

## Quality Indicator Component (12/4/2017)

### Policy:

- A. Eligibility:
  - 1. To participate, a program must be a licensed center or licensed family child care provider with a license in good standing (not conditional).
  - 2. The provider must request to have a licenser verify quality indicators during an on-site, unannounced inspection. The request shall be made through the Child Care Licensing portal at [careaboutchildcare.utah.gov](http://careaboutchildcare.utah.gov).
    - a. The request will be ongoing unless withdrawn by a program representative or a program goes on