

**NYS OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES
DIVISION OF CHILD CARE SERVICES**

Child Care Regulated Programs Overview

General Description

Through the Division of Child Care Services (DCCS), the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) establishes regulations for licensure, registration, monitoring and oversight of child care programs in New York State, with the exception of day care centers in New York City.

The Division is organized around three major goals:

1. Increase public confidence in the basic health, safety and developmental appropriateness of child care
2. Increase the availability and quality of child care throughout New York State
3. Increase the accessibility and affordability of quality child care for low-income families

In its efforts to accomplish these goals, OCFS employs approximately 230 staff located in Home Office and seven regional offices throughout New York State -- Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Albany, Spring Valley, New York City and Long Island -- and is responsible for the oversight and monitoring of child care programs in New York State including the following child care modalities: day care centers (outside of New York City); family day care; group family day care; and school-age child care. This includes approximately 19,000 regulated child care programs serving over 550,000 children and over 45,000 legally-exempt child care providers who serve almost 90,000 children. In addition, the regional office staff process close to 3,100 new applications, conduct almost 3,300 criminal history evaluations and investigate over 3,600 complaints against regulated and illegal child care facilities every year. DCCS develops policies and implements enforcement actions of child care providers when necessary.

The seven regional offices provide support to all modalities of care by assisting family-based child care and child care centers in the preparation of licensing and registration documents; conducting safety inspections of child care physical settings; initiating investigations of those day care operations that are alleged to be unsafe or out-of-compliance with rules and regulations; and carrying out enforcement penalties which may include the revocation of an operating license. The work of the seven regional offices is supported by a home office unit that provides policy guidance and coordinates enforcement activities and criminal history reviews associated with child care providers.

Title 18 of the New York State Codes, Regulations, and Rules, Parts 413, 414, 416, 417 and 418 sets forth the regulations for child care programs in New York State, except day care centers in New York City which are under the jurisdiction of New York City and regulated by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

The State's capacity to maintain licensing standards is made possible through the additional inspection and registration staff funded through 38 registration contracts or MOUs statewide. These contracts are with not-for-profit agencies responsible for registration of family day care and school age child care

programs in their respective areas. The contracts are performance-based, with payment being driven by meeting State-defined performance indicators related to the timelines and quality of oversight activities.

An automated system, the Child Care Facility System (CCFS), is the “system of record” for child care providers. Staff, referred to as licensors or registrars, carry a caseload of child care programs and are responsible for entering data into CCFS. CCFS captures the necessary information and provides enhanced supports related to the initial application and renewal process, inspections and complaint investigations, and criminal history reviews. A bi-directional interface has been created with the Criminal History Review Unit to process fingerprints of prospective child care providers in a timely manner. There are approximately 2,100 users of CCFS across the State with approximately 1.85 million transactions per month.

An automated directory of OCFS regulated child care providers is also available on the OCFS website, allowing immediate public access to information on the location and status of all regulated providers. CCFS is maintained by OCFS and provides a nightly feed to the OCFS website keeping the information current. By viewing the OCFS website page entitled “Search for Child Care”, the public is able to search the site for child care provider information by facility name, facility type, county, license/registration number, zip code and school district.

Since 2010, home-based child care providers (FDC and GFDC) can ‘opt out’ of having their street addresses included in publicly accessed information. In addition, providers who have indicated that their telephone numbers are unlisted will not have those numbers included. Total licensed/registered capacity is reflected for each provider. For licensed day care centers, this capacity is broken down by maximum capacity per age group (Infants, Toddlers, Pre-School and School-Age); for registered school-age child care, the maximum capacity is reflected as an overall total; and for Family and Group Family Day Care, capacity is listed in text because the maximum capacity is limited by the number of children under the age of two years in care at the home.

The program profile is available on the OCFS website and provides information on whether the provider is certified to administer medication or operates during “non-traditional” hours; any uncorrected violations; and any enforcement actions in process. This also includes a violation history on any inspections conducted in the past two years with a brief description of the actual violations. The inspections listed only reflect inspections where violations were cited.