



Office of Children and Family Services

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

SHEILA J. POOLE
Commissioner

April 13, 2022

Mr. Leonard Townes, Commissioner
Westchester County Department of Social Services
112 East Post Road, County Office Building #2
White Plains, NY 10601-5113

Dear Commissioner Townes:

This letter is in response to your request to amend Westchester County's Child and Family Services 2021 Child Care Plan. Westchester County has proposed to amend the following effective April 4, 2022:

Proposed changes:

1. Appendix L:

- Option 2d will now be selected yes and the limitation will read: Only with advance approval on a case-by-case basis for families where a responsible caregiver is experiencing a severe, medically verified health issue of short duration and when it is needed for the safety of the child.
- Option 5 limitation will now read: up to 3 months for TA families as part of an approved structured job search plan and or non-TA families up to 3 months for documented times used to attain employment.
- Option 7a limitation will now read: only for programs approved by the Department at local discretion for customers employed at 10 hours per week or for customers under the age of 21.
- Option 7f limitation will now read: for TA and non-TA. For TA families this must be part of an approved and structured plan.
- Option 8 limitation will now read: For TA households, if approved as a mandatory part of their self-sufficiency plan; for low-income households, only for programs approved by and at the discretion of the Department and subject to availability for customers employed at least 10 hours per week.
- Option 9 limitation will now read: For TA households, if approved as a mandatory part of their self-sufficiency plan; for low-income households, only for programs approved by and at the discretion of the Department and subject to availability for customers employed at least 10 hours per week.
- Option 10 limitation will now read: For TA households, if approved as a mandatory part of their self-sufficiency plan; for low-income households, only for programs approved by and at the discretion of the Department and subject to availability for customers employed at least 10 hours per week.
- Option 11 will now be selected yes, and the limitation will read: Only for families where there is no other legally responsible caretaker or the other legally responsible caretaker is directly engaged in employment during the same days and hours the parent is participating in their re-training program.

2. Appendix M#2 (II): Westchester will now choose option (4) Close cases based on Income and Category of Family. The process for closing will be: In the event funds are not sufficient, the district will freeze accepting cases with income over the State Income Standard (SIS) at the Title XX level and prioritize TA and SIS cases for acceptance and renewal.
3. Appendix N (II): Westchester County will now include the following numbered options: #7, #8, #9, #12, and #13.
4. Appendix P (2): Westchester County will now include the following options: "Seeking employment", "Homelessness", "Education/training" and "Emergency situation of short duration"
5. Appendix R: Westchester County will pay for an additional 24 absences above the mandated 24 for a total of 48 absences. Westchester County will only allow additional absences for providers with which Westchester has a contract. This will be limited to Day Care Centers, Group Family Day Care, School-Age Child Care Programs and Family Day Care providers).
6. Appendix S: Westchester County will pay for 5 program closures to providers with which the district has a contract or letter of intent. The following providers are eligible for payment for program closures: Day Care Centers, Group Family Day Care, Family Day Care, and School-Age Child Care.
7. Appendix T:
 - II: Westchester County will increase the differential for non-traditional hours to 15% and 5% for Nationally Accredited Programs.
 - III: Westchester County will now select yes and pay an increased enhanced rate up to 75% of the market rate.
 - IV: For both #1 and #2, Westchester County will now select yes and pay an increased enhanced rate up to 80% of the market rate.

Your request has been approved effective April 11, 2022.

If you have any questions regarding this approval or the child care section found in your district's Child and Family Services 2021 Child Care Plan, please contact Darci Primeau at (518) 474-9095 or via email at Darci.Primeau@ocfs.ny.gov.

Sincerely,



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

Attachment