



December 30, 2025

Dear Child Care Voucher Providers,

Jess Dannhauser
Commissioner

Elizabeth Wolkomir
Deputy Commissioner
Child Services

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In the coming months, the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) will be required to come into compliance with New York State regulations at 18 NYCRR 415.4(c), which limits the hours and days ACS can pay child care providers to serve children with vouchers. It states that families with vouchers may only receive subsidized child care (or child care paid for by the government) during the hours the parent(s) or caregiver(s) is(are) engaged in a qualified activity (for example work, looking for a job, searching for housing, etc). In the future, this will mean that ACS can only enroll children in your care and pay you for hours the child is "authorized" -- or allowed -- to use their voucher. For example, if a family is authorized for care Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 8AM to 6PM, ACS would only be permitted to pay for the child's care during these days and times. If a parent also wanted the child to attend your program on Thursdays, the parent would need to cover the cost of care for that day.

However, **ACS has not made any changes yet**. We are working on a thoughtful, incremental plan. **Before any changes take effect, we will be in touch with all families and providers** to provide more details about how this State-required policy will be implemented, including a clear timeline. In preparation, we have added language about this policy to the voucher form; this information will not be relevant until the policy goes into effect.

You may know that New York City (NYC) advocated for legislation that would have eliminated this rule. This change would have been consistent with federal regulations at 45 CFR 98.21(j) which is clear that States "are not required to limit authorized child care services strictly based on the work, training, or educational schedule of the parent(s) or the number of hours the parent(s) spend in work, training or educational activities."

Unfortunately, because we have been unsuccessful at getting the state law changed, we will be required to implement it.

As always, thank you for your dedication and partnership. We will be in touch in the coming weeks with more information.

Wishing you a wonderful New Year.

Liz

Elizabeth Wolkomir
Deputy Commissioner
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