

Approved 6/25/07

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES PLAN

January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2009

Montgomery County

This Child and Family Services Plan including the Strategic Component, the Administrative Component-Local Department of Social Services, the Administrative Component-Youth Bureau, and the PINS Diversion Services Plan-Strategic Component covers the period of January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2009. The plan contains County Outcomes and Strategies to be undertaken that respond to community needs by the Youth Bureau for youth development and services and by the District in the areas of Adoption, Foster Care Services for Children, Preventive Services for Children, Protective Services for Adults, Protective Services for Children, Other Adult Services, and Other Children and Family Services. In addition, the Plan contains a description of public participation. The Plan contains estimates of expenditures and program information.

Cheryl Baumes
Contact Person DSS

518-853-8289
Phone

Director of Services
Title

Cheryl.Baumes@dfa.state.ny.us
Email

Jennifer Petteys
Contact Person Youth Bureau

518-853-4355
Phone

Executive Director
Title

jpetteys@co.montgomery.ny.us
Email

**APPENDIX G-1
CHILD CARE SECTION
DATED 2007-2009**

County: Montgomery

1. Administration (Required Section)

Describe how your district is organized to administer the child care program including any functions that are subcontracted to an outside agency.

1. Identify the unit that has primary responsibility for the administration of child care for:

Public Assistance Families: **Temporary Assistance**

Transitioning Families: **Services**

Income Eligible Families: **Temporary Assistance**

Title XX: **Services**

2. Indicate the use of New York State Child Care Block Grant (NYSCCBG) Funds.

Total NYSCCBG Amount: **\$1,000,000**

A. Subsidy	\$900,000
B. Other program costs (excluding subsidy)	\$80,000
C. Administrative costs	\$20,000

3. Does your district have a contract or formal agreement with another organization to perform any of the following functions?

<u>Function:</u>	<u>Organization:</u>	<u>Amount of Contract:</u>
------------------	----------------------	----------------------------

Eligibility screening

Screening of legally-exempt providers

Assistance in locating care

Fulmont Community Action Agency

Child Care Information Systems

Other

APPENDIX G-2

II. Other Eligible Families if Funds are Available (Required Section)

Listed below are optional categories of eligible families that your district can include as part of its ICP. Select any categories your district wants to serve and describe any limitations associated with the category.

Optional Categories	Option	Limitations
1. Public Assistance (PA) families participating in an approved activity in addition to their required work activity.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Approved activity is job seeking
2. PA families or families with income up to 200% of the State Income Standard when the caretaker is:		
a) participating in an approved substance abuse treatment program	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Must meet all financial and programmatic requirements
b) homeless	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
c) a victim of domestic violence	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
d) in an emergency situation of short duration	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
3. Families with an open child protective services case when child care is needed to protect the child.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
4. Families with income up to 200% of the State Income Standard when child care services are needed because the child's caretaker:		
a) is physically or mentally incapacitated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	With physician or psychiatrist document stating incapacity
b) has family duties away from home	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
5. Families with income up to 200% of the State Income Standard when child care services are needed for the child's caretaker to actively seek employment for a period up to 6 months.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

6. PA families where a sanctioned parent is participating in unsubsidized employment, earning wages at a level equal to or greater than the minimum amount under law.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Must meet all other eligibility requirements
7. Families with income up to 200% of the State Income Standard when child care services are needed for the child's caretaker to participate in:		
a) a public or private educational facility providing a standard high school curriculum offered by or approved by the local school district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Must meet all other eligibility requirements
b) an education program that prepares an individual to obtain a NYS High School equivalency diploma	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Must meet all other eligibility requirements
c) a program providing basic remedial education in the areas of reading, writing, mathematics, and oral communications for individuals functioning below the ninth month of the eighth grade level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Must meet all other eligibility requirements
d) a program providing literacy training designed to help individuals improve their ability to read and write;	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Must meet all other eligibility requirements
e) English as a second language (ESL) instructional program designed to develop skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing the English language for individuals whose primary language is other than English	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Must meet all other eligibility requirements
f) a two year full-time degree granting program at a community college, a two year college, or an undergraduate college with a specific vocational goal leading to an associate degree or certificate of completion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Must meet all other eligibility requirements
g) a training program, which has a specific occupational goal and is conducted by an institution licensed or approved by the State Education Department other than a college or university	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Must meet all other eligibility requirements

