

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES**

DATE: February 18, 2020
TIME: 10:00 A.M.
LOCATION: Room 3110B, Rhodes State Office Tower
30 East Broad St., Columbus, Ohio 43215

Pursuant to section 5104.29 and Chapter 119 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Director of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services gives notice of the department's intent to amend the rules as identified below and of a public hearing thereon due to Am. Sub. H.B. 166 of the 133rd General Assembly.

Rule 5101:2-17-02 of the Administrative Code " 'Step Up To Quality' (SUTQ): eligibility for registration" sets forth the requirements for programs to register for Step Up To Quality. It is being amended to allow a licensed program that operates only in the summer or during non-traditional hours or has a temporary closure to register for SUTQ. These programs were previously not eligible to register for SUTQ.

Rule 5101:2-17-03 of the Administrative Code " 'Step Up To Quality' (SUTQ): desk reviews, on-site verification visits and star rating awards" describes the requirements for desk reviews and rating awards. It is being amended to clarify that a licensed program whose license is in temporary closure will need to request a reinstatement of its star rating prior to the reopening of the license, to avoid a gap in providing PFCC services. Reinstatement of the star rating will be effective the same date as the license reinstatement.

Rule 5101:2-17-04 of the Administrative Code " 'Step Up To Quality' (SUTQ): changes, renewals, removals, or requests to withdraw a SUTQ rating" gives the requirements for when a rating can be changed, renewed or removed. It is being amended to make clarifications to the process for the change, renewal, removal or program request to withdraw a SUTQ rating.

The rule is being updated to clarify that a reduction or removal made as a result of the annual report is made pursuant to paragraph (F)(3) of this rule, a program shall not be awarded another rating for six months after the new rating begin date if the program receives a SUTQ rating reduction, including reduction to a zero rating and a program shall not be awarded a star rating for twelve months from the date of a SUTQ rating removal. Currently these programs cannot even begin a registration for 6 or 12 months after a reduction or removal.

For programs with an agreement to provide publicly funded child care that meet an exemption from SUTQ pursuant to Chapter 5101:2-16 of the Administrative Code, registration submissions should be made in a timely manner to avoid a gap in providing PFCC services.

A program currently meeting a time-limited exemption will need to submit a registration between one hundred eighty days and ninety days prior to the expiration of the exemption to avoid a gap in

providing PFCC services. This includes a reduction or removal pursuant to paragraph (F) of this rule as well as a program at the end of its provisional license period.

A program no longer meeting any of the other exemption criteria will need to submit a registration within thirty days of no longer meeting the exemption criteria to avoid a gap in providing PFCC services.

Copies of the proposed rules are available without charge, to any person affected by the rules at the address listed below. The rules are also available on the internet at <http://www.registerofohio.state.oh.us/>. A public hearing on the proposed rules will be held at the date, time, and location listed at the top of this notice. Either written or oral testimony will be taken at the public hearing. Additionally, written comments submitted or postmarked no later than the date of the public hearing will be treated as testimony.

Requests for a copy of the proposed rules or comments on the rules should be submitted by mail to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Office of Legal and Acquisition Services, 30 East Broad Street, 31st Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3414, by fax at (614) 752-8298 or by e-mail at rules@jfs.ohio.gov.