

C. Bixler 0:02

Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome to the Invest in New York Child Care Deserts RFA Overview. Before we get started, I do have some housekeeping information to share with you. If you have questions today, you can type them into the Q&A box. Please note that all listeners are muted. All questions must be sent to the Q&A box of this webinar. They can also be emailed to investnychildcare@ocfs.ny.gov. All questions and their answers will be posted on the OCFS website. We will not be answering questions here today. However, all questions will be compiled and answered publicly on the website. This presentation is being recorded and it will also be posted to the OCFS website. This presentation is also being translated into Spanish and will be posted on the OCFS website. I'm going to turn it over to Nora Yates, Associate Commissioner for Office of Child and Family Services.

N. Yates 1:11

Great Thanks, Cassie. Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome almost 500 people, we do have a bunch of people who are still signing on. So, thank you so much. To reiterate, we will be going through a presentation today and giving an overview of the RFA as well as the timeline and components of the RFA, the child care desert map and what is important for possible applicants to know. We will not be answering questions on this webinar due to this being a competitive application. So, this is an information session overview. So you can submit your questions via the Q&A box, or you can submit them to the email address that is listed in the RFA. So, I'm going to with that get started. Thank you again for joining us. We're very excited about this opportunity, very excited about the response to the info section. And I will hopefully not talk too fast. First thing we wanted to highlight was the timeline. We have released the request for applications or RFA, number one, on January 28. And this is the first of two requests for applications. The application we'll be talking about today is this RFA number one for new programs only. And we will go through what that means. The application portal to apply for this grant opens on April 11. So please refresh the page, read the request for applications between now and April 11. There's pre work and steps that providers or potential applicants should take prior to April 11. Because the portal is open on April 11 and closes on May 30. So, it is a relatively short window. And we want to make sure that folks have everything they need in advance of that portal opening and can make it through the portal close on May 30. And then awards will be announced in June. And then payments begin after licensure and the vendor review process. So, after the awards are announced, there is a pre-approval, and we'll go through the details about the steps from there. Thank you, everybody just joining us. We have now 566 on, which is great. All right, so jumping into the application. So, what are child care deserts? They are census tracts where there are three or more children under five for each available child care slot, or there are no available child care slots in that census tract or geographic area. So, what OCFS did with our partners at the Council on Children and Families was to run all of the geographic areas in New York State or census tracts in New York State. Again, all of our licensed registered and permitted capacity information for all providers and looked at every single part of the state for how much of a shortage of child care is there around the state. And all that information has been mapped and we will be showing you the child care desert map. But we are trying to drive applications from those areas of the state with a shortage of care. The funds were identified in last year's enacted budget. There's \$100 million

total identified to address these child care deserts. This is to create new programs or expand existing programs, which we will talk about at a future date. And the goal of the funds are to increase the number of available child care slots licensed, registered or permitted child care programs in those areas of the state where there's a need. So, as I said there's \$100 million identified in the budget 70 million will be available through this RFA for brand new program, there'll be a future RFA for the remaining 30 million. And that will be for expanding existing programs within their existing license. This is federal pandemic relief funding from the American rescue plan act. So, there are limitations from the federal guidance that we are working within, and we will highlight that for you. But this funding does also recognize that there is a shortage of infant toddler care throughout the state. And there's also a lack of child care outside of traditional business hours and days. So, this funding opportunity does prioritize providers interested in starting infant toddler care, as well as providers offering non-traditional hours. We will go through that.

