



March 19, 2020

Options to provide emergency childcare for essential healthcare workers

During this challenging time, we recognize that all of our members are working hard to assist essential healthcare workers who are also parents. Many hospitals have requested help for their employees as quickly as possible.

To address this critical need, HANYS, Greater New York Hospital Association and 1199 Service Employees International Union are coordinating with state and local authorities to identify emergency childcare options for essential healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Below is a summary of state and New York City-based options that hospitals may use either by utilizing their own resources or providing information to their employees. HANYS will hold a webinar for your hospital human resources administrators tomorrow, March 20, at 10 a.m. Please [register online](#).

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services has requested that you submit a [preliminary assessment](#) of your needs by Friday, March 20, at 5 p.m., to ocfs.sm.hospitalchildcare@ocfs.ny.gov. OCFS is available to provide one-on-one assistance and can be reached at (518) 486-7488 with questions.

HANYS and GNYHA will continue to monitor the efficacy of these options to ensure that members have the most and best resources available to meet your ongoing needs.

For hospitals seeking to offer emergency childcare plans for healthcare workers, OCFS has identified three options:

- Hospitals **can work with [childcare resource and referral agencies](#)** in their region to find additional care for children in existing childcare programs.
- Hospitals with **existing licensed childcare facilities** should contact their [regional OCFS office](#) to discuss expanding their licenses for purposes of adding capacity, expanding hours and serving additional age groups, among other concerns.

Hospitals located in New York City should contact the New York City Department of Education at SCrane2@schools.nyc.gov. Hospitals located in counties outside of New York City should [contact their regional OCFS offices](#) for licensure questions.

- Hospitals can set up **drop-in childcare programs**. These programs provide temporary childcare for the duration of the emergency. They are not required to be licensed or registered by OCFS or the Department of Education because they do not serve an enrolled group of children. Instead, they only: serve children who appear on the day that care is needed, operate during school closures and serve school-aged children (5 to 12 years old). Guidance for hospitals considering this option is [available here](#). Hospitals located in New York City interested in this option should contact the New York City Department of Education at Gfraenkel@schools.nyc.gov. Hospitals located in counties outside of New York City that are interested in this option should contact the OCFS central office at (518) 486-7768.

Hospitals can also offer access to the following options:

Through its Child Care Funds/Child Care Corporation, 1199 SEIU is working to identify open childcare slots for healthcare workers by:

- working directly with 1199 SEIU institutions to identify available childcare openings in locations close to their employer's hospital and residential areas;
- working with the League of Voluntary Hospitals and Homes of New York and GNYHA to coordinate efforts to identify available childcare options; and
- coordinating with its partner organizations to identify available childcare options for middle and high school students.

LVHH hospitals or those with 1199 SEIU members should contact (212) 564-2220 or visit 1199seiubenefits.org for more information.

The New York City Department of Education will provide childcare for healthcare workers, among others, who are critical to the COVID-19 response efforts.

- Starting on Monday, March 23, the New York City Department of Education will open [Regional Enrichment Centers](#). RECs will open on Monday, March 23 and operate from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Monday-Friday), and will ensure that students have access to remote learning as well as various art, music and other activities.
- Hospitals should advise their healthcare employees that if their child is a New York City resident and would like to enroll in one of these centers, the employee should complete this [REC Enrollment Form](#) for each child seeking to be enrolled. The employee will then receive an email confirming the child's center assignment.
- Hospitals should contact gfraenkel@schools.nyc.gov for more information.

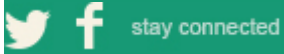
If you have questions, please contact Anne Brockenauer, senior director, compliance, at (518) 431-7709 or abrocken@hanys.org, or Sandi Toll, general counsel, at (518) 431-7838 or stoll@hanys.org.

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