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COVID-19 Updates

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News Articles

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Governor Cuomo Announces $30 Million in Child Care Scholarships for Essential Workers and Supplies for Child Care Providers

New York State Will Apply Federal CARES Funding to Provide Child Care and Keep Essential Staff on the Job

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced that New York State will provide child care scholarships to all essential workers starting Monday, April 20. Essential workers include first responders such as health care providers, pharmaceutical staff, law enforcement, firefighters, food delivery workers, grocery store employees and others who are needed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Child care costs will be covered with $30 million in federal CARES Act funding to essential staff whose income is less than 300 percent of the federal poverty level – or $78,600 for a family of four – and will be paid up to market rate for each region statewide.

“In the midst of this crisis, it is imperative that we support our essential workers in every way we can,” said Governor Cuomo. “We cannot allow a lack of child care to keep them at home when we need them on the job and saving lives.”

Essential workers can use the funding to pay for their existing care arrangement. If an essential worker needs child care, they can contact their local child care resource and referral agency (CCRR) to find openings. The New York State Office of Children and Family Services will administer the program.

“Essential workers fighting on the front lines of this pandemic are heroes who deserve all the support we

can give," said OCFS Commissioner Sheila J. Poole. "We are proud to provide this service so that they can do their work without worrying about finding child care."

The CARES funding will also be used to purchase supplies for child care providers statewide who remain open, including masks, gloves, diapers, baby wipes, baby formula and food. CCRRs will receive grants totaling approximately $600 per provider. Providers looking for supplies should contact their CCRR.

COVID-19 Parent Application for CARES Child Care Scholarship

Provider Information Profile to Participate in the Program