# NY First Three (F3) CHILD CARE EXPANSION PILOT

## PROVIDER FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **What is the NY F3 pilot?**
   The NY First 3 pilot is a contracted care initiative that stabilizes and expands seats for 0-3 years old in parts of the state with severe shortages. Broome County is one of three counties in NYS participating in this pilot. As such, Broome County is currently accepting applications from providers interested in creating and maintaining enrollment-based seats for infants up to and including three-year-olds.

2. **What does the pilot offer?**
   Broome County will enter into contracts with selected providers and pay a contracted weekly rate for approved NYS First Three childcare slots.

3. **Who can apply?**
   Only Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS)licensed/registered Day Care Centers, Family Day Care Homes, and Group Family Day Care Homes in good standing will be eligible to apply.

4. **Which families will be eligible for the First Three slots?**
   The NY F3 pilot slots will be available for eligible families with children 0-3 years of age. who live in Broome County. There is no means testing used for eligibility.

5. **How many slots can I offer?**
   This will be based on capacity and providers contracted number of slots available. Some restrictions may apply.

6. **How much will I be paid?**
   Monthly rates follow NY F3 contracted rate structure which is based on the regional OCFS Market rate.

7. **When will I be paid?**
   NY F3 providers will start being paid when the contract starts and have 30 days to fill the slot.

8. **How many absences are NYS F3 families allowed?**
   Once a family is enrolled, the provider will be reimbursed for up to 80 absences per child per year.

9. **What are the requirements for being a contracted NYS F3 provider?**
   NY F3 providers must accept Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) families.
   NY F3 providers must be licensed in good standing with NYS Office of Children and Family Services.
   NY F3 providers will be required to use an OCFS compatible Child Care Management System for attendance tracking and reporting.
   At this point, contracted slots cannot make up more than 50% of your total revenue source.

10. **What if a slot is empty due to a family disenrolling?**
    Under the pilot rules, you may receive payments for up to 30 calendar days while an eligible child is found to fill a slot after a family leaves. After that, payments stop until the spot is filled. You must follow First Three contract requirements for reporting empty slots and tracking absences.

11. **When should I apply and how long does it last?**
    Apply as soon as possible. The County reviews applications as they arrive. Applications close on February 28, 2029, or when funding runs out, whichever comes first. The pilot lasts three years. Your contract may start later, but it cannot go past the pilot's end date.

12. **How do I apply to become a NYF3 provider?**
    If you have a Bid Net account, interested providers can complete the application in RFA-2026-058, printed pages 4 through 6. Include your business details, childcare slots, hours, start dates, and provider history. If a provider does not have a Bid Net account, applications can be mailed to Broome County Department of Social Services, Attention Nancy Williams, 36–42 Main Street, Binghamton, NY 13905.

13. **Will there be additional financial support to be an F3 provider?**
    Yes, there will be financial incentives offered. Details are currently being developed.

**Ready to explore participation or need an application?**
Contact Nancy WilliamsNancy.Williams@broomecountyny.gov
607-778-2600

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