

# 25/26 Quality Counts Site Stipend

## Rated Child Care Centers/Preschools

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### Who is Eligible

**Directors** of publicly funded sites such as Columbia College Childcare, Head Start, Early Head Start, and TCSOS Structured Preschool

New publicly funded sites that are willing to meet the requirements

Serve children ages 0-5 years

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### How to Get Started

#### Complete the Online Application

[New Applicants Click Here to Apply](#)

[Returning Applicants Click Here](#)

This application is for a **Site Stipend**, not an individual stipend. Staff at the site may apply for an Individual Stipend.

\* All Directors must fill out an application every year to be eligible.

\*Stipend amounts will be determined annually, based on funding availability. The timeline for stipend payments will be June 2026 unless an agreement is reached between both parties to release the funds earlier.

**\*\*Application Deadline: October 31, 2025**

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### Requirements

For your staff members to qualify for an individual stipend, 51% of the site staff must meet with a Quality Counts representative and agree on a Quality Improvement Plan. You will be contacted to schedule a Quality Counts/Improvement Plan meeting.

1. The center must work with a Quality Counts representative and agree on specific site-wide quality improvement activities over the year based on most current rating outcomes.
2. Completion of the Quality Improvement Plan

You may use any combination of the following professional development to earn the maximum site stipend:

3. Sites must complete a minimum of 12 hours to earn the maximum stipend. Hours completed as a staff can include staff training, webinars, conferences, staff training/coaching on the Teaching Pyramid framework, or Coaching Companion online cycles as a team. You must show proof of attendance if your team attends trainings, webinars or conferences. Hours earned as a staff for the site stipend can not be used towards an individual stipend.

\*Sites will be rated every 3-5 years using the QRIS matrix. Sites rated at 4 or 5 must be rated every 5 years, while sites rated at 3 or below must be rated every 3 years. Whatever your most recent rating was will determine the stipend amount.

\*Site supervisors are responsible for assisting their staff with entering their professional development in the Hubbe data system. If you need training or assistance, please contact the Quality Counts team.

Sites Rated at a 5: **\$4,000** Sites Rated at a 4: **\$3,000** Sites Rated at a 3: **\$2,500**

**Timeline:** All required PD hours must be completed between July 1, 2025 through May 15, 2026

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### Reporting

In February 2026, a QC representative will send a Hubbe/CDF Wizard email asking demographic questions about your classroom, teacher names, and children served.

LINK TO ECE WEBSITES:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1JKuUY5OWxcU2dXY4gPWdbWx\\_soyhhyXyoV16atbySMI/edit?usp=s\\_haring](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1JKuUY5OWxcU2dXY4gPWdbWx_soyhhyXyoV16atbySMI/edit?usp=s_haring)

LINK TO COACHING COMPANION VIDEO:

[Teacher Webinar](#)

LINKS TO ASQ ONLINE:

[ASQ ONLINE](#)

SUPPORTING EARLY EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT (SEED) ECE ONLINE BULLETIN BOARD- Beth Barnett

[SEED PADLET](#)

*Regarding Stipends and taxation:* If you receive \$600 or more in a stipend, the County of Tuolumne must report this as income to the Internal Revenue Service, using the information provided on your W-9. This occurs during a calendar year. Earning a stipend of \$500 will not trigger this reporting, unless you have earned other independent income from the County of Tuolumne.

For Inquiries please contact

ATCAA staff contact Jackie Roberts [jroberts@atcaa.org](mailto:jroberts@atcaa.org)

Non-ATCAA staff contact:

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