<p>h) a prevocational skill training program such as, a basic education and literacy training program</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Must meet all other eligibility requirements</p>
<p>i) a demonstration project designed for vocational training or other project approved by the Department of Labor.</p> <p>The parent/caretaker must complete the selected programs listed under number seven within 30 consecutive calendar months. The parent/caretaker cannot enroll in more than one program.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Must meet all other eligibility requirements</p>
<p>8. PA recipients and low income families with incomes up to 200% of the State Income Standard who are satisfactorily participating in a two-year program other than one with a specific vocational sequence (leading to an associates degree or certificate of completion and that is reasonably expected to lead to an improvement in the parent/caretaker's earning capacity) as long as the parent(s) or caretaker is also working at least 17 ½ hours per week. The parent/caretaker must demonstrate his or her ability to successfully complete the course of study.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Must meet all other eligibility requirements</p>
<p>9. PA recipients and low income families with incomes up to 200% of the State Income Standard who are satisfactorily participating in a four-year college or university program (leading to a bachelor degree and that is reasonably expected to lead to an improvement in the parent/caretaker's earning capacity) as long as the parent(s) or caretaker is also working at least 17 ½ hours per week. The parent/caretaker must demonstrate his or her ability to successfully complete the course of study.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<p>Must meet all other eligibility requirements</p>

APPENDIX G-3

III. Reasonable Distance, Very Low Income, Definition of Engaged In Work For Child Care In Lieu of Temporary Assistance, Family Share, Case Closings and Openings, and Fraud and Abuse Control Activities_ (Required Section)

Reasonable Distance

Your district is required to define reasonable distance based on community standards for determining accessible child care.

The following defines "reasonable distance": **Fifteen miles.**

Describe any steps/consultations made to arrive at your definition:

Montgomery County is a rural county, with most employment opportunities outside of the county. This requires ownership or access to a vehicle.

Very Low Income

Very Low Income is defined by each district and is used in determining priorities for child care benefits.

Very Low Income is defined as **175%** of the State Income Standard.

Definition of Engaged In Work For Child Care In Lieu of Temporary Assistance

The minimum number of hours for Federal Fiscal Year 2006 are:

- **20 hours for a single parent with a child under the age of six years old**
- **30 hours for a single parent whose children are six years of age and older**
- **in two parent families the parents must be working a combined total of 55 hours with at least one parent working 30 or more hours.**

If a district proposes a higher minimum number of required hours of work describe the requirement below.

Montgomery County does not impose a higher minimum hours work.

- **hours for a single parent with a child under the age of six years old**
- **hours for a single parent whose children are six years of age and older**
- **in two parent families the parents must be working a combined total of 55hours with at least one parent working or more hours.**

Family Share

Family share is the weekly amount paid towards the costs of the child care services by the child's parent or caretaker. In establishing family share, your district must select a percentage from 10% to 35% to use in calculating the family share. The family share of child care is calculated by applying the family share percentage against the amount of the family's annual gross income that is in excess of the State Income Standard divided by 52.

Family Share Percentage selected by our district **35%**.

Case Closings (select one or two)

1. The district must describe below how priority is given to federally mandated priorities and describe local priorities. If all NYSCCBG funds are committed, the district will discontinue funding to those families that have lower priorities in order to serve families with higher priorities. Described below is how the district will select cases to be closed in the event that there are insufficient or no funds available.

1 – Families above 175% of poverty

2. The district has not established priorities beyond the federally-mandated priorities. If all NYSCCBG funds are committed, case closings for families which are not eligible under a child care guarantee and are not a federally-mandated priority must be based on the length of time in receipt of services. The length of time used to close cases may be based either on the shortest or longest time receiving child care services but must be consistent for all families. The district has chosen to close cases based on:

- shortest time receiving child care services
- longest time receiving child care services

Case Openings

The district must describe below how priority is given to federally mandated priorities and how the district will select cases to be opened in the event that there are insufficient funds available.

- 1 – Very low income cases (below 175%)**
- 2 – Children having special needs**
- 3 – Teenage parents**

Fraud and Abuse Control Activities

The district must identify below the criteria it will use to determine which child care subsidy applications suggest a higher than acceptable risk for fraudulent or erroneous child care subsidy payment and procedures for referring such applications to the district's front end detection system.

Referral to the front end fraud detection system is based on the following indicators:
>**Financial obligations are current, but stated expenses exceed income with no reasonable explanation.**

>**Working off the books (currently or previously).**

>**Supported by loans or gifts from family/friends.**

>**Application is inconsistent with prior case information.**

>**Prior history of denial, case closing, or overpayment resulting from an investigation.**

The district must describe below its sampling methodology used to determine which cases it will seek verification of an applicant or recipient's continued need for child care including, as applicable, verification of participation in employment, education or other required activities.

Any case with one or more of the listed indicators is referred for investigation.

The district must describe below its sampling methodology used to determine which child care providers of subsidized child care services they will review for the purpose of comparing the child care providers attendance forms for children receiving subsidized child care services and

any child and adult care food program inspection forms to verify that child care was actually provided on the days listed on the attendance forms.

