State Agency Update: OCFS From Janice Molnar 9/24/20

**Remote Learning:**

* On August 19, 2020 we issued emergency regulations regarding the definition of “school day” to ensure that child care subsidies could be paid while children are in care while undergoing remote learning, and that licensed providers could care for school aged children during the school day.
* In late August, we released a Dear Provider letter regarding the roles and responsibilities of a child care provider during remote learning, as well as a policy statement of when remote learning arrangements need a child care license.
* These changes were designed to provide clarity to the field with remote learning, and allow flexibility for families as they try to make arrangements during these unusual times.

 **CARES 2**

* In Mid-August, OCFS awarded $50 million in CARES 2 funds to nearly 4000 providers in every region of the State.
* $5 million in re-opening/restructuring grants to support supplies and materials needed to support social distancing (PPE, room dividers, individual art kits).
* $45 million in temporary operating support to support program bringing classrooms/groups online.
* All eligible applicants were approved.

**CARES 3**

* CARES 3 was announced on September 11
* $20 million essential worker scholarship (up to 300% of poverty)
* $20 million temporary rental assistance for displaced school based programs.\*
* $20 million restructuring/reopening by October 1 (previous grants had to be open by August 5) \*
* $22.6 million for another round of temporary operating support (new classrooms/groups) coming on by October 1. \*

**Note:**  Applications for items marked with an asterisk will be available on Friday, September 25.  Funds will be awarded on a rolling basis until they are fully expended or until December 31, 2020, whichever comes first.

**Other agency updates:**

* OCFS inspectors back in the field
* OCFS has a weekly survey of enrollment data during COVID.  (Completing the survey is a condition of receiving a CARES grant; voluntary for everyone else.)