N. Yates 6:07

So, after looking at the geographic areas in the state, and looking at where there are shortages of child care, we also looked on a regional basis for what regions of the state had the highest child care deserts or the highest gap in child care. And so, this highlighted column shows those regions or those deserts. For the Southern Tier, North Country, Mohawk Central, those regions are all at or above 70% of all of the counties in that region are lacking Child Care for children under five. But if you notice everywhere in New York State is a child care desert in some percentage or another, so everywhere in New York State are eligible to apply. And the scoring is based on a couple of different factors which will walk you through, but in total 61.8% of New York State is identified as a child care desert. So, we can expect applicants coming from every part of the state. So now we will go into the RFA and talk through the RFA approach that we are presenting to you today. Like I mentioned, there are two separate requests for applications or RFA. The first one RFA number one we're talking about today is for \$70 million for new providers, and there'll be a RFA number two for the remaining 30 million for existing provider expansions and this one has not yet been released. So, in RFA number one for new programs, the eligible programs, this is in Section 3.1 of the RFA. If you're not aware of where to look at the grant materials, it is on the OCFS website under child care. The following providers are eligible. Interested parties interested in opening a new child care site with a new OCFS or DOHM license or permit number. Obviously, applicants will need to agree to the terms of the award which are spelled out in the RFA. And providers who are in the process of applying or received a license after the date of RFA issuance are eligible to apply. So, this is a new child care site with a new number we understand child care providers might currently be operating a site and be looking at operating a different site that would be an existing provider by a new site so that they would be eligible under this grant. For providers interested in using their existing license number that they are not eligible go until the next one. The following providers are not eligible to apply under the RFA. So existing programs with an existing license registration or permanent number. So, if they are going to be applying under that number they are not eligible to apply. This has to be a new number, a new site a new location. Programs or providers that have held a license within the year preceding the issuance date of this RFA, which was January 28 2022. Or our current license holders and are changing locations but not in fact expanding the

license capacity. We understand people move from one location to another. Maybe they're licensed for eight and they are moving to the next locations licensed for eight that they are not out they are not eligible to apply for this opportunity. If they are at an existing location and are moving and planning to expand at other locations therefore need a different license and will be having an increased capacity they are eligible to apply there with a family day care with a capacity of eight is going to expand their capacity hired staff to be a group family daycare, which has a different license number they are eligible to apply. Obviously, programs do not meet the license requirements for licensure, they are not eligible to apply under this award. And sites that receive 100% of their funding from public sources such as Head Start early Head Start or publicly funded pre-K programs are not eligible. If those sites have other programs or other wraparound, which are not funded through those sources, they would be eligible. But if a program is 100% of their expenses covered through a public source, such as education, or Head Start federal programs, then they're not eligible to apply because 100% of their funding expenses are covered. So, they cannot double dip or supplant their existing resource.

N. Yates 11:05

What is the duration of this opportunity? The payment duration is up to two years from the licensure date in quarterly payments, as long as your eligibility is maintained and does not exceed 6/30/24. I mentioned earlier that these are federal pandemic relief dollars, and therefore need to be liquidated by 2024. And so, we are bound by that 2040. But it is from the point of licensure is when the payments will be in and licensure plus or review by OCFS to confirm eligibility. So, we pay up to two years because depending on when the license is final. And that may be different per provider, and we understand that. So how did we approach the funding or how does the funding breakdown? Okay, so, and again, we're talking about the RFA number one, this is for new programs, we're not talking about the existing program expansion grants that will be at a future time. So, this is just for new programs. So 90% of the funds are going to be allocated towards a base award for providers and 10% will be available for those bonuses, which I spoke of which are infant toddlers providing care to infant toddlers and or providing non-traditional hours.

N. Yates 12:40

We did break the funding from 60% downstate, 40% upstate. And so, what that looks like is for the 90% base award, 63 million is available for base grants. And these are available downstate. Sorry, I'll point here. These are downstate reps of states or downstate upstate. And these are split by daycare centers, home based program family daycare and group family daycare and school aged child care program. And so, these are the available funds per modality. So, depending on what you're applying, what type of program you're applying to, then that would be the available funds for that for that group in that region. For the base brand.

