

Notice of Proposed Rule Making

Temporary and Disability Assistance, Office of
(SUBMITTING AGENCY)

- ☒ Approval has been granted by Executive Chamber to propose this rule making.
☐ This rule making does not require Executive Chamber approval.

NOTE: Typing and submission instructions are at the end of this form. Please be sure to COMPLETE ALL ITEMS. Incomplete forms will be cause for rejection of this notice.

1. A. *Proposed action:*

Addition of	§ 352.7(l) of	Title <u>18</u>	NYCRR
_____	_____	Title _____	NYCRR
_____	_____	Title _____	NYCRR
_____	_____	Title _____	NYCRR
_____	_____	Title _____	NYCRR
_____	_____	Title _____	NYCRR

- B. ☐ This is a consensus rule making. A statement is attached setting forth the agency's determination that no person is likely to object to the rule as written [SAPA §202(1)(b)(i)].
- C. ☐ This rule was previously proposed as a consensus rule making under I.D. No. _____. Attached is a brief description of the objection that caused/is causing the prior notice to be withdrawn [SAPA §202(1)(e)].
- D. ☐ This rule is proposed pursuant to [SAPA §207(3)], 5-Year Review of Existing Rules (see also item 16).

2. *Statutory authority under which the rule is proposed:*

Social Services Law §§ 20(3)(d), 34(3)(f), 131(1), 131-a(5)(f-1), and 355(3); Part Q of Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2025

3. *Subject of the rule:*

Provision of a one-time benefit of \$1,800.00 to public assistance (PA) recipients upon the birth of a new child

4. *Purpose of the rule:*

See attached addendum

5. *Public hearings* (check box and complete as applicable):

- ☒ A public hearing is not scheduled. (*SKIP TO ITEM 8*)
- ☐ A public hearing is required by law and is scheduled below. (**Note:** first hearing date must be at least 60 days **after** publication of this notice unless a different time is specified in statute.)
- ☐ A public hearing is not required by law, but is scheduled below.

Time:

Date:

Location:

6. *Interpreter services* (check only if a public hearing is scheduled):

- ☐ Interpreter services will be made available to hearing impaired persons, at no charge, upon written request to the agency contact designated in this notice.

7. *Accessibility* (check appropriate box only if a public hearing is scheduled):

- ☐ All public hearings have been scheduled at places reasonably accessible to persons with a mobility impairment.
- ☐ Attached is a list of public hearing locations that are **not** reasonably accessible to persons with a mobility impairment. An explanation is submitted regarding diligent efforts made to provide accessible hearing sites.

8. *Terms of rule* (SELECT ONE SECTION):

- A. ☒ The full text of the rule is attached because it does not exceed 2,000 words.
- B. ☐ A summary of the rule is attached because the full text of the rule exceeds 2,000 words.

☐ Full text is posted on the following State website. [Pursuant to SAPA §202(7)(d), provide sufficient information to enable the public to access the full text without extensive searching. For example, provide a URL or a title to either a webpage or a specific section of the website where the full text is posted]:

- C. ☐ Pursuant to SAPA §202(7)(b), the agency elects to print a description of the subject, purpose and substance of the rule as defined in SAPA §102(2)(a)(ii) [Rate Making]. Web posting of full text of such rule is not required [SAPA §202(1)(a)].

9. *The text of the rule and any required statements and analyses may be obtained from:*

Agency contact Richard P. Rhodes, Jr.

Agency Name New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

Office address 40 North Pearl Street, 16-C
Albany, NY 12243-0001

Telephone (518) 486-7503 E-mail: richard.rhodesjr@otda.ny.gov

10. *Submit data, views or arguments to* (complete only if different than previously named agency contact):

Agency contact _____

Agency name _____

Office address _____

Telephone _____ E-mail: _____

11. *Public comment will be received until:*

- ☒ 60 days after publication of this notice (MINIMUM public comment period).
- ☐ 5 days after the last scheduled public hearing required by statute (MINIMUM, with required hearing).
- ☐ Other: (specify) _____.

12. A prior emergency rule making for this action was previously published in the _____ issue of the *Register*, I.D. No. _____.

13. *Expiration date* (check only if applicable):

☐ This proposal will not expire in 365 days because it is for a "rate making" as defined in SAPA §102(2)(a)(ii).

14. *Additional matter required by statute*:

☐ Yes (include below material required by statute).

