



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*To:* Central New York News Media

*From:* Child Care Solutions

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***Child Care Solutions Connects Essential Workers with CARES Child Care Scholarships***

Syracuse, NY – Child Care Solutions applauds the action of the Cuomo Administration in developing a plan to provide child care to essential workers at no cost. This allocation of funding for child care for essential workers comes to the state from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (the “CARES Act”), which has provided New York with \$163.6 million in emergency relief to the child care system.

New York State is using a portion of this funding to provide free child care for income eligible essential workers. Essential workers using a regulated child care provider will receive a scholarship for the cost of care as long as the funds to support it are available. All licensed and regulated providers who are caring for essential workers are able to participate in this new program.

Access to affordable and safe child care is a barrier for working parents during the best of times, and even more so during a crisis. New York State’s plan will ensure that the workforce that is needed to protect and care for the public during this pandemic have the child care that allows them to continue to serve us all. CCR&Rs are the child care experts and the conduit to accessing child care in New York State.

If you meet the definition of an essential employee and have child care needs, register [here](#). You will be contacted by Child Care Solutions within one business day. We will follow up on next steps to gather information about your household and help you identify a participating child care provider or work with your current registered or licensed child care provider.

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Child Care Solutions, founded in 1975, is the Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) agency for Onondaga and Cayuga Counties. Learn more about Child Care Solutions by visiting [www.childcaresolutionscny.org](http://www.childcaresolutionscny.org).

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