N. Yates 13:42

Similarly, remember I spoken of the 90% to 10%. So, the 10% available for bonuses for infant toddler and or non-traditional hours. These are the funds that 7 million available and it's split by center, family and school age. So, what does that look like on a provider level? The grant so the award calculation for center-based programs is based on a per licensed registered or

permitted slot basis. For group daycare, which are the New York City article 47 permitted programs is 9,000 or 5,000 or 500,000 cap for the award for daycare centers. It is for downstate it's also 9,000 and 500,000 for all other regions of the state 700,000 or \$400,000 cap for school aged child care programs downstate 30 303 100,000 cap and then rep to state is 2,500 or 200,000 cap and these are the numbers based on what your ultimate licensed registered or permit. They're applying pre award number. For home-based providers, it is based on a program basis, given the home base providers generally have the same capacity numbers. So, for family daycare, downstate is \$18,000 per program or 14,000. For upstate, for group family daycare, it's 30,000 per program. And then, it's 23,000. I see some good questions coming in via the Q&A. So, thank you for that. Keep them coming. We loved the interest. So, the bonus will be calculated on this it'll be \$3,000 Additional to the grant award amount per infant toddler slots if you're applying for the infant toddler piece. And it will be the same 300,000 per non-traditional hours slot if you are applying for the non-traditional hours bonus and are awarded and licensed as such. So just to clarify what I mean by infant toddler that is services provided up to three or up to two for a New York City DOHMH program. And then for defining non-traditional hours, we're using the child care subsidy definition, which is overnight hours after seven until six or weekends or federal holidays. This does not mean oh sorry, one piece in New York City DOHMH non-traditional hours definitions apply to those article 47 programs. This does not mean that all of the non-traditional hours need to be committed to there'll be a critical threshold to meet which more information will be coming out shortly. To clarify, awards will be prorated based on the duration of the grant per provider. So, if a provider is unable to get licensed until the very end of the required time, they may have a shorter work period. If they are able to get licensed more quickly, they could have a longer period. The actual payments to a provider may be impacted by if the deliverables are not achieved. And we will walk through the deliverables momentarily.

N. Yates 17:22

The initial amounts are not guaranteed grant amounts, your ultimate capacities may be different at the start of the grant or throughout the grant duration. So, the grant amounts will change if that capacity amount or other things change. If you initially offer non-traditional hours and then get the non-traditional our bonus. But then, decide to dial that back, you would no longer receive that bonus because you're no longer offering non-traditional hours. And then payments begin after licensure and pre award the fact that pre award requirements are met.

N. Yates 18:04

I'm going to take a breath to see if there are more questions coming in, which there are which is great. And just a reminder to folks who join, after we made our opening housekeeping announcements, all lines are muted. And if you have questions, please put them into the Q&A box. We are not answering questions during this session because it is a competitive award. What we're doing is capturing all of the Q&A, we will be post answering those questions and posting it on our website for the entire world to see. We will also blast it out to everybody who was on this, but we'll also blast it out to everybody in the world who's interested. So, we won't be going back and forth today. But please put out as many questions as you feel you need to and we will work on those answers and post them as soon as we're able. This presentation is

being recorded and the transcript as well. It will be posted on our website the presentation as well as the recording and will be translated into Spanish and recorded in Spanish as well. If you have questions about licensure, if you are an existing program and you have questions about licensure, please reach out to your regulator, your regulator and/or your Child Care Resource and Referral Agency are excellent resources for questions. I'm going to keep going on the grant in fact, okay. Okay, what can we use the grant for what can you use the grant for if you apply and are awarded? So, the grant essentially is for opening up a new child care program. So, the allowable expenses are to support the thriving of that program. So, it is about that same program development costs and short-term operating expenses, including but not limited to your personnel costs including payroll salaries, employee compensation benefits, retirement or education, other child care business expenses, supporting your staff to access COVID-19 vaccines or the necessary leaves to access vaccines. And any other rent or mortgage obligations utilities for home-based providers. This should align with the approved cost allocation methodology. And so, it also could cover training and technical assistance expenses including professional development, business training and business services.

