



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 a 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. Documents or applications can be faxed, e-mailed, or mailed as per usual. The OASAS issued hold on credential expiration dates ended on March 8, 2021. Credentialed individuals who were unable to renew prior to that date due to the impact of COVID-19 may request a 90-day extension of their credential by e-mailing the Credentialing Unit at Credentialing@oasas.ny.gov.

Additionally, late fees will be waived for eligible individuals until 12/31/2021. This extension opportunity does not apply to credentials that were expired prior to March 17, 2020. The Credential Verification page of the NYS OASAS website may not be updated during this period and those approved for extensions should use the letter they receive, approving their extension, to document to their employer their credential is active. If individuals 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>