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April 24, 2020 Contact: Vicki Caramante, 845-422-7972

Child Care Resources of Rockland, Inc. connects Essential Workers with CARES Child Care Scholarships

Rockland County, NY – Child Care Resources of Rockland, Inc. (CCRR) applauds the action of the Cuomo Administration in developing a plan to provide child care to essential workers at no cost. This allocation of funding comes to the state from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (the "CARES Act"), which has provided New York with \$163.6 million in emergency relief to the child care system.

New York State is using a portion of this funding to provide free child care in the form of scholarships for income eligible essential workers using regulated child care providers for the cost of care as long as the funds to support it are available. All licensed and regulated providers caring for essential workers are able to participate in this new program.

Access to affordable and safe child care is a barrier for working parents during the best of times, and even more so during a crisis. New York State's plan will ensure that the workforce that is needed to protect and care for the public during this pandemic has the child care that allows them to continue to serve us all. Child care resource and referral agencies are the child care experts and the conduit to accessing child care in New York State.

Income-eligible essential employees with child care needs should register <u>here.</u> (Registration is also available in <u>Chinese</u> and <u>Spanish</u>.) They will be contacted by CCRR within one business day. Interested providers should register <u>here</u> (<u>Spanish</u>). We will follow up on next steps to gather information about your household and help you identify a participating child care provider or work with your current registered or licensed child care provider.

Families or providers seeking additional information about the program should visit <u>childcarerockland.org</u> or call 845-425-0009 x0.

Child Care Resources of Rockland, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit child care resource and referral agency serving all of Rockland County. We are one of 34 Child Care Resource and Referral agencies (CCR&Rs) serving all of New York and are dedicated to enhancing the healthy development of all children. We coordinate and plan for local child care services, and provide support to child care providers, parents, businesses and local governments, while advocating at the local, state, and national level for adequate investment! Increasing the supply of high quality child care by providing a broad range of support services to child care providers, CCR&Rs also help families make informed decisions about available child care services.