☒ No additional material required by statute.

15. *Regulatory Agenda* (See SAPA §202-d[1]):

☐ This rule was a Regulatory Agenda item for this agency in the following issue of the *State Register*:

_____.

☒ This rule was not under consideration at the time this agency submitted its Regulatory Agenda for publication in the *Register*.

☐ Not applicable.

16. **Review of Existing Rules** (ALL ATTACHMENTS MUST BE 2,000 WORDS OR LESS)

This rule is proposed pursuant to SAPA §207 (item 1D applies) (check applicable boxes):

☐ Attached is a statement setting forth a reasoned justification for modification of the rule. Where appropriate, include a discussion of the degree to which changes in technology, economic conditions or other factors in the area affected by the rule necessitate changes in the rule.

☐ Attached is an assessment of public comments received by the agency in response to its publication of a list of rules to be reviewed.

☐ An assessment of public comments is not attached because no comments were received.

☒ Not applicable.

17. **Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS)**

(SELECT AND COMPLETE ONE; ALL ATTACHMENTS MUST BE 2,000 WORDS OR LESS, EXCLUDING SUMMARIES OF STUDIES, REPORTS OR ANALYSES [Needs and Benefits]):

A. The attached RIS contains:

☒ The full text of the RIS.

☐ A summary of the RIS.

☐ Full text is posted on the following State website. [Pursuant to SAPA §202(7)(d), provide sufficient information to enable the public to access the full text without extensive searching. For example, provide a URL or a title to either a webpage or a specific section of the website where the full text is posted]:

☐ A consolidated RIS, because this rule is one of a series of closely related and simultaneously proposed rules or is virtually identical to rules proposed during the same year.

B. A RIS is **not attached**, because this rule is:

☐ subject to a consolidated RIS printed in the *Register* under I.D. No.: _____ - _____; issue date: _____.

☐ exempt, as defined in SAPA §102(2)(a)(ii) [Rate Making].

☐ exempt, as defined in SAPA §102(11) [Consensus Rule Making].

C. ☐ A **statement is attached** claiming exemption pursuant to SAPA § 202-a (technical amendment).

18. Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (RFA) for small businesses and local governments

(SELECT AND COMPLETE ONE; ALL ATTACHMENTS MUST BE 2,000 WORDS OR LESS):

A. The attached RFA contains:

☒ The full text of the RFA.☐ A summary of the RFA.

☐ Full text is posted on the following State website. [Pursuant to SAPA §202(7)(d), provide sufficient information to enable the public to access the full text without extensive searching. For example, provide a URL or a title to either a webpage or a specific section of the website where the full text is posted]:

☐ A consolidated RFA, because this rule is one of a series of closely related rules.

B. ☐ A **statement is attached** explaining why a RFA is not required. This statement is in scanner format and explains the agency's finding that the rule will not impose any adverse economic impact or reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements on small businesses or local governments and the reason(s) upon which the finding was made, including any measures used to determine that the rule will not impose such adverse economic impacts or compliance requirements.

C. A RFA is **not** attached, because this rule:

☐ is subject to a consolidated RFA printed in the *Register* under I.D. No.: _____ - _____; issue date: _____.

☐ is exempt, as defined in SAPA §102(2)(a)(ii) [Rate Making].

☐ is exempt, as defined in SAPA §102(11) [Consensus Rule Making].

19. Rural Area Flexibility Analysis (RAFA)

(SELECT AND COMPLETE ONE; ALL ATTACHMENTS MUST BE 2,000 WORDS OR LESS):

A. The attached RAFA contains:

☒ The full text of the RAFA.☐ A summary of the RAFA.

☐ Full text is posted on the following State website. [Pursuant to SAPA §202(7)(d), provide sufficient information to enable the public to access the full text without extensive searching. For example, provide a URL or a title to either a webpage or a specific section of the website where the full text is posted]:

☐ A consolidated RAFA, because this rule is one of a series of closely related rules.

B. ☐ A **statement is attached** explaining why a RAFA is not required. This statement is in scanner format and explains the agency's finding that the rule will not impose any adverse impact on rural areas or reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements on public or private entities in rural areas and the reason(s) upon which the finding was made, including what measures were used to determine that the rule will not impose such adverse impact or compliance requirements.

C. A RAFA is **not attached**, because this rule:

☐ is subject to a consolidated RAFA printed in the *Register* under I.D. No.: _____ - _____; issue date: _____.

