

Region	What is the Issue(s)/Challenge(s) you are having with the newly amended NYS OCFS Regulations?:
NYC	<p>1-Are new/prospective individuals required to complete the 6000 series forms? <b>Yes</b></p> <p>2-Will current/existing employees undergo the same exact background clearances as new/prospective individuals? It is not clear what the difference is. <b>The clearance requirements are the same. The only difference is that current/existing employees are subject to comprehensive background checks(CBC) in accordance with the schedule set forth by the Office, whereas new/prospective individuals are subject to complete CBCs prior to beginning in a child care program.</b></p> <p>3-Are new/prospective individuals allowed to work while they wait for OCFS written notice regarding eligibility? <b>No</b></p> <p>4-Current/existing employees are required to submit a new SCR form to OCFS as part of the 6000 series packet. Do they also pay the \$25 scr fee or is the fee waived for current/existing employees? <b>Current/existing employees are not required to submit a \$25.00 fee for their SCR clearance.</b></p> <p>5-How do we pay the \$25 scr fee? <b>DCCS strongly encourages DCC and SACC programs to utilize the Online clearance system and pay by credit card. Directors of DCCs and SACCs and FDC/GFDC providers must send their payment to the appropriate licensing/registration office. When paying for employees and/or volunteers at DCC/SACC programs, payments must be sent to the OCFS Finance Department at 52 Washington St, Rensselaer, NY 12144.</b></p> <p>6-Will OCFS conduct the reference checks since they are asking candidates to complete the references form? Are agencies no longer allowed to contact references? <b>There has been no change to how references are processed. Existing staff are not required to submit new references when completing the CBC process.</b></p>
NYC	<p>Are new/prospective individuals required to complete the 6000 series forms?</p> <p>Will current/existing employees undergo the same exact background clearances as new/prospective individuals? It is not clear what the difference is.</p> <p>Are new/prospective individuals allowed to work while they wait for OCFS written notice regarding eligibility?</p> <p>Current/existing employees are required to submit a new SCR form to OCFS as part of the 6000 series packet. Do they also pay the \$25 scr fee or is the fee waived for current/existing employees?</p>
NYC	<p>Questions about process:</p> <p>-How are providers supposed to submit the package to the registrar? Can we scan and email it or do we need to hand deliver? <b>Packets may be mailed, emailed, or hand delivered.</b></p> <p>-How can there be an OPTION for how registrars provide the clearance notification? All should be required to scan clearance information. <b>We are exploring ways to automate these processes.</b></p> <p>-Organizations used to submit the Staff Exclusion List online. Are we no longer doing that? How can DOHMH assure us that the registrars will protect our employee's information (especially SSN)? <b>Organizations are no longer allowed to submit or receive clearance information. The SSN</b></p>