N. Yates 20:50

I see cute little graphics on my screen here, they're cute, and not sure what you need me to do. So, I'm going to keep going. Okay, great. Oh, I'm seeing like emoticons. I love it. Thank you 745 attendees, wow, emojis. I love it. Okay, so let's talk a little bit more about what the type of allowable expenses are. There are like I said, payroll and personnel, I think are pretty straightforward that it does include recruitment expenses and retention bonuses, business, rent or mortgage, again, based on a provider cost allocation methodology for home-based providers, business utilities, facility maintenance and improvements. And here the app is strict. Funds cannot be used for construction. For major renovations, such as structural changes extension of a facility, increased floor area or extensive alteration of the facility. So, this is not a capital grant. Providers cannot purchase or improve, use these funds for capital expenses because of federal guidelines. So, you can use it for operations, operations expenses, that we listed here and on the next piece, but it is not a capital award. And we understand people have capital needs when they are starting child care program. And we will have your child care resource and referral agencies often have you know, local resources or information. But this grant cannot be used for construction of a facility or major renovations to a facility in order to start a program. Other examples including but not limited to goods and services, including food, sleep equipment or play. You can also use it for services like business automation services, or cleaning or janitorial tax and bookkeeping, super important this time here. Any of the fees associated with securing a license, including getting your statewide separate register and your online clearances completed? And as well as equipment and supplies, indoor outdoor technology upgrades, office equipment, etc, as business expenses for starting your program? Great. So how will these programs be scored as part of the grant. So, programs will be scored based on their location, their physical location, as well as their compliance with all of the eligibility requirements and program details? What does that mean? So, there are four main components to a score on how well you can score as part of this initiative as part of this brand. The first one, most importantly, is where you're located if you are located in a child care desert. And on the next screen, I'll show you that can be high, medium, low or not a desert at all. The

second piece is your region. An REDC here means Regional Economic Development Council that is a part of the state. That's how New York splits up the state into different regions. And so your region also have a high likelihood of child care deserts. And in the example I showed you earlier on the presentation, you know, there were four of them that have really high child care desert percentage, but every region has a percentage high, medium or low. You'll also be scored. We want to incentivize providers setting up in areas with high diversity. So there'll be a score for whether or not you are located in an area with high racial and ethnic diversity, which is number three here. And that's called a diversity index. So that's a tool that looks at the percentage of racial and ethnic diversity in a particular geographic area. And then there's a score number four is there's a score for the percentage of children at or below 200% of federal poverty level. That's the FPL. And again, we want to incentivize program setting up an area serving children at or below 200% of federal poverty level. We know there's also a shortage of care. So, we want to incentivize providers serving communities, and family. And then the bonus points again, for infant toddler, that's it, apologize about the acronyms here. So, the bonus points are for the infant toddler and the non-traditional hours, which are the bonuses.

N. Yates 25:49

So this is the breakdown of the scoring, and I apologize, it's very small. But this is the background to how programs are scored on those four points, as well as the bonuses. So, if you are in a child care desert, this is a one and the number one. So, where you are located. What level of child care desert is where you're located, now you're going to ask me, where am I located? How do I know. And we're going to talk you through the map in one minute. And we can help you point out where you're located. But you may not be located in a particular child care desert yourself, but your region may be high, that still means you can have a competitive application. So again, you can if you're a home-based provider, you're not going to move for this grant opportunity. Or maybe you will, I don't know. But if you're a home-based provider, and you're not physically located in a high child care, desert, but still want to apply, because your region is and you're in a highly diverse area, you still can have a competitive application. The second piece is what your region how, how, if your region has a high child care, desert census track, and this is again, High, Medium, Low, 20, 15, and 10 points. And so, for even for regions that don't have a high child care desert score, like New York City, Long Island, or Hudson Valley, there are definitely child care desert parts of those regions, and definitely competitive application. So, serving definitely serving children at or below 200% of Federal Poverty Level areas of high diversity. So, we do encourage applicants from all over the state in all modalities. Again, this is a score for the diversity index, we want to incentivize providers opening in areas of high diversity. And this is racial ethnic diversity. So, 2014, and six, and four areas with a high rate of children at or below 200% of federal poverty, again, 12 or 2014 isn't. So that is the base scoring. And you'll notice we've got school aged child care here, as well as other because school aged child care can't get licensed to serve infant toddlers. So they have a separate total here as well as everybody else. So here are the two five points below that are the bonus points, you can get five bonus points for serving infant toddler, and another five for offering non-traditional hours. So, for school age programs, the total is 105. And everybody else the total is 110.

