

Illinois Quality Counts- Quality Rating & Tiered Reimbursement System (QRS)

Basic Description: System to provide higher subsidized child care payments to providers who meet specific indicators of quality care. The increased rate is to help providers pay for the higher cost of care. System in levels as incentive for providers to move up levels. Supports will be available to help providers achieve higher levels.

Guiding Principles

- Voluntary.
- Research-based.
- Progressive system of attainable levels.
- Meaningful supports to help providers.
- Educate parents about what to look for in high quality setting.
- Have a process to evaluate outcomes.

System Goals

- Increase IDHS' ability to improve the quality of programs serving subsidized children.
- Increase the number of high-quality child care providers available to families using subsidies.
- Improve parents' ability to choose quality child care.
- Increase school readiness.

How will the Planned System work?

- Star Levels for licensed centers and licensed homes.
- Training Tiers for license-exempt homes.
- For licensed centers and licensed homes, all levels address the following four areas:
 - Regulatory Compliance
 - Learning Environment
 - Program Design and Management
 - Staff Qualifications and Training

Four Areas at Each Level

I. Regulatory Compliance

- License must be in good standing with IDCFS.

II. Learning Environment

- Uses *Environment Rating Scales (ERS)* to evaluate learning environment.
- On-site evaluation by independent evaluator.
- Encourages progress toward accreditation.

Four Areas at Each Level

III. Program Design & Management

- Assumes that good management is an important part of high quality child care.
- Uses Program Administration Scale (PAS) at higher Star levels.

IV. Staff Qualifications & Training

- Tied to DCFS Licensing Standards and Great START education scale.
- Increasing percentage of staff who meet educational levels shown on the Great START scale.

QRS Star Levels

Licensed Centers

(DRAFT)

	★	★★	★★★	★★★★
Rate Increase	5 percent	10 percent	15 percent	20 percent
Staff/Child Ratios	Meet IDCFS Licensing Standards	Meet IDCFS Licensing Standards	Meet IDCFS Licensing Standards Current accreditation in good standing	Meet IDCFS Licensing Standards Current accreditation in good standing
Regulatory Compliance	To be determined in collaboration with IDCFS	To be determined in collaboration with IDCFS	To be determined in collaboration with IDCFS	To be determined in collaboration with IDCFS
Learning Environment	Meet IDCFS Licensing Standards ERS Rating Developmental screening information	Meet IDCFS Licensing Standards ERS Rating Introduction to accreditation processes	Meet IDCFS Licensing Standards Current accreditation in good standing and ERS Rating	Meet IDCFS Licensing Standards Current accreditation in good standing and ERS Rating
Program Design & Management	Meet IDCFS Licensing Standards Introduction to Great START, TEACH, CCR&R professional development funds, accreditation funds & Quality Counts grants	Meet Star Level 1 requirements and Introduction to PAS	Meet IDCFS Licensing Standards Current accreditation in good standing	Meet IDCFS Licensing Standards Current accreditation in good standing and PAS Rating
Staff Qualifications & Training	10% of staff meet Great START education levels (any levels for the appropriate positions)	20% of staff meet Great START education levels (any levels for the appropriate positions)	25% of teaching staff meet Great START education levels for teachers.	30% of teaching staff meet Great START education level 6 or above for teachers. 30% of staff have current certification in CPR/First Aid

When will the Quality Counts Rating & Tiered Reimbursement System be implemented?

- July 2007 for licensed and license-exempt family child care providers serving CCAP children.
- Funding is proposed in the Governor's Budget for Center participation in FY08.

Provider Participation & Eligibility

- License-Exempt Family Child Care providers will complete training and then submit an application.
- Licensed Center and Licensed Family Child Care providers will complete an application. Document verification will occur followed by on-site evaluation.

Contact Information

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INCCRRA

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