	<p>has always been required on the SEL form for those that have been issued one—this is not new. DOHMH will protect confidential information consistent with agency protocols.</p> <p>-Is this a new fingerprint system? What happened to Identigo? I see we are supposed to pick up triplicate forms at our DOH borough office? How is this form submitted? Where to prospective and current employees go to get fingerprinted? Does the registrar register prospective and current employees to get fingerprinted? The fingerprinting process and vendor (Identigo) are still the same for OCFS regulated programs. Instructions regarding the fingerprinting process are available on the OCFS 4930-1. The individual must still bring form 4930 with them to their fingerprinting appointment.</p> <p>-There is no information on the NYS Sex Offender Registry process. It is part of the clearance process but no forms are included in the package. Should organizations continue to do this clearance themselves? In what format does OCFS want to see the results? Organizations may no longer submit or receive clearance information. DOHMH will perform NYS Sex Offender Registry clearances.</p>
Hudson Valley	<p>Our CCRR recently held a SACC network meeting regarding the Comprehensive Background Checks and here are their comments. We are in total agreement with NYS on the new CBC and want them to continue with the following provision- please consider returning to the policy that allowed new staff who are not yet completely cleared to start employment while under the competent supervision of another fully cleared employee. We are concerned that the turn around time to complete a CBC will force us into not being able to take children who will in turn have no safe place to go; or it will force us to hire additional staff at a huge cost that will be passed to the parents who cannot afford the current cost of care. We are begging OCFS to revisit this policy and consider making this change on behalf of the children and their working parents. If we can't return to allowing new staff to begin before they are cleared children will go back to being latch-key and programs will be forced to close. Respectfully the legally operating SACC programs of Rockland County</p> <p>We understand the challenges and this is not an OCFS requirement. The CCDBG final rule requires that the results of the state or FBI fingerprint clearance be received prior to allowing an individual conditional approval.</p>
NYC	<p>Do those staff / new hires (that have been cleared during the month of September 2019, but prior to the 25th, and have an actual start date after September 25th) have to get re-cleared when their birthday comes up? And if so, what if their birthday is within their first 180 days of work? Any existing staff as of October 1, 2019 are subject to CBC clearances in accordance with the birthday schedule, even if their birthday is within the first 180 days of work.</p>
Capital Region	<p>1) First issue is timetable to get a staff fully cleared. Would they wait in the long time it takes to get fully cleared or find another job? CBCs are not anticipated to be a lengthy process. New/prospective employees may not begin working until they have completed the process.</p> <p>2) -What if birthday falls during the summer when the School Age staff does not work for afterschool site? Or lives in another state/internship overseas during the summer? And potentially that staff may not return to afterschool work in the Fall. What if the staff goes home over holiday break (Dec-Jan) or Spring Break, and they are unable to do fingerprinting due to travel? Staff should make every effort to comply with the birthday schedule. In extenuating circumstances, exceptions can be made, however in order to comply with CCDBG all existing and prospective staff must complete CBCs by September 30, 2020.</p>

	<p>-What if they are a seasonal School Age staff that works Dec-Jan, May-June only (home from College break)? <b>Staff should make every effort to comply with the birthday schedule. In extenuating circumstances, exceptions can be made, however in order to comply with CCDBG all existing and prospective staff must complete CBCs by September 30, 2020.</b></p>
<p>Western NY, Central NY, Southern Tier, North Country, Hudson Valley</p>	<p>I completely understand the need to keep the children of NY safe at all times by being sure staff are completely background checked prior to being left alone with the children. There is nothing more important than the safety of all children in our programs. My only concern is the length of time it takes to turn these clearances over. If I hire an employee for our SACC or Day Care Programs, and it takes 45 days to clear them, they will most likely leave to pursue another job elsewhere. These employees are interviewing for a position because they need the job and the revenue. If I cannot put them on the schedule or into payroll for 45 days, I know I will lose them as a new employee. I am hopeful that the 45 day turn around was just a rumor, and this process does not take this long.</p> <p><b>CBCs are not anticipated to be a lengthy process. Important clarification: CCDBG requires CBCs to be completed within 45 days. OCFS is working diligently to complete clearances as soon as possible.</b></p> <p>This is my primary concern. I do agree, we must set the standards high for employees to work with the children, I am just hopeful that the clearance process is not as lengthy as I have heard it is going to be. <b>CBCs are supposed to be completed within 45 days, but they should take much less time than that. If complete documentation is received and there are no implications in an individual's history, then the process should not take an extensive amount of time. As we move forward we will continue to assess ways to streamline and make a more timely process.</b></p> <p>I appreciate NYS allowing providers to voice their concerns, challenges.</p>
<p>NYC</p>	<p>We 100% want to comply with the new regulations however, we received NO notice to the timing of them and the realistic time frame to implement them.</p> <p>The letter online/website dated 9/13/19 was never received and we are the lead agency for 4 major 21st Century Grants. In terms of recruitment and training for part-time coaches (45+) and when our program should commence - how did the government expect such a quick turnaround in compliance? Thus, we cannot execute program because the deadline is past. Is there a grace period? Can certain employees be grandfathered in? My concern is this will seriously impact small non profits such as PowerPlay to execute program and have an adverse impact on our ability to serve thousands of youth. <b>OCFS acknowledges the impact these changes have on child care programs. CCDBG requires that all new and existing child care individuals complete the CBC process by September 30, 2020. Existing staff are not subject to CBCs until 7 days (before or after) their birthday, and may continue to work in their current program as they are. OCFS is working to provide technical assistance to programs throughout this transition.</b></p> <p>Please advise and I welcome any guidance/feedback/options.</p>