

# “Quality Counts” in 20-21 For **Non-Rated Centers**

\*Private Sites

## Guidelines for Program Directors



### *Quality Counts – Raising the Quality of Early Learning & Care*

The “Quality Counts” Consortium welcomes your participation in our program.

#### **Who is eligible:**

- Centers that participated last year
- New centers that are licensed and willing to meet the requirements

All center directors must fill out an application every year. If the Center is returning, less information will be required.

**A link to the online application is provided below.** The link will also be on the First 5 Tuolumne website.

[Apply Here](#)

#### **SITE STIPEND REQUIREMENTS for sites that choose not to be rated**

Centers may earn up to \$1,000 in a site stipend upon demonstrated completion of their Quality Improvement Plan by May 31, 2020. Partial stipends will be considered on a case by case basis.

1. The Director must complete and submit a site application.
2. The center must work with a Quality Counts representative to agree on specific site-based quality improvement activities over the course of the year. For FY 20-21, this will be Suzan Greenwood from ICES. Suzan will ensure that each site has an annual Quality Improvement Plan.
3. The Director will be required to provide information on classrooms, teachers names, and the demographics of children served at one point in time during the year.
4. At year end, site stipends will be awarded based on completion of Quality Improvement Plan.

**IMPORTANT:** Quality Counts has two types of awards: one for Centers and one for individual teachers. While it is not necessary for a center to earn a site stipend, there is a minimum requirement for the site

to meet, in order for its individual teachers to earn stipends for professional development. The center must hold one staff meeting with at least 51% of the teachers present, for a presentation from Quality Counts. This will include an overview of the program and additional content jointly decided upon by you and your Quality Counts coach. This will be scheduled early in the school year and may be done electronically. This requirement must be met if you want your teachers to be able to earn individual stipends, regardless of whether or not you pursue a site stipend.

This year, 2 options will be available for Centers to earn a site stipend:

1. Using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-SE) with parents of children ages up to K entry 2x a year and doing follow-up scoring and discussion. (Contact Beth Barnett- SEED Coordinator- [bbarnett@tcsos.us](mailto:bbarnett@tcsos.us))
2. Doing a minimum of 12 hours of targeted Center-wide training with a Quality Counts coach in an approved topic (for example, social-emotional development), with at least 51% of teaching staff participation in combined hours of training, coaching, application/reflection and follow-up discussion (virtually or in-person may apply). These 12 hours will not be stipend-eligible for individuals; however individual stipend-eligible training can be aligned with the topic, with teachers doing training and coaching in addition to these hours to support their success.

*For example:*

*1.5 hours: Initial training and discussion at a staff meeting. Teachers decide on one new strategy to try as a team in their classrooms.*

*4 hours: Teachers try the new strategy for a month in their classrooms.*

*1.5 hours: Teachers reconvene at another staff meeting and discuss, with a Quality Counts coach, how the implementation went, what worked, what didn't and what they learned. The teachers would jointly decide on next steps – continuing with the same strategy or adding a new one.*

*4 hours: Teachers try the strategies for a month in their classrooms.*

*1 hour: Final convening with a Quality Counts Coach, discussion of successes and challenges in imbedding a new quality practice into the daily routine.*

ICES will provide details once your application is received.

- **Staff working at these sites who are interested in individual stipends must go to the Individual Stipend Guidelines page and use the link to the application there. Please contact Suzan or Beth if you need assistance.**
- [suzang@icesagency.org](mailto:suzang@icesagency.org)
- [bbarnett@tcsos.us](mailto:bbarnett@tcsos.us)