

“Quality Counts” in 19-20 For Non-Rated Centers

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:

- Sites that participated last year
- New sites that are licensed and willing to meet the requirements

All sites and all individuals must fill out an application every year. If the site is returning, less information will be required. (There is a separate application and guidelines for those interested in individual stipends.)

A link to the online application will be emailed to you if you have participated last year. The link will also be on the First 5 Tuolumne website. It is provided, below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QCSITE19-20>



SITE STIPEND REQUIREMENTS for sites not yet ready to be rated:

1. Application completed.
2. A Quality Improvement Plan for each site is required to be input on iPinwheel and approved. Help will be provided.
3. The site must work with a Quality Counts representative to agree on specific site-based quality improvement activities over the course of the year. For FY 19-20, this will be Suzan Greenwood from ICES.
4. 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.
5. At year end, site stipends will be awarded based on completion of Quality Improvement Plan.

IMPORTANT: if you want teachers at your site to be able to earn individual stipends, you have a minimum requirement of holding one staff meeting with at least 51% of your 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. 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, 3 options will be available for sites to earn a site stipend:

1. Using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) with parents of children ages up to K entry 2x a year and doing follow-up scoring and discussion. (ICES will provide details.)
2. Health and Safety site improvements with ICES (if you did not do this in a prior year).
3. Doing a minimum of 12 hours of targeted site-wide training with a Quality Counts coach in an approved topic (for example, social-emotional development), with at least 51% of staff participation in combined hours of training, coaching, application/reflection and follow-up discussion. (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.

Sites may earn up to \$1,000 in a site stipend upon demonstrated completion by May 31 2019. Partial stipends will be considered on a case by case basis.

ICES will provide details once your application is received.