☐ is exempt, as defined in SAPA §102(2)(a)(ii) [Rate Making].

☐ is exempt, as defined in SAPA §102(11) [Consensus Rule Making].

20. Job Impact Statement (JIS)

(SELECT AND COMPLETE ONE; ALL ATTACHMENTS MUST BE 2,000 WORDS OR LESS):

A. The attached JIS contains:

☐ The full text of the JIS.☐ A summary of the JIS.

☐ Full text is posted on the following State website. [Pursuant to SAPA §202(7)(d), provide sufficient information to enable the public to access the full text without extensive searching. For example, provide a URL or a title to either a webpage or a specific section of the website where the full text is posted]:

☐ A consolidated JIS, because this rule is one of a series of closely related rules.

B. ☒ A **statement is attached** explaining why a JIS is not required. This statement is in scanner format and explains the agency's finding that the rule will not have a substantial adverse impact on jobs and employment opportunities (as apparent from its nature and purpose) and explains the agency's finding that the rule will have a positive impact or no impact on jobs and employment opportunities; except when it is evident from the subject matter of the rule that it could only have a positive impact or no impact on jobs and employment opportunities, the statement shall include a summary of the information and methodology underlying that determination.

☐ A JIS/Request for Assistance [SAPA §201-a(2)(c)] is attached.C. A JIS is **not attached**, because this rule:

☐ is subject to a consolidated JIS printed in the *Register* under I.D. No.: _____ - _____
issue date: _____.

☐ is exempt, as defined in SAPA §102(2)(a)(ii) [Rate Making].☐ is proposed by the State Comptroller or Attorney General.**AGENCY CERTIFICATION (To be completed by the person who PREPARED the notice.)**

I have reviewed this form and the information submitted with it. The information contained in this notice is correct to the best of my knowledge.

I have reviewed Article 2 of SAPA and Parts 260 through 263 of 19 NYCRR, and I hereby certify that this notice complies with all applicable provisions.

Name Thomas Makely Signature /s/ Thomas Makely

Address N.Y.S.O.T.D.A., 40 North Pearl Street, 16C, Albany, NY 12243-0001

Telephone (518) 402-3966 E-Mail thomas.makely@otda.ny.gov

Date 07/29/2025

Please read before submitting this notice:

1. Except for this form itself, all text must be typed in the prescribed format as described in the Department of State's Register procedures manual, *Rule Making in New York*.
2. Rule making notices, with any necessary attachments (in MS Word), should be e-filed via the Department of State website.

8. Purpose of the rule:

To improve the health of newborn infants by providing for a one-time benefit to public assistance recipients upon the birth of a new child, pursuant to the statutory amendment to SSL § 131-a(5) set forth in Part Q of Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2025 (Birth Allowance for Beginning Year [BABY] Benefit).

Section 352.7 of Title 18 NYCRR is amended to ADD a new subdivision (I) to read as follows:

§ 352.7 Allowances and grants for other items of need.

(I) [Reserved] A one-time benefit of \$1800.00 per child, to provide for immediate needs associated with the birth of such child, shall be provided to public assistance recipients upon the birth of a new child, born on or after November 5, 2025.

Regulatory Impact Statement

1. Statutory authority:

Social Services Law (SSL) § 20(3)(d) authorizes the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) to promulgate regulations to carry out its powers and duties.

SSL § 34(3)(f) requires the Commissioner of OTDA to establish regulations for the administration of public assistance (PA) within the State.

SSL § 131(1) requires social services districts (districts), insofar as funds are available, to provide adequately for those unable to maintain themselves, in accordance with the provisions of the SSL.

SSL § 131-a(5)(f-1), as amended by Part Q of Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2025, authorizes OTDA to adopt regulations to provide for a one-time benefit to PA recipients upon the birth of a new child.

SSL § 355(3) requires OTDA to promulgate regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of the SSL concerning Family Assistance (FA).

2. Legislative objectives:

It was the intent of the Legislature in enacting the above statutes that OTDA establish rules, regulations, and policies so that adequate provisions are made for those persons unable to cover their basic necessities and support their families so that, whenever possible, such persons can achieve economic stability.