N. Yates 28:46

So, what do you have to do if you get this grant? This is a really important part, right? So, I'm going to apply for this funding, I support funding, but what do I do if I get this funding. So, this is a deliverable based grant, which means that you have to meet these deliverables in order to get paid. But this is not a reimbursement-based grant. So as long as you are using the funding to operate your program with those eligible expenses and tracking your expenses and keeping all of that information on record for six years as you're required to do and meeting these deliverables. That is how the payments will move forward. Again, the payments will be tracked on a quarterly basis. There are going to be quarterly inspections or quarterly site visits. And those site visits will provide technical assistance and confirm that the program is doing okay. And operating. So, deliverable one is that you are open and operating. I think that makes sense. And so, this it will be demonstrated by looking in our system of records, or the New York City system of record to confirm programs are open and operating, as well as looking at you know, attendance flags or work schedules child attendance records. We understand that programs are not going to start off at 100% enrollment right off the first day. So the program is not based on attendance or enrollment, it is based on licensed capacity. But we will be working with all programs to maximize enrollment as quickly as possible to ensure, you know, solvency for the program. And the different criteria that will be reviewed is that the program must stay an active status, which means that the program is open and operating. This does not include temporary closures related to COVID or vacation days. This is about an active status. If for those of you with experience with child care stabilization grants, similar definition. For central aid programs, obviously, there's space and room requirements as well as slots approved, there needs to be appropriate staff ratio for the licensed number, as well as qualified staff during the hours of operation. The 107 questions so far, love it, keep them coming. deliverable number two, by the way, there's a total of four deliverables. So, I'm not going to take too long but it's four key things that you need to do as part of the being a recipient of these funds. First one is open and operating. Second here is program in good standing, which means we are tracking that in our child care facility system or the New York City system. Good standing means that you are not the subject of specific enforcement actions by either OCFS or New York City DOHMH enforcement status will be reviewed on a quarterly basis by OCFS staff. And there are specific enforcement status that are therefore not eligible for funding. And those are listed here. What is not every enforcement status, it is specific ones again, similar to child care stabilization. As well as the program is in good standing, this deliverable is achieved. deliverable three, is that a program must apply and be actively engaged in QUALITYstars New York and/or the Start with Stars program. Once accepted for participation, school age, child care programs are not eligible to apply yet for QUALITYstars New York, but is when the option does become available, they will be required to apply to QUALITYstars for those of you that are not familiar it is a quality improvement program for child care. It's a quality improvement system really, for child care programs in New York State. It's a phenomenal system and provides a quality improvement specialist to each program that's participating. And it's a rolling basis that a program begins to participate and engages. So, the first step would be the application process to the quality star system, as well as completing a standards inventory and a quality improvement plan. And we want to give all programs as much resources as possible early on to really start off on the right foot. So, programs must continue to participate in QUALITYstars to be eligible for the child care,

