



COUNTY OF ONONDAGA

Department of Social Services-Economic Security

Child Support ♦ Child Care ♦ Fair Hearings ♦ Fraud ♦ HEAP ♦ Medicaid ♦ SNAP ♦ Systems ♦ Temporary Assistance

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J. Ryan McMahon, II
County Executive

Sarah G. Merrick
Commissioner

Questions & Answers

Child Care Provider Info Session

4/29/25

1. Q: Will material be available for review later?

A: PowerPoint slides will not be distributed. However, answers to questions posed during the meeting will be drafted and sent to providers that attended.

2. Q: Does the waitlist apply to both “new” cases and currently active cases?

A: If Onondaga County needs to implement a waitlist due to lack of funding, both new applications and cases up for recertification will be denied due to lack of funding. If a case is currently active, coverage will continue through their 12-month authorization period, as long as the case remains eligible. After the 12-month authorization period, if the household applies for recertification and is eligible, the household will be placed on the waitlist.

3. Q: When do counties receive their funding?

A: The funding for the CC Block Grant is determined during the state annual budget which follows the NYS fiscal year running April 1 through 3/31 the following year. For example, the NYS budget is being finalized for the 2025/26 fiscal year, 4/1/25 through 3/31/26. The funding NYS receives is also impacted by the Federal budget allocations for the CCBG. CCBG is funded by a combination of federal, state, and local funds.

4. Q: Will providers receive back pay while the family is on a waitlist?

A: No, payments will not be backdated for a family on the waitlist. Payments can begin once the family is removed from the waitlist and redetermined eligible for assistance. Once the family has reapplied, the provider will receive an approval letter which shows the authorization start date.

5. Q: Can the county reduce the number of allowable absences per child?

A: No. The county cannot change the current number of allowable absences. NY State determines the allowable number of absences that can be paid to a provider for a child. Currently, the number of allowable absences is 80 per child per provider. The number of absences follows the NYS fiscal year, 4/1/25 through 3/31/26.

6. Q: Should households submit their recertification application early to get on the waitlist earlier?

A: No. Submitting a recertification early will not get a family on the waitlist sooner. The date you are added to a waitlist is the start date of the new authorization period, if found eligible.

7. Q: If a family is placed on the waitlist, is a provider allowed to no longer accept the child for enrollment?

A: If a family is on the waitlist, the family would need to private pay to continue in your program. If the family cannot privately pay, then a provider is allowed to no longer accept the child for enrollment. DSS will not pay for care while the family is on a waitlist.

8. Q: Are providers required to maintain a sign-in and sign-out attendance record for Onondaga County billing purposes?

A: Yes. Onondaga County is requiring attendance records with the parents' signature for each child in care. These records will be requested by Financial Operations and will help dispute billing issues and discrepancies. Keeping accurate attendance records is the best practice for your billing needs.

9. Q: Can provider bills be submitted early before the end of the month and before care is complete for the month?

A: No. Bills should not be submitted early before all care is complete for the month. One roster needs to be submitted in full rather than one child at a time. Submitting incomplete bills will result in the county disallowing and returning the bill to be re-submitted in full. This will delay your payment.

10. Q: How are families being notified if Onondaga County implements a waitlist for CCAP?

A: Onondaga County will notify families by various means in advance if we are implementing a waitlist.

11. Q: Would a waitlist impact grantee, child only cases?

A: If the child is receiving Temporary Assistance and the grantee has a need for child care then the waitlist will not impact the child care case. Families receiving Temporary Assistance will not be impacted by a waitlist due to lack of funding. The district is required to cover the cost of child care for Temporary Assistance cases even if funds are not available.

12. Q: Would a waitlist impact all types of providers, day care centers, legally exempt?

A: Yes. If a waitlist is implemented this would impact all providers.

13. Q: Can the parent share (family fee) be increased?

A: Onondaga County cannot increase the family share. This is determined by NY state.

14. Q: Can DSS hold families that are receiving child care assistance accountable for child care attendance?

A: No. DSS has no authority to hold families accountable when they are not attending care. If the parent is participating in TA Employment activities, DSS can require attendance to the activity, but we cannot require them to send the children to child care. DSS cannot close the Child Care assistance case unless the family states they no longer need the care.

15. Q: How are bills processed once submitted?

A: Bills are processed in order received, with all electronic bills being processed before paper timesheets are assessed.

16. Q: What is the difference between DSS and Jobs Plus?

A: TA Employment, formerly known as Jobs Plus, is now part of DSS. All TA Employment child care is handled by the DSS CCAP unit.