



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: The Credentialing Unit is continuing to receive mail and process applications during the COVID-19 PAUSE period. Documents or applications can be faxed, e-mailed or mailed as per usual.

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 all 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 March 8, 2021. The Credential Verification page of the NYS OASAS website may not be updated during this period. Applicants unable to submit their application during this period due to the

COVID-19 response will not be required to pay a late fee for this period. Documentation for credentials/applications that expired during this period must be received by Monday February 12, 2021 to avoid a lapse in credential on March 9, 2021.

Identogo locations for fingerprinting are open in most areas currently. Applicants may submit their applications without having completed the fingerprinting first, but they will need to have the fingerprinting completed by February 12, 2021 to ensure continuation of their credential.

If you are looking for online trainings to complete for renewal continuing education, there are two resources on the OASAS website:

- <https://oasas.ny.gov/training/learning-thursdays>
- <https://oasas.ny.gov/training/professional-learning-and-development>

For CASAC-T's who still need to take the exam, most exam sites are currently open and you may register for the exam if eligible. Seating at each exam site has been reduced to allow for social distancing, so early registration is suggested to ensure you are able to take the exam prior to the expiration date of your CASAC-T.

Additional Information will be issued to all impacted applicants at a later date. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact 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>