desert grants. And More information is available on that link, as well as online if you want to read up on quality and again, phenomenal program. The last deliverable number deliverable four is that staff are completing training and compliance with regulations or requirements. There are many requirements, and all programs need to meet all regulatory requirements, but deliverable four will look specifically at training records. To ensure compliance that staff are meeting those requirements all throughout the duration of the grant. And again, programs must meet all licensing requirements, including the training requirements, but this is on top of them. Deliverables five, and six are for those programs applying for the bonus, the bonus award. And so, five is relating to non-traditional hours. If you are applying for non-traditional hours, this is an additional deliverable that you'll be expected to achieve in order to achieve payments for those grants and this is that you are opening operating during non-traditional hours. And that means that you have staff work schedules and attendance logs, reflecting that documentation of fire drills or other safety procedures documented and that any child enrollment documentation for those non-traditional hours. And if a program is operating, receiving the non-traditional hour grants, they obviously have to be open and operating during those hours. And one of the quarterly inspections will occur during those non-traditional hours. To make sure you know that we understood we see all of the full picture for infant toddler bonus. These again, looking at your staffing ratios and making sure that your staff qualifications as well as ratios are all reflected for the infant toddler requirements. You need to be in capacity in compliance for all capacity and staffing for infant toddler care. And then for home based providers. And this is true for everyone. But if you are receiving the infant toddler bonus, you do need to commit to either filling those slots with infant toddlers or holding them available for infant toddler enrollment.

N. Yates 32:49

So, I think we talked about this earlier and I say um a lot. And I apologize, I normally don't do that. Well, I will try not to say it. I did it again. So, we talked earlier about the how do I know if I'm in a desert? How do I know if I will get a good score or not? Well, we have made this beautiful map. And our colleagues actually over at the Counsel of Children and Families in partnership with OCFS data team have made a beautiful map. The map is not required. So you could apply to this grant without ever looking at the map if you're not a map person. So, the map, what the map does, and I can like click over. I'll go to change screens, but it should allow me to go right to the map. There you go.

N. Yates 33:50

Okay, so the child care desert map shows every census tract in New York State and the possible base score if a provider was located there. So, this is all the information in New York State for every geographic area. I know there are a lot of questions on the map, we've received a lot of questions on the map. Again, you do not need to use the map. If you don't want to. You can apply for this grant without using the map. But if you're curious about what you would score this is a good opportunity to see what your score might be meaning are you located in the child care desert or not? So there's a couple of ways you could research if you're located in a child care desert or not. One is this address bar up here. And you could say that I am located at you could type in your address. I am located at 550 Madison Ave and it can zoom you right in. And

that will also give you all of the information that you could possibly be. I'm seeing that folks can't see the map is. Can we see the map? Oh, no.

C. Bixler 35:16

We are able to see the map.

N. Yates 35:18

What about others? Oh, I see somebody said we can't see what you're referring to? Yeah, okay, I'm getting some yeses getting some no's, it might be your operating system, I'm just seeing some thumbs up. Great. Okay, great.

C. Bixler 35:31

Could also be if you are only in audio only mode, you're not going to see what's on the screen.

