

“Quality Counts” in 18-19 For Rated Sites

Guidelines for Program Directors and Staff

Quality Counts – Raising the Quality of Early Learning & Care

The “Quality Counts” Consortium in Tuolumne County is offering incentives for teachers (at licensed sites), Family Child Care Providers (licensed) and staff at alternate sites to participate in quality improvement activities this year. Sites must serve children ages birth to Kindergarten entry. Tuolumne “Quality Counts” is funded from multiple sources, but has one application for all teachers & providers.



Who is eligible:

- Sites that participated last year
- New sites that are licensed and willing to meet the requirements
- Teachers and staff who work directly with children from birth up to Kindergarten or with parents of young children at participating sites.
- Sorry, student teachers and apprentices are not eligible.

All sites and all individuals must fill out an application every year. If the site or the individual is returning, less information will be required.

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, along with a QR code.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QCtuol18-19>



SITE STIPEND REQUIREMENTS For Rated Sites

1. Application completed.
1. A Quality Improvement Plan for each site is required to be input on iPinwheel and approved. Help will be provided.
2. A site will be rated every 2 years. This rating shall include an Environmental Rating Scale Assessment and a CLASS assessment done by independent outside certified assessors.
3. Block Grants or Quality Improvement Site Stipends will be awarded contingent on the rating earned and evidence that the Quality Improvement Plan was completed. This amount will be determined annually, based on funding availability.

INDIVIDUAL STIPEND REQUIREMENTS for education and professional growth:

In order to be considered for an individual professional growth stipend,

- The individual must work at a site that is participating in Quality Counts at the site level (no exceptions)
- An annual application must be filled out and approved;
- A meeting with a coach is required to complete an individual professional growth plan on iPinwheel; and
- The information on units, coaching, workshops and on-line training must be input on the iPinwheel data system for approval by a coach. Training will be provided.
- Teachers who work at CSPP/CCTR sites must work with ICES to provide any additional information needed for AB212.
- In addition, all providers will be required to get a Workforce Registry number. ICES will provide assistance with this.

Eligible and Non Eligible Activities:

Eligible
College units completed toward a Child Development Degree or Permit, with a grade of C or better, and transcripts uploaded to iPinwheel.
Online training resources provided by Quality Counts representatives or approved by your coach.
In-person trainings locally, such as CPIN trainings, ICES workshops, etc. that are offered outside of regular work hours.
<p>Trainings away from the workplace, where travel is involved, will be eligible as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ If the individual is getting paid for attending, one hour of stipend credit/training day will be awarded for the extra effort. (For example, a two day training would earn 2 stipend hours). ■ If the individual is not getting paid for their time at the training, the hours for the training alone (not travel time) will be credited toward a stipend. (For example, a two day training with 6 hours on Day One and 4 hours on day 2 would earn 10 stipend hours).
The hours given as credit for virtual coaching activities or by your coach for completed coaching assignments. Coaches have been advised to give credit only for active engagement and completed assignments and will put these hours into the iPinwheel system.

Training (in person or web-based) that your supervisor or coach has approved as linked to your professional growth plan, as long as it does not occur as a workplace scheduled event. Rules for travel shall apply.
Not eligible
Training that occurs during regular staff in-service days, staff meetings where staff are paid to attend, or similar occurrences where training occurs during regularly scheduled times at the workplace and staff are getting paid to attend.
Extra hours you may spend being observed by a coach, or coaching linked to regular workplace activities are not considered stipend eligible. The coaches will determine credit-able coaching hours.
Any training that is required by Licensing.

Timeline. The annual timeline for earning a Quality Counts Teacher stipend is from June 1st 2018 to May 30th 2019. If a teacher leaves employment as an Early Childhood educator in Tuolumne County during the school year due to personal hardship circumstances, eligibility for receiving a stipend at year-end will be determined on a case-by-case basis. If a college course will be completed in June 2018, the Quality Counts program must be informed and the transcript must be posted as soon as possible.

This year, eligible individuals who work at rated sites may earn up to \$750 by completing one or more of the following:

Units: 3 units will earn \$500 if the units are directly linked to earning a permit or a degree in Early Childhood Development or closely related field, and a grade of C or better is earned. (The stipend will be \$150 for 1 unit and \$300 for 2 units.) Transcripts will need to be uploaded.

Professional Development: This year, professional development will be considered workshops, on-line courses, and/or approved coaching hours, in any combination. Any combination of these will earn \$50 for each 2 hours earned. (You must earn a minimum of 2 hours, and to increase your stipend, you must earn 2 more hours, and so on.)

Units, coaching, workshops, and web-based training can be combined to earn a stipend of up to \$750 total. We can only promise \$750/person for regular stipends earned in 18-19. (Teachers who participate and complete CSEFEL training and coaching or My Coaching Companion this year will receive additional information from their coaches regarding stipends.)

Here are some examples of ways to earn the full stipend of \$750:

- Complete two 3-unit eligible course with a grade of C or better
- Complete one 3-unit eligible course and 10 hours of professional development
- Complete 30 hours of professional development

Use the chart on the next page to add up your eligible stipend hours.

Professional Development Hours	Stipend (capped at \$750)	If an individual completes 14 or 15 hours of professional development, they will earn \$350. PD can be combined with units to earn a maximum stipend of \$750.		Eligible Units	Stipend (capped at \$750)	If an individual completes 3 units, they will earn \$500. Additional units can earn credit, but stipend will be capped at \$750.
2	\$50			3	\$500	
4	\$100			4	\$650	
6	\$150			5	\$750	
8	\$200			6	\$750	
10	\$250					
12	\$300					
14	\$350					
16	\$400					
18	\$450					
20	\$500					
22	\$550					
24	\$600					
26	\$650					
28	\$700					
30	\$750					

Regarding W-9s: A question has arisen about W-9s. 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.

How to get started:

Program Directors and Individual Teachers and Instructional Assistants must complete the on-line application. A coach will contact you regarding next steps, including completion of a W-9 if needed.

If you have questions about the application process, contact one of the following:

- Sheila Kruse (588-8067, sheilamkruse@gmail.com)
- Donna Meiss
- Samantha White (for ATCAA employees)

For applications, go to the following link: (you can also access with your phone or tablet)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QCtuol18-19>

