NASSAU COUNTY COMPTROLLER
ELAINE PHILLIPS
240 Old Country Rd 2nd Flr., Mineola, NY 11501
PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact: Wendy L. Goldstein
wgoldstein@nassaucountyny.gov
516.571.2478

September 14, 2026

Nassau County Comptroller's Office Completes Part 1 of an Audit of DSS Child Care Assistance Program

(Mineola, NY) – The Office of Nassau County Comptroller Elaine Phillips has completed Part 1 of a review of the County's Department of Social Services (DSS) Child Care Assistance Program. The audit was launched at the request of Jose L. Lopez, Commissioner of Nassau County Department of Social Services. Commissioner Lopez requested that the Comptroller's Field Audit division help define, analyze and document the day care intake and payment processes and make recommendations to improve DSS' operational efficiency to help improve the timeliness of payments to day care providers.

The 51-page report provides a comprehensive overview of the New York State Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), which is overseen by the NYS Office and Children and Family Services (OCFS) but administered by local Departments of Social Services.

The State's expansion of eligibility criteria since 2022 has led to a 71% increase in the number of children receiving child care services through the program in Nassau County over the past three years (from 4,259 to 7,301) and an 81% increase in the number of child care cases (from 2,741 to 4,963) in Nassau over the same period.

Approximately 99% of Nassau's child care cases are fully reimbursed by the NYS Child Care Block Grant. However, despite a concerted effort to increase staffing levels at Nassau DSS, the ballooning caseloads and associated administrative tasks have put a strain on staff at DSS who process all new and recertifying applications for Child Care Assistance. This involves verifying families' income, residency, immigration status of the children and programmatic eligibility. DSS staff also pay child care providers directly for those families receiving a subsidy, protects the rights and responsibilities of families receiving child care assistance, and submits reimbursement claims to NYS.

"New York State's expansion of eligibility for subsidized childcare has opened the door for a major increase in applicants and the number of licensed child care providers registered with the State has increased as well," said Commissioner Lopez. "The report from the Comptroller's Office provides valuable insight into the complexities of subsidized child care in New York State and Nassau County and will be a great resource for us as we streamline our processes and improve efficiency."

Part 2 of the audit, due out later this year, will include analysis of the policies, procedures and operations of Nassau County's DSS Day Care Unit. It will detail operational weaknesses identified by the Comptroller's Office and include specific recommendations to assist DSS leadership and staff to improve efficiency and improve timeliness of payments to vendors.

Part 1 of the audit can be read here.

About the Comptroller's Office

Comptroller Elaine Phillips is the independent protector of the taxpayers and residents of Nassau County. With a population of almost 1.4 million people and an annual budget of approximately $5 billion, Nassau County relies on Comptroller Phillips and her dedicated staff to monitor Nassau's budget and financial operations. The Comptroller's Office reports on matters that affect Nassau's financial health, proactively advocates for operational efficiency on behalf of the taxpayers, and audits government departments and outside agencies that do business with the county to uncover and prevent waste, fraud, and inefficiency.

For more information, access the Comptroller's website at www.nassaucountyny.gov/1590/County-Comptroller or email nccomptroller@nassaucountyny.gov.

# # #