



OASAS Assistance for Service Providers During the COVID-19 Disaster Emergency

Thank you for your continued commitment to offer SUD clients necessary services in these challenging times. Your service is essential to the citizens of New York. In recognition of the unprecedented challenge which New York now faces in relation to the COVID-19 virus and consistent with the Governor's declaration of a state of emergency, OASAS is temporarily waiving our rules and regulations to ensure maximum flexibility and support to OASAS certified and/or funded providers. Specifically:

FLEXIBILITY / RECIPROCITY:

Regulatory Flexibility: OASAS will waive regulations where needed, for staffing and space configuration to accommodate staffing shortages and isolation/quarantine needs of patients in residential facilities.

Tele-Practice: OASAS has instituted an expedited approval process for tele-practice with signed attestation. See:

<https://oasas.ny.gov/telepractice-waiver-guidance>

<https://oasas.ny.gov/telepractice-attestation>

<https://oasas.ny.gov/telepractice-waiver-update>

<https://oasas.ny.gov/telepractice-waiver-update-31820>

Criminal Background Checks: OASAS will allow individuals who have successfully completed a criminal background check performed by another State agency to work in OASAS-certified programs;

License & Credential Requirements: Where an OASAS provider has insufficient staff because of the COVID-19 virus, OASAS will temporarily allow individuals with a CASAC-T to act as Qualified Health Professionals (QHP) and individuals who are provisional QHPs to act as QHPs.

Filing of Consolidated Fiscal Reports: An upcoming fiscal requirement, applicable for calendar year filers, is the submission of an annual Consolidated Fiscal Report (CFR) which is due by June 1, 2020. With the intent to temporarily reduce the issues providers should focus on, OASAS is extending the deadline to August 1, 2020. OASAS understands that the New York State Office of Mental Hygiene (OMH) has approved a similar extension for their providers. If you also have requirements to file a CFR with an agency other than OASAS or OMH, a communication from those other agencies should be forthcoming. Additional inquiries about your agency's 2019 CFR should be submitted to: cfrs@oasas.ny.gov

CASAC Credentialing: To limit the impact on the workforce, OASAS will place a hold on the expiration date for all credentials including the CASAC-Trainee effective March 17, 2020. This hold will allow individuals whose credentials were set to expire to continue working during the response period. This hold does not reactivate credentials that were expired prior to March 17, 2020. The hold will remain in place until April 17, 2020, at which time normal expiration dates will resume. The

Credential Verification Page of the NYS OASAS website may not be updated during this period, so it may reflect the original expiration date of your credential. If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail the Credentialing Unit at: Credentialing@oasas.ny.gov

FUNDING:

Providers are required to maintain records of all COVID-19 expenses. OASAS will reimburse providers for all reasonable costs incurred

Contract Recoveries: OASAS will temporarily postponing all current recoupment and normal annual reconciliation withholds until further notice to help provider's cash flow.

Contract x-restrictions: OASAS will lift x-restrictions where necessary for operating programs;

Program Recertification Reviews: To ensure program staff remain focused on the health and safety of their clients, OASAS is temporarily suspending all program recertification reviews;

Prevention Programs: Prevention providers who are not able to meet Performance Standards will not be penalized fiscally.

Small OTP Programs: OASAS will explore options to support small OTP providers who do not have net deficit options during this emergency.

Additionally, OASAS providers should be aware that OASAS has created a webpage with information related to SUD issues and the COVID-19 epidemic. The webpage can be accessed at: <https://oasas.ny.gov/keywords/coronavirus>