Providers are all required to submit time sheets with both parent and caregiver signatures to verify times of child care provision.

APPENDIX G-4

IV. District Options (Required Section)

Districts have certain flexibility to administer the child care subsidy program to meet local needs. Check which options that your district wishes to include in your county plan. Complete attachments for any area(s) checked.

1. Our district has identified local priorities in addition to the federal priorities (complete Appendix G-5).
2. Our district has chosen to establish funding set-asides for NYSCCBG (complete Appendix G-6).
3. Our district is using Title XX funds for the provision of child care services (complete Appendix G-7).
4. Our district has chosen to establish additional local standards for child care providers (complete Appendix G-8).
5. Our district has chosen to make payments to child care providers for absences (complete Appendix G-9).
6. Our district has chosen to make payments to child care providers for program closures (complete Appendix G-10).
7. Our district has chosen to pay for transportation to and from a child care provider (complete Appendix G-11).
8. Our district has chosen to pay up to a 15% higher than the applicable market rates for regulated child care services that have been accredited by a nationally recognized child care organization (complete Appendix G-11).
9. Our district has chosen to pay up to 15% higher than the applicable market rates for non-traditional hours (complete Appendix G-11).
10. Our district has chosen to pay for child care services while a caretaker who works the second or third shift sleeps (complete Appendix G-11).
11. Our district has chosen to make payments to child care providers who provide child care services, which exceed 24 consecutive hours (complete Appendix G-12).
12. Our district has chosen to include 18, 19 or 20 year olds in the Child Care Services Unit (complete Appendix G-12).
13. Our district is seeking a waiver from one or more regulatory provisions.

Such waivers are limited to those regulatory standards that are not specifically included in law (complete Appendix G- 12).

14. Our district has chosen to pay for breaks in activity for low income families (non public assistance families, complete Appendix G-12).
15. Our district has chosen to use local equivalent forms such as, but not limited to, child care application, client notification and/or legally exempt enrollment forms (attach copies of the local equivalent forms your district uses).

Any previous approvals for local equivalent forms will not be carried forward into this county plan. Therefore, any local equivalent forms a district wishes to establish or renew must be included in this plan and will be subject to review and approval by OCFS.

APPENDIX G-5
PRIORITY POPULATIONS-ADDITIONAL LOCAL PRIORITIES

In addition to the federal priorities of very low income families and families with children who have special needs, the following additional local priorities have been selected:

Category: Teenage parents

Rank: 3

Description:

Category:

Rank:

Description:

**APPENDIX G-9
PAYMENT TO CHILD CARE PROVIDERS FOR ABSENCES**

The following providers are eligible for payment for absences:
(Check any that are eligible)

- Day Care Center Legally Exempt Group
 Group Family Day Care School Age Child Care
 Family Day Care

Our district will only pay for absences to providers with which the district has a contract or letter of intent. Yes No

Base period selected (check one) 3 months 6 months

Number of absences allowed during base period:

Period	Routine Limits (# of days)	Extenuating Circumstances (# of days)	Total Number of Absences Allowed (# of days)
In a month	12		12
Base period	12		12

List reasons for absences for which the district will allow payment:

Provider has not had notice of absence 24 hours or more in advance.

List any limitations on the above providers' eligibility for payment for absences:

Time paid cannot exceed normal care schedule for any given day.

Note: Legally exempt family child care and in-home child care providers are **not** eligible to receive payment for absences.

**APPENDIX G-11
TRANSPORTATION, DIFFERENTIAL PAYMENT RATES, SLEEP**

Transportation

Describe below under what circumstances and limitations if any your district will use to reimburse for transportation, what type of transportation will be reimbursed (public vs. private), and how much your district will pay (per mile or trip). Note if paying for transportation, Appendix F will need to reflect this choice.

Differential Payment Rates

Indicate below the percentage above the market rate your district has chosen.

Accredited Programs may receive a differential payment up to _____ % above market rate.

Care during non-traditional hours may be paid up to _____ % above market rate.

Limitations to the above differentials are as follows:

Payments may not exceed 15% above market rate. However, if your district wishes to establish a payment rate that is in excess of 15% above the applicable market rate must describe below why the 15% maximum is insufficient to provide access within the district to accredited programs and/or care provided during non-traditional hours.

Sleep

The following describes the standards that will be used in evaluating whether or not to pay for child care services while a parent or caretaker that works a second or third shift sleeps and any limitations pertaining to payment:

Montgomery County will pay for daytime child care while a parent or caretaker sleeps after working second or third shift.

Indicate the number of hours allowed by your district (maximum number of hours allowed is eight). **Hours are allowed as needed, up to eight.**