



Office of Children and Family Services

ANDREW M. CUOMO

Governor

June 23, 2021

SHEILA J. POOLE

Commissioner

Dear Provider:

OCFS is excited to announce, that effective immediately, \$25 million in funds are available to provide child care support for children of essential workers. This is the first phase in a series of new investments to support the child care industry and working families as provided for by the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

The Essential Worker Scholarship (EWS) is available to residents of New York State and will be awarded weekly through payments made directly to child care providers on the parents' behalf. Parents will be responsible for paying any tuition amount that is greater than the market rate. Child care costs will be covered for essential staff whose income is less than 300 percent of the federal poverty level and will be paid to the provider for the actual cost of care, up to market rate for each region statewide. Parents can apply for funding through an easy online application, available at: <https://ocfs.ny.gov/childcarerelief>. Applications will be processed and awarded on a rolling basis until funds are depleted.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Any family that is currently receiving essential worker scholarship under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act **MUST reapply** to continue receiving funds.

Once an application is reviewed and approved by OCFS, the parent will be notified of the award via email sent from nyocfs@public.gov.delivery.com and the subject line will reference Essential Worker Scholarship.

Next, the child care program (as identified in the parent's application) will receive a registration email from OCFS. To participate in the Essential Worker Scholarship and receive funds, the child care provider MUST register their program using the web link in the registration email. The email will come to the child care program from nysocfs@public.govdelivery.com. This is the only email address OCFS will utilize. If you have any concerns, please reach out to your regulator for clarification prior to sending information.

Attached to this email are tip sheets for essential workers and child care providers that explain how to apply for essential worker scholarships. Additionally, OCFS has created two "How To Apply" web ex trainings: one for parents, and one for providers. The web exes may be accessed by clicking the links below:

Essential Worker Scholarship Application Walkthrough for Parents

<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/ldr.php?RCID=1674d7378615db559602678d97b6b1a3>

Essential Worker Scholarship Application Walkthrough for Child Care Programs:

<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/ldr.php?RCID=262420db352be446493fac551f4ac0b8>

All Essential Worker Scholarship information is posted at: <https://ocfs.ny.gov/childcarerelief>

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your regulator.

Sincerely,

Janice Molnar, Ph.D., Deputy Commissioner
Division of Child Care Services