friends, and neighbors.

We appreciate all that you do as a parent, caregiver, and essential worker.