C. Bixler 35:36

Right? Great. Seeing a lot of love emojis, thanks for that. Alright, so you can type in your address and say, you're a home base provider and you want to see how you might score on this. Because you're not going to lift up your house and move it. So, you can type in your address appear on the upper left, and then see what the possible base possible base or estimated base score would be. So, remember those four things that we outlined for you that the scoring would be based on whether or not you're in a desert, so 550 miles an out is not in a desert. So it's gotten zero. But my region is a high child care desert. So, I get the full 20 points here. The 550 Madison Ave is a highly diverse area. So, we've got the high score for the diversity index. And it's also a medium score for serving families at or below 200% of poverty. So, my estimated base score for this grant would be 54. I have like a 50/50 chance out of 110 points for being successful with that grant. Now that's if I know exactly where I want to put my program. Maybe I don't know where I'm going to put my program. Maybe I just want to kind of look around and I do this every time I do this every time I explain to that visit I always go to Newburgh for those of you that are in Newburgh. Let's shout out Newberg so see I don't know where I want to put my program, but I know I want to open somewhere in Newberg because it's a great city because I love Newberg. So, in Newberg there's a couple different census tracts. And if I just wanted to zoom in, I could zoom right in on Newberg and just kind of mess around with this map. And I could click on each of the census tracts bringing up what the possible score would be for that census track. So, for example, if I did this census track over here, which is I think for Yeah, perfect for and Newberg is actually not a desert, and it's a low region. So, I would only score. It is a highly diverse area and is serving families at or below 200% of federal poverty. But I would only score 50 points. If I wanted to open up a center and I could choose where I wanted to open, you could go right next door to census tract 502 or 501. And those of you that know Newberg, know this is all kind of downtown. So, you could go right next door to five a one or 502 and see that you could get 90 points. If you opened up a program in that region, again, could get this as your estimated base score, it's not guaranteed. But this is how we want folks to click around and try and use map. So, you can see that 502 has no flat, you could get the full 40 points for setting up a program in this area, you would still get a low number of points because of the region that is being downstate where there's more care, but

it's a highly diverse area serving families at high federal poverty level, so you could get an estimated base score of 90 points. So, if you wanted to. I just want to keep zooming out. And I apologize for the scrolling-ness of it. But if you want to look at Long Island, and this is for the whole state so you can play around with New York City you can play around with Long Island. We have these different layers here and like whoa, it gets really busy. So, you can remove these layers if this is too busy for you. And if you just wanted to look like say at the just the borough's outline and say okay, we I know I'm in the Bronx and I want to know, maybe I can choose where I want to open up my program in the Bronx. You can just do the borough outline or if you can zoom in there You don't have to do all the busyness, but this lower right here is for if you wanted to look at neighborhoods, and or towns, which adds in the town here as well. So, I know for some people really love maps, and some people really don't love maps. So, if you do love maps, you can you can use that one. Okay, am I overtime? No, okay, great. All right. I'm going to go back here. Are we back on PowerPoint? Cassie?

C. Bixler 40:46

Yes, we're back on PowerPoint. Great.

N. Yates 40:50

Okay, we're almost at the end, I want to reiterate to folks, to drop your questions in the Q&A box, we are going to be gathering those up drafting answers and posting all the answers online. So, we're not going to be taking questions during this info session. But we will be posting all these answers online for the entire world to see because this is a competitive application. So, we want to make sure everybody gets the same answer. And we also are going to be posting the presentation, a recording of this presentation and a Spanish, PowerPoint and Spanish version of the presentation all on our website ocfs.ny.com. And I'll give you that again, in a minute. If you are not familiar with the map, and you want to go through again, how to use the map, there are instructions online, I can actually click here and show you the instructions. It does walk you through and our team at night's back who are assisting us getting this out the door, this phenomenal team at night, Zach did a user guide on how to use the map and you can kind of read through what the different pieces mean. And what you know how to get through the darker layers or the lighter layers? What does that mean? Thank you to them. And that is available English and Spanish on our website as of today. Again, the child care desert map is not required for the grant application, when the portal opens, you will have to tell us where you'll be setting up your grant, where you'll be setting up your program, and we will automatically populate the scores. So, we'll pull the same information that we just showed you into your grant application. So, it is only for reference only. It is for helping possible applicants such as yourself decide whether or not you know where the programs are. You could search by address or zoom into an area like I showed you then click on the census tract to see the possible score. And all those scores and that information will be pre populated in the grant application. You don't need to memorize those different pieces. So, what do you need to know we are coming to the end of our hour together? Your next step, if you are interested in applying for this grant, should be to immediately start planning doing the planning for what it means to open a child care program. And that means Where are you going to located? What are the zoning laws? What are the other applicable laws? What does it mean for legally, what type of program are

