OCFS Regs, NY Equity Report, and More!
February 12, 2020

OCFS Regulations Update

Last week OCFS made changes to the regulations regarding comprehensive background clearances as well as the regulations to allow providers to choose how to treat itinerant service providers entering the program to serve the children. These new regulations should ease the burden on programs and parents.

Please see the Dear Provider Letter and Informational Letter on our website here: [http://networkforyouthsuccess.org/regulations/](http://networkforyouthsuccess.org/regulations/)

John P. Benson, Regional Office Support Unit, Division of Child Care Services, Office of Children and Family Services, sent out an email last week outlining the changes. See below for more.

1. Provisional Employment:

   - Starting February 7, 2020, new employees of child care programs will be able to begin work under supervision, after they have submitted their fingerprints for the FBI and state clearance check, but before they have received full approval.
   - To clarify, submitted fingerprints means going to get printed. Programs are expected to maintain a receipt of being fingerprinted at the program for any such provisional individual.
   - Such person may begin work, but must be supervised until they receive a letter from OCFS saying they are fully cleared.
   - Provisional status individuals MUST be supervised at all times by someone with an approved background clearance. They must NEVER be alone with children.
   - This change is made possible due to a federal waiver.
We hope this will help ease the burden on the child care community.

2. Itinerant Providers

- On January 13, 2020 OCFS put forward policy guidance allowing itinerant service providers to be unsupervised with children through either a parental consent form or a waiver of space process.
- In today’s regulatory package, we put forward a new option. The options authorized on January 13 remain in effect.
- OCFS has revised its regulations to clarify that itinerant service providers may be considered volunteers so that they may complete the comprehensive background clearance requirements.
- Once receiving a comprehensive background clearance, such service providers can work unsupervised.
- For those itinerant service providers who do not want to undergo the background check process, they can either remain supervised with children, or exercise one of the January 13 options.
- This change will hopefully provide flexibility to providers.

For additional information visit the NYSOCFS website at: https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/

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**Afterschool Leadership Equity Report**

The National AfterSchool Association (NAA) convened a series of leadership conversations focused on creating a culture of professionalization in afterschool. Said discussions included one concerning the need to build a leadership pipeline and to foster more diverse leadership, starting with a focus on supporting and retaining leaders from minoritized racial and ethnic backgrounds. These leader-focused discussions were a natural next step in NAA’s long track record of commitment to equity and advocacy for the professionalization of the afterschool field, including through the development of Core Knowledge and Competencies for Afterschool and Youth Development Professionals, and by annually honoring the Next Generation of Afterschool Leaders.

NAA is now elevating the importance of building a diverse leadership pipeline through the launch of a Professional Learning Community (PLC) in spring 2020, with grant support from the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation and in partnership with the California School-Age Consortium (CalSAC) and Development Without Limits (DWL). NAA also engaged Policy Studies Associates (PSA) and Public Profit as learning and research partners.

In January NAA in collaboration with the Network for Youth Success released a report on equity across the afterschool leadership landscape. This report was researched and authored by PSA and leverages interview and survey data from Public Profit, results from a collaborative effort intended to frame efforts to embrace, support, and retain afterschool leaders of color.

Check out the full report by clicking on the link here.
STEM Corner

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute is offering a free high school hackathon open to grades 8 - 12.

The 2-day event will take place at:

Heffner Alumni House
1301 Peoples Ave, Troy, NY
March 21 & 22, 2020
9:00 am to 5:00 pm

What is Launchpad?

Launchpad is a 2-day hackathon for anyone interested in STEM. It is open to all skill levels and no experience is necessary! During this 2-day event participants will get the chance to work with experienced mentors to design and code a unique project from scratch. Projects can be websites, apps, robots, etc. There will be free food, workshops, prizes, and more!

Click here to register.

#ILoveAfterschool2020

#ILoveAfterschool2020 Campaign - Ongoing through the month of February

Join the Network for Youth Success on our “I Love Afterschool” Valentine’s Campaign. Our goal is to increase awareness about the unbelievable benefits of the afterschool field on a statewide scale, and what better way to capture this than from someone like you who advocates for, represents, supports, or participates in afterschool programs? Share with us why you (your students, staff, parents, supporters, etc.) love your afterschool program in three quick steps:

1. Download, print, and fill out the "I love afterschool because..." (click image to download). If you would rather be creative with another form of illustration for this purpose, other than the template, you are welcome to do so!
2. Take a photo of yourself (selfies work too!) and your message.
3. Share it on Twitter and Facebook with us (@nysyouthsuccess) using the hashtag #ILoveAfterschool2020 #AfterschoolUpliftsNY

Sample Tweets you can use:

#AfterschoolUpliftsNY! I <3 #afterschool because [add response]. #ILoveAfterschool2020

#Afterschool programs keep kids safe, support working families, and foster academic success. I love my afterschool program because it [add response].

I love my #afterschool program at [insert region] because [add response]
#ILoveAfterschool2020
#AfterschoolUpliftsNY
I am joining @nysyouthsuccess today to share my love for #afterschool! I love afterschool because [insert response].

And when you’re done, collect the filled templates and mail them to your State legislators. Find out who your Assemblymember or Senator is here.

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**Network for Youth Success Events**

2/12/20 (TODAY) - 5/7/20: **CRELO Trainings, Across the Capital Region**
The Network for Youth Success will be providing various Front Line and Director Trainings across the Capital Region at no cost. For more information [click here](#).

