

Thousands of Child Care Providers will be Excluded from Next Round of Workforce Compensation Bonus Program Under Governor's Executive Budget Proposal

Governor Hochul's Executive Budget proposes to use \$280 million in leftover COVID-19 relief funds to provide an additional round of workforce compensation bonuses to eligible child care workers throughout New York State.

The Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) has indicated in meetings and public presentations it plans to limit participation in this next round of bonus payments to providers who received bonuses in 2023. The reason that has been offered for limiting payments to this group is that New York State is under a tight timeframe to fully liquidate remaining COVID-19 relief funds and risks forfeiting federal funds if any remain unused after the end of the federal fiscal year.¹

According to OCFS and New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) data², there were **18,350** licensed and registered providers in New York State on March 31, 2024. OCFS data details that **13,386** providers received workforce compensation bonus program payments in 2023.³

Of those providers that received payments in 2023, a small number have since closed their programs, while others have opened since that last grant program was announced.

In total, **5,292 of the 18,350** providers currently operating in the state will be ineligible for 2024 child care workforce bonus payments if Governor Hochul's budget proposal is adopted. These providers **represent 29% of the licensed and registered** programs in New York State. These providers are disproportionately located in New York City, where 35% of all active providers stand to be excluded from the next round of bonus payments.

2023 Grant Recipient				
Region	No	Yes	Total	% Excluded from 2024
New York City	3,724	6,875	10,599	35%
Rest of State	1,568	6,183	7,751	20%
Total	5,292	13,058	18,350	29%

Given the number of providers who would be excluded under the Governor's budget proposal, the 2024-25 budget agreement must add state funds to the workforce

¹ See - <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/main/OCC.93.575%2093.596%20CCDF%20CDC6%20TC%20ARPA%20Discretionary%20FY24.pdf>

² See - https://data.ny.gov/Human-Services/Child-Care-Regulated-Programs/cb42-qumz/data_preview and https://data.cityofnewyork.us/Health/DOHMH-Childcare-Center-Inspections/dsg6-ifza/about_data

³ See - <https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/grants/>

compensation program. The Senate and Assembly proposals to include \$220 million in state funds to the workforce compensation program would allow OCFS to open the program to all licensed and registered programs in the state and ensure that all eligible workers can receive payments.

Child care workers in New York State are among the lowest-paid workers in any sector, with 96% of jobs in the state paying more, on average, than child care.⁴ These bonuses, while not enough to properly compensate this critical workforce, are essential supports to early childhood educators.

All care setting types would be impacted by this exclusion, with only modest differences of exclusion rates by modality.

Modality	Included	Excluded	Total	% Excluded
Child Care Centers	3,455	1,593	5,048	32%
Family Child Care	1,675	794	2,469	32%
Group Family Child Care	5,879	2,202	8,081	27%
School Age Child Care	2,049	702	2,751	26%
Small Day Care Center	-	1	1	100%
Total	13,058	5,292	18,350	29%

Below is a total by county in New York State.

2023 Grant Recipient				
County	No	Yes	Total	% Excluded from 2024
Albany	36	180	216	17%
Allegany	7	25	32	22%
Bronx	1,030	2,404	3,434	30%
Brooklyn	1,144	1,899	3,043	38%
Broome	18	93	111	16%
Cattaraugus	12	30	42	29%
Cayuga	11	37	48	23%
Chautauqua	12	64	76	16%
Chemung	13	77	90	14%
Chenango	9	33	42	21%
Clinton	16	83	99	16%
Columbia	5	21	26	19%
Cortland	2	37	39	5%
Delaware	12	29	41	29%
Dutchess	40	170	210	19%
Erie	73	395	468	16%
Essex	6	30	36	17%
Franklin	6	37	43	14%
Fulton	7	21	28	25%

⁴ See - <https://scaany.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Bolstering-the-Child-Care-System-with-a-Well-Compensated-Workforce.pdf>

2023 Grant Recipient				
County	No	Yes	Total	% Excluded from 2024
Genesee	3	26	29	10%
Greene	7	15	22	32%
Hamilton	1	1	2	50%
Herkimer	14	33	47	30%
Jefferson	10	89	99	10%
Lewis	1	20	21	5%
Livingston	10	30	40	25%
Madison	7	31	38	18%
Manhattan	618	1,005	1,623	38%
Monroe	181	511	692	26%
Montgomery	8	20	28	29%
Nassau	212	897	1,109	19%
Niagara	7	100	107	7%
Oneida	33	135	168	20%
Onondaga	92	309	401	23%
Ontario	2	75	77	3%
Orange	36	176	212	17%
Orleans	2	15	17	12%
Oswego	11	53	64	17%
Otsego	14	16	30	47%
Putnam	12	47	59	20%
Queens	781	1,316	2,097	37%
Rensselaer	16	84	100	16%
Rockland	49	189	238	21%
Saratoga	46	111	157	29%
Schenectady	33	113	146	23%
Schoharie	3	17	20	15%
Schuyler	3	5	8	38%
Seneca	4	15	19	21%
St. Lawrence	12	62	74	16%
Staten Island	151	251	402	38%
Steuben	13	89	102	13%
Suffolk	193	623	816	24%
Sullivan	5	48	53	9%
Tioga	2	19	21	10%
Tompkins	17	55	72	24%
Ulster	29	97	126	23%
Warren	22	17	39	56%
Washington	9	33	42	21%
Wayne	6	37	43	14%
Westchester	154	572	726	21%
Wyoming	3	23	26	12%
Yates	1	13	14	7%
Statewide Total	5,292	13,058	18,350	29%