you going to open? What does it mean for on a license, and that also all that information can be viewed through the OCFS opening a child care orientation video, and there are links to that on our website? As well as if you're in New York City and you're opening in New York City, article 47 Daycare Center. New York City has similar orientation, which you shouldn't view that we have links to that on our website as well. But it is a longer orientation, but it is comprehensive. And please, we encourage you have to visit, you have to view that orientation if you're going to apply for the grant. But right now, if you are interested in this grant, there's a lot of work that needs to go into planning out what type of business you're going to set up. You know, how many kids you're going to serve what the structure of the business might be. So, we have partnered with our child care resource and referral agencies who are experts at providing technical assistance on how to start a child care program. And they will be offering a series of sessions and that information is also posted on our website and also with the RFA on how to start a child care program. And these sessions are not on the child care desert grant. It's not going to be this what we just did today. It will be on how to set up a child care program. Several of them are available English several in Spanish. They talk about home-based programs they talk about center-based programs, they talk about school-based programs. So, if you have not connected with your child care resource and referral agency, I strongly encourage you to do so they are the experts in terms of how to start a business and what needs to happen.

N. Yates 35:16

The steps to this grant application process which are outlined in Section 5.1. Again, review the licensing requirements review the grant requirements, and that includes this RFA, as well as the different orientation videos that I just spoke of, you need to determine what type of business type you're going to be. And this is kind of a very wonky question. But I strongly encourage you to do that soon. That means are you going to be a sole proprietor you can do this all by yourself? Are you going to be a nonprofit Are you going to be a for profit? All those things are great questions, but they also take time. And so given that we have this time between now and when the grant application portal opens. Those are the important things that need to happen before then because your tax ID number will be needed. For applying for this grant will need to know what kind of business you're running, what kind of shop you're running. You can attend those technical assistance sessions. If you're interested, those are not required. But so helpful, and the Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies are so wonderful, so encourage you to connect with them, but not required. April 11 is the date that the grant application submission portal will open on our website, which is listed here. So, you can submit your grant. And if you are granted pre-approval, you will be required to complete licensing within 120 days that all that information is in the Request for Applications document about the timeline. But if you are granted pre approval, you'll need to complete licensing within 120 days. Very important that we keep people moving through to approve the licensing process. We know how complicated that process is, we want to work with you, our CCR&R's and our regional office staff are all amazing and can work with you on that process. But you got to get started. To put it simply. One other important document that's available online is the CCR&R's and the Regional Economic Development Councils have worked together to create these regional priority documents or one pagers, one to two pagers. And please provide an overview of the lay of the land, basically, in that region, how many slots are available, what type of care is available, and

what is the gap. So, you know, for this is Southern Tier, which as you saw was one of the higher regions, you know, there's a real gap in infant care, there's a gap in particular counties within the southern tier. So, if you are not sure either where to locate your program or to who to target your program to, these are a great resource to really look at the lay of the land on a local level. So, if you have those questions, these are great resources as well as the CCR and ours. That my friends, bring us to the conclusion of this journey. I want to thank you all so much for being here. If you haven't submitted your question into the Q&A box, please do so we've gotten 213 questions into the Q&A box, which is amazing. We will be drafting answers to those, and we will be posting those on our website. Again, we will also be putting this presentation as well as the recording on our website for all of you to view. This grant opportunity is for people interested in becoming licensed, registered or permitted child care providers. This is not for organizations looking to do research or not provide care. This is really about how do we target providers in parts of the state where there's a shortage of child care. So, we are all about encouraging new child care programs. putting lots of thumbs in class. So, thank you all so much for doing that. Cassie, anything else to wrap up here?

C. Bixler 49:27

No. This session is being recorded. I will stop the recording and we'll get this up on the website as soon as possible, along with answers to the questions, a copy of the presentation and we will be doing a version of this in Spanish as well. Thank you so much for joining us today everyone.

N. Yates 49:46

Thank you everyone. Have a great day.