



**DEPARTMENTS OF MENTAL HEALTH
SOCIAL SERVICES AND YOUTH BUREAU**

September 10, 2025

Dear Putnam County Families and Child Care Providers,

Putnam County is currently reviewing the level of childcare assistance funds available to support our community and rate of spending. Our level of demand is outpacing our state funding allocation due to the following key factors:

NYS reduced the parent share of cost to 1%. Previously, parents were responsible for up to 10%.

NYS expanded eligibility to 85% of the State Median Income. The change has significantly increased the number of families eligible for assistance.

NYS now authorizes providers to submit up to 80 absences per child per year. If a child changes providers, the new provider is also eligible to submit up to 80 absences.

In addition, federal regulations require that there is no ability to re-determine eligibility during the minimum 12-month eligibility period, regardless of temporary changes in the ongoing status of the child's parent as working or attending a job training or educational program.

Because of these policy changes, and the increased enrollment in the program, Putnam must, for the first time, close the childcare assistance for new applications and recertifications effective September 15, 2025, due to insufficient funding. We will continue to authorize assistance for families receiving Temporary Assistance.

To avoid any misunderstanding, please know that all childcare assistance funds the county receives from the federal and state governments are required to be spend on childcare. The county does not keep or redirect these funds for other purposes.

The Departments of Mental Health, Social Services & Youth Bureau remain committed to supporting you throughout this transition and will keep you informed of any developments.

If you have any questions, please call 845-808-1500.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sara Servadio", is written over a horizontal line.

Sara Servadio
Commissioner