3. Needs and benefits:

The proposed regulatory amendments are necessary to implement Part Q of Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2025, which authorizes a one-time benefit to PA recipients upon the birth of a new child, pursuant to OTDA regulations, effective November 5, 2025. The purpose of the proposed regulatory amendments is to improve the health of newborn infants by providing a one-time benefit to PA recipients upon the birth of a new child (the Birth Allowance for Beginning Year [BABY] Benefit).

There is currently no one-time benefit upon the birth of a child for PA recipients. The household's PA budget increases with the addition of a household member, but this amount may not be enough to enable the new parent to purchase sufficient essential items including but not limited to diapers, clothing, furniture, crib, car seat, etc. which are critical for the early childhood development period as well as for a child's short- and long-term physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing and outcomes. In order to receive the BABY Benefit, the household must already be in receipt of PA pursuant to Part Q of Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2025. PA recipients are currently required to notify the district of the birth of a child and provide appropriate documentation to add the newborn to the case. Upon notification and receipt of supporting documentation, the district would add the newborn to the case. At this time, and during the same system transaction that currently occurs, the district would process the one-time payment of \$1800 that is meant to help cover immediate expenses for essential items needed for the newborn.

Over 800,000 children in New York State reside in households living in poverty.^[1] Research clearly indicates that poverty creates a stress response that can negatively affect brain and physiological development, particularly in early childhood, which, in turn, may have life-long adverse impacts on achievement, behavior, social outcomes and physical and mental health.^[2] The birth of a child increases household costs, which can make it all that much harder for families living in poverty to achieve economic security. Extremely low-income parents often lack the most basic supplies needed

^[1] U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample 1-year Estimates

^[2] Troller-Renfree, S. V., Costanzo, M. A., Duncan, G. J., Magnuson, K., Gennetian, L. A., Yoshikawa, H., Halpern-Meehin, S., Fox, N. A., Noble, K. G. (2022). The impact of a poverty reduction intervention on infant brain activity. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 119(5). <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2115649119>

to adequately care for a newborn, including cribs or other safe sleep items, diapers, clothing, and more. The proposed rule would serve as a critical tool in helping low-income parents afford the costs associated with raising newborn(s), reducing childhood poverty and helping to mitigate its detrimental effects on public health and general welfare, as well as the associated costs to the districts in addressing these public health and general welfare issues, in districts throughout New York State.

4. Costs:

Legislation authorizing the proposed rule was adopted in the enacted budget for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2026. Costs associated with this initiative were also considered and factored into the enacted budget for SFY 2026.

As reflected in the State Financial Plan, the gross annual cost of this initiative is estimated to be approximately \$12.6 million, paid through the PA program. Of the estimated \$12.6 million gross annual costs: \$7.2 million is expected to be covered by Federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) funding; the annual State share is estimated to be \$1.3 million; the annual local share is estimated to be \$4.1 million; it is estimated that of this amount, the cost for New York City would be approximately \$3 million annually with the cost to remainder of districts being estimated at \$1.1 million.

The benefits of the proposed rule would outweigh the costs associated with the proposed rule in that the provision of the BABY Benefit would be an important tool to help reduce child poverty in New York State and to help improve upon the physical, mental, emotional, and social outcomes of children born to impoverished families receiving PA.

5. Local government mandates:

The proposed regulatory amendments would be mandatory for districts to implement.

6. Paperwork:

There would be no new district forms or reporting requirements associated with the proposed regulatory amendments.

7. Duplication:

The proposed regulatory amendments would not duplicate, overlap or conflict with existing State or Federal laws or regulations.

8. Alternatives:

An alternative to the proposed regulatory amendments would be to refrain from adopting them.

However, the benefits of adopting the proposed rule outweigh such alternative in that the provision of the BABY Benefit would be an important tool to help reduce child poverty in New York State and to improve upon the physical, mental, emotional, and social outcomes of children born to impoverished families receiving PA.

9. Federal standards:

The proposed regulatory amendments would not conflict with Federal standards for PA.

10. Compliance schedule:

Part Q of Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2025, which authorizes the BABY Benefit payment to be made by districts pursuant to OTDA regulations, takes effect November 5, 2025. This proposal would be effective upon publication of the Notice of Adoption in the *New York State Register*. Insofar as there would be no new forms or reporting requirements associated with the proposed regulatory amendments, OTDA anticipates that districts will make the BABY Benefit payment in compliance with this proposed rule upon its adoption.