3/6: **Legislative Breakfast, Greenbush, NY**
The Network, in conjunction with our Capital Region Network (CRELO) plan to host its annual Legislative Breakfast on March 6, 2020, at the Greenbush YMCA. If you would like to attend, please sign up by clicking on the link [here](#).

Don't miss out on one of New York State's largest conferences dedicated to afterschool with our Annual School’s Out, Make it Count! Conference. Don't wait, [sign up today](#)!
Curious about what trainings are being offered? Check out the [draft of the brochure](#), now available on our website. To become a vendor, [click here](#).

8/20 & 8/25/2020: **Health and Safety Training for Directors, Troy, NY**
Directors are responsible for hiring, training, and maintaining staff who provide a healthy and safe environment for children. This course will help directors look at policies and procedures that reinforce high-quality health and safety practices. Directors will get the most out of this training if they bring a copy of the policies and procedures from their program. Registration is limited to 12, so don't wait to register! [Click here](#).

9/2020 - 12/2020: **Distance Learning**
The Distance Learning School-Age Care (SAC) Preparatory Course includes viewing recorded videos, reading, and preparing a portfolio and resource file. This class meets the education requirement to be a Site Director in New York State. We are now enrolling for Fall 2020.

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**Other Events**

2/14: **RIT Girls in STEM Fair Essay Contest**
For the second time, the RIT Girls in STEM Fair is offering an essay contest. Girls in grades 5-12 may enter by responding to the prompt questions. Your essay must be under the word limit noted for your grade level. A panel of RIT Women in STEM and RIT K-12 team members will judge essays. Please contact Olivia Manske with any questions.

2/18: **Annual GRASA February Summit, Rochester, NY**
The 7th Annual GRASA February Summit will take place on Tuesday, February 18, 2020, from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, at East High School. This year, all afterschool /OST staff will attend one mandated session on the new SEL (Social-Emotional Learning) PQA tool that the community will be shifting to this spring. Then, participants can choose two more sessions from a growing list including hands-on STEM, SEL, and self-care. [Click here](#) to take a look at the agenda/registration form.
2/19: Bridging the Gap, Rochester, NY
Bridging the Gap is a workshop dedicated to uncovering health risks in Rochester and providing protection strategies for the entire community. For more information click here or contact Diane Bardeen at 585-325-5116 ext. 3504, dbardeen@abcinfo.org or Mary Terziani at 585-325-5116 ext. 3107, mterziani@abcinfo.org.

2/20: Design & Manage a Quality Mentoring Program, Buffalo, NY
For professionals interested in developing a mentoring program, this comprehensive session will provide the necessary tools and information to launch and sustain an effective youth mentoring program. Covered in this training will be the industry's nationally accepted best practice standards for the development of youth mentoring programs that have proven effective in a wide range of existing mentoring strategies. To register, click here.

2/29: Community-Wide Basketball League, Rochester, NY
Rochester Community Centers is looking for players and coaches for their Community-Wide Basketball League. Running from 2/29 - 4/28, games will run from 10am-2pm. There will be 3 age divisions: Pee-Wee (6-9), Juniors (10-12), and Seniors (13-15). For more information, call 585.428.7592, or visit www.cityofrochester.gov/cwbl.

2/29: RCSD ROC Restorative Esteemed: Claiming Sacred Spaces for Girls of Color, Rochester, NY
Join keynote speaker Jackie Campbell, Alliance Director, ROC the Future, for a panel discussion with girls of color honoring their current experiences, followed by an opportunity to participate interactive workshops focused on claiming sacred spaces for girls of color. Click here to register.

It's time to start planning your trip to the nation's capital for the annual National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference. Join 1,200+ of your colleagues for what is sure to be the anti-hunger community's biggest and best conference yet. Click here to register.

Join over 2,000 community members at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center for four days of networking, learning, and inspiration. Special events, 200+ educational sessions, daily keynotes, and an interactive Learning Expo all designed to meet the needs of the developing professionals, and emerging current leaders of afterschool. Come to NAA Convention 2020, and leave saying, "I've found my people!" For more information, click here.

Common Ground is looking for volunteer mediators to serve in community-based and Family Court Mediation programs. Common Ground is a non-profit mediation center, serving Greene & Columbia counties, funded in part through a grant from the NYS Unified Court System. Send resumes with letter of interest to: dwallant@commongroundinc.org or mail, Dawn Wallant, Executive Director, Common Ground Dispute Resolution Inc., 11 William St., Catskill NY 12414. For more information call 518-943-0523

4/17: Decolonizing Minds: Forging a New Future Through Multicultural Education, Rochester, NY
This conference will take place in Rochester with actress and activist Ms. Abernathy, daughter of American Civil Rights Leader Ralph Abernathy. For more information or to register, click here.

4/28 - 5/1: 2020 BOOST Conference, Palm Springs, CA
The 2020 BOOST Conference will convene over 2,500 global educators April 28 - May 1 in sunny Palm Springs, CA. They are now in the Early-Bird registration phase with a rate of $465. Register your team today to celebrate the best of afterschool and expanded learning fields. Click here for more information and how to apply.

Enrollment for the 2020 National Bilingual Bee & Bilteracy Competition is now open! The competition is open to any bi-literate students fluent in English and one of the following languages: Arabic, French, Haitian Creole, Mandarin Chinese, or Spanish. To enroll click here. If you have questions please contact mirta@smartcoos.com.

❤️ Ways You Can Help the Network! ❤️

Choose us as your non-profit through Amazon Smile, donate, become a member, follow us on Facebook and Twitter, or check out our website!

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Address postal inquiries to:
New York State Network for Youth Success, Inc.
415 River Street
Troy, NY 12180