

## **Hurricane Irene and its Aftermath:**

### **FAMILY FACT SHEET FOR CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE**

If you have young children or presently receive child care assistance, you may find the attached of interest.

#### **Applying for Child Care Assistance**

- Families can apply for child care assistance at the disaster center, local district (if open), or by mail. Forms can be obtained at the disaster center, at your local district or on line at <http://otda.ny.gov/programs/applications/>. There will be a local social services representative available at the disaster center to answer your questions and help you complete the application.
- Normally when applying for child care assistance, you must provide documentation of identity, residency, citizenship, and household composition. Districts affected by Hurricane Irene have the option to accept a written declaration of your identity, residency, citizenship, and household composition for those families whose documentation was destroyed due to flooding. Upon receipt of temporary identification or new permanent identification, you will need to submit it to your local social services district as soon as it is practical. Ask your local social services representative at the disaster center if your district has selected this option.

#### **Eligibility for Child Care Assistance**

- Eligibility for child care assistance is based on gross annual income and the reason the family needs child care. Some of the reasons that a social services district can provide child care assistance are: working, seeking employment, protective reasons, and educational programs. To determine if you are eligible for child care assistance, please talk with your local social services representative at the disaster center.
- Districts affected by Hurricane Irene have the option to offer families whose eligibility for child care assistance is ending within 30 days of September 30, 2011, to continue to receive child care assistance for an additional 30 days from their original end date without the family needing to apply for recertification. If your child care assistance has ended and your circumstances that led to your case closing have changed, you should reapply as you may be eligible. Ask your local social services representative at the disaster center if your district has selected this option.
- Your disaster relief assistance is not counted as income when applying for child care assistance.

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- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families has allowed states to broaden the definition of child protective services. The New York State Office of Children and Family Services has agreed to provide local social services districts with the option of broadening the definition of child protective services to displaced families, or families suffering from the effects of the disaster, to permit emergency eligibility to include children living in Federal- or State-declared disaster emergency areas. Such children may be deemed to be in need of protective services and as such, child care assistance for child protective reasons can be granted to affected families without regard to income. Check with your local social services representative to see if your district selected this option.
- If schools are not open in the disaster-affected area because of the disaster, children of school age will be able to receive care until the schools are open. However, if schools are open, school-age children will not be eligible for care in the disaster affected area until after the school day is complete.
- If you need help locating child care, speak with your local social services representative. You may also want to visit the New York State Office of Children and Family Services website at <http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/childcare/default.asp>. From there, you will be able to search for child care providers by provider type or zip code and find out other important information about child care.

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