Regulatory Flexibility Analysis for Small Businesses and Local Governments

1. Effect of rule:

The proposed rule would improve the health of newborn infants by providing a one-time benefit to public assistance (PA) recipients upon the birth of a new child (the Birth Allowance for Beginning Year [BABY]) Benefit pursuant to the statutory amendment to Social Services Law (SSL) § 131-a(5), set forth in Part Q of Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2025. The BABY Benefit meets needs not previously paid for via PA.

The proposed rule would have no anticipated impact on small business.

The proposed rule would impact local governments to the extent that local social services districts (districts) would be required to implement it. Districts would also incur additional costs associated with the benefit issuances.

2. Compliance requirement:

The proposed rule would impose minimal compliance requirements on districts and their staff. The additional one-time payment required by the proposed rule is being structured to be administered at a juncture whereby districts are already processing adding a new child to the household's PA case. The processing and issuance of the BABY Benefit payment would require minimal new tasks on the parts of district staff.

3. Professional services:

Districts would not need to procure any new professional services to implement the proposed rule.

4. Compliance costs:

Legislation authorizing the proposed rule was adopted in the enacted budget for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2026. Costs associated with this initiative were also considered and

factored into the enacted budget for SFY 2026.

As reflected in the State Financial Plan, the gross annual cost of this initiative is estimated to be approximately \$12.6 million, paid through the PA program. Of the estimated \$12.6 million gross annual costs: \$7.2 million is expected to be covered by Federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) funding; the annual State share is estimated to be \$1.3 million; the annual local share is estimated to be \$4.1 million; it is estimated that of this amount, the cost for New York City would be approximately \$3 million annually with the cost to remainder of districts being estimated at \$1.1 million .

The benefits of the proposed rule would outweigh the costs associated with the proposed rule in that the provision of the BABY Benefit would be an important tool to help reduce child poverty in New York State and to help improve upon the physical, mental, emotional, and social outcomes of children born to impoverished families receiving PA.

Over 800,000 children in New York State reside in households living in poverty.^[1] Research clearly indicates that poverty creates a stress response that can negatively affect brain and physiological development, particularly in early childhood, which, in turn, may have life-long adverse impacts on achievement, behavior, social outcomes and physical and mental health.^[2] The birth of a child increases household costs, which can make it all that much harder for families living in poverty to achieve economic security. Extremely low-income parents often lack the most basic supplies needed to

^[1] U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample 1-year Estimates

^[2] Troller-Renfree, S. V., Costanzo, M. A., Duncan, G. J., Magnuson, K., Gennetian, L. A., Yoshikawa, H., Halpern-Meekin, S., Fox, N. A., Noble, K. G. (2022). The impact of a poverty reduction intervention on infant brain activity. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 119(5). <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2115649119>

adequately care for a newborn, including cribs or other safe sleep items, diapers, and clothing. The proposed rule would serve as a critical tool in helping low-income parents afford the costs associated with raising newborn(s), reducing childhood poverty and helping to mitigate its detrimental effects on public health and general welfare, as well as the associated costs to the districts in addressing these public health and general welfare issues, in districts throughout New York State.

5. Economic and technological feasibility:

Compliance with the proposed rule would be within districts' present economic and technological abilities.

6. Minimizing adverse impact:

The Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) has taken steps, working in conjunction with districts in advance of implementation, to minimize any adverse impact relative to the implementation of the proposed rule, including by structuring the implementation of the proposed rule to align with adding the newborn to the PA case to minimize administrative tasks that must be performed.

7. Small business and local government participation:

As mentioned above, small businesses would not be impacted by the proposed rule.

OTDA has engaged extensively with both districts statewide and the organization representing districts, the New York Public Welfare Association (NYPWA), on implementation of this the BABY Benefit. This engagement has covered topics including payment amount and implementation requirements that would be associated with the proposed rule. Specifically, districts participated in discussing implementation of the BABY Benefit and attendant regulations at various forums at NYPWA's Winter and

Summer conferences in 2025, and at annual convocation with State agency staff and district commissioners in May of 2025. Specifically, as part of these forums, multiple discussions about the BABY Benefit were held, including between OTDA's Commissioner and commissioners from districts Statewide, on the payment amount and implementation requirements of the proposed rule. Additionally, OTDA's Commissioner has actively sought feedback from districts and NYPWA on implementation of the BABY Benefit initiative, including feedback on points that would be helpful to clarify within both the proposed rule itself and any attendant guidance document related thereto.

