

Care About Childcare

Dear Provider,

In coordination with several child care providers, the Office of Child Care (OCC) has spent the past several months redesigning and simplifying its Quality Indicator incentive program. It has engaged in this redesign as part of the development of the Child Care Quality System (CCQS) which will support high-quality care for low-income children, as required by the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) reauthorization.



Beginning January 1, 2018, OCC is launching its redesigned quality indicator program, including offering child care programs a financial incentive and support for establishing a quality environment in their programs. In order to participate, a program must be a licensed program in good standing (not have a conditional license). The availability of the incentive is based on the presence of specified, research-based standards, or Quality Indicators, supporting a quality physical environment in child care programs.

Programs interested in receiving the incentive must have Quality Indicators verified on-site by a child care licenser during an annual **unannounced inspection**. You must request that a licenser verify indicators prior to your next annual unannounced inspection by logging into the Child Care Licensing portal.

- A list of the specific [quality indicators](#) and points is available.
- A quality indicator incentive may be awarded based on the indicators verified during an unannounced inspection.
- The [amount](#) of the incentive will be based on your program's license capacity and the percentage of children in your care who receive subsidy payments from the Department of Workforce Services.

- The incentive can be used for professional development, to purchase materials and in other approved ways that support quality child care.
- Upon verbal request of the provider during the announced inspection, indicators can be reviewed for purposes of receiving technical assistance only.

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