



**STATE HOLDING HEARINGS ON FEDERAL CHILD CARE FUNDS
Planned for New York City, Rensselaer and Rochester**

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) will hold three public hearings in May on the state's proposed multi-year plan for federal Child Care and Development Block Grant funds.

The state's proposed plan covers the period of Oct. 1, 2011, through Sept. 30, 2013. The purpose of the federal block grant program is to increase the availability, affordability, and quality of child care services.

The plan describes how New York State will use the federal funds provided to improve the availability and quality of child care, including before- and after-school services, and to subsidize low-income families so they may obtain affordable, quality child care. The state is required to update the plan every two years.

The draft New York State plan for the Child Care and Development Block Grant funds is on the OCFS website at www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/CCDFStatePlan.

The public is invited to provide input into the development of the final plan. Areas for comment include program priorities for child care and suggested avenues for local input in shaping the state's child care agenda.

Individuals can comment on the draft plan in person at the public hearings, by e-mail (ocfs.sm.ccdf.comments@ocfs.state.ny.us), or regular mail (Division of Child Care Services, Office of Children & Family Services, 52 Washington St., Room 309 South, Rensselaer, NY 12144).

The first hearing will be Monday, May 2, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the NYC Administration for Children's Services, 66 John St., 4th Floor Conference Rooms A&B, New York, NY 10028.

The second hearing is Tuesday, May 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at NYS Office of Children & Family Services, Room 102 South, 52 Washington St., Rensselaer, NY 12144.

The third and final hearing will be Wednesday, May 18, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Child Care Council Inc., 595 Blossom Road, Rochester, 14620.

Persons interested in providing oral testimony during the public hearings must register their intent five days prior to the public hearing by writing, calling (518) 473-6233, or submitting the registration form posted on the OCFS website.

Oral testimony is limited to 10 minutes and must be followed up with written testimony within five days of the hearing. The Office of Children and Family Services will submit a two-year plan to the Child Care Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services by July 1, 2011, to receive assistance from the Social Security Act and the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF).

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