8. For rules that either establish or modify a violation or penalties associated with a violation:

Not applicable.

9. Initial review of the rule, pursuant to SAPA § 207 as amended by L. 2012, ch. 462:

Not applicable.

Rural Area Flexibility Analysis

1. Types and estimate numbers of rural areas:

The proposed rule would improve the health of newborn infants Statewide by providing a one-time benefit to public assistance (PA) recipients upon the birth of a new child (the Birth Allowance for Beginning Year [BABY] Benefit) pursuant to the statutory amendment to Social Services Law (SSL) § 131-a(5) set forth in Part Q of Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2025.

The proposed rule would impact social services districts (districts), including the 44 districts in rural areas of the State (rural districts).

2. Reporting, recordkeeping and other compliance requirements; and professional services:

The proposed rule would impose minimal compliance requirements on rural districts.

The additional one-time payment required by the proposed rule is being structured to be administered at a juncture whereby rural districts are already processing adding a new child to the household's PA case. The processing and issuance of the BABY Benefit payment would require minimal new tasks on the parts of rural district staff.

Rural districts will not need to procure any new professional services to implement the proposed rule.

3. Costs:

Legislation authorizing this rule was adopted in the enacted budget for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2026. Costs associated with this initiative were also considered and factored into the enacted budget for SFY 2026.

As reflected in the State Financial Plan, the gross annual cost of this initiative is estimated to be approximately \$12.6 million. Claims related to the expenses for the Baby Benefit would be made as a PA expenditure. Of the estimated \$12.6 million gross annual costs: \$7.2 million of said costs is expected to be covered by Federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) funding; the annual State share is estimated to be \$1.3 million; the annual local share is estimated to be \$4.1 million. It is estimated that of the local share amount, the cost for New York City would be approximately \$3 million annually with the cost to remainder of the 57 districts statewide being estimated at approximately \$1.1 million annually. The collective cost to the 44 rural districts is estimated to be approximately \$550,000 annually. The mathematical average of the cost per district for the 44 rural districts is estimated to be approximately \$12,500 annually. The benefits of the proposed rule would outweigh the costs associated with the proposed rule in that the provision of the BABY Benefit would be an important tool to help reduce child poverty in New York State and to help improve upon the physical, mental, emotional, and social outcomes of children born to impoverished families receiving PA.

4. Minimizing adverse impact:

The Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) has taken steps, working in conjunction with rural districts, in advance of implementation to minimize any adverse impact relative to the implementation of the proposed rule, including by structuring the implementation of the proposed rule to align with adding the newborn to the PA case to minimize administrative tasks that must be performed.

5. Rural area participation:

OTDA has engaged extensively with both districts Statewide (including rural districts) and the organization representing all districts, the New York Public Welfare Association (NYPWA), on implementation of the BABY Benefit. This engagement has covered topics including payment amount and implementation requirements that would be associated with the proposed rule. Specifically, rural districts participated in discussing implementation of the BABY Benefit and attendant regulations at various forums at NYPWA's Winter and Summer conferences in 2025, and at annual convocation with State agency staff and rural district commissioners in May of 2025. Specifically, as part of these forums, multiple discussions about the BABY Benefit were held, including between OTDA's Commissioner and commissioners from rural districts Statewide on the payment amount and implementation requirements of the proposed rule. Additionally, OTDA's Commissioner has actively sought feedback from districts and NYPWA on implementation of the BABY Benefit initiative, including feedback on points that would be helpful to clarify within both the proposed rule itself, and any attendant guidance document related thereto.

6. Initial review of the rule, pursuant to SAPA § 207 as amended by L. 2012, ch.

462:

Not applicable.

Statement in Lieu of a Job Impact Statement (JIS)

A JIS is not required for the proposed regulatory amendments. The purpose of the proposed regulatory amendments is to improve the health of newborn infants by providing a one-time benefit to public assistance recipients upon the birth of a new child (Birth Allowance at Beginning Year [BABY] Benefit), pursuant to the statutory amendment to Social Services Law § 131-a(5) enacted in Part Q of Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2025. It is apparent from the nature and the purpose of the proposed regulatory amendments that they would have no substantive impact on jobs and employment opportunities in either the public or the private sectors of New York State. Consequently, a JIS is unnecessary relative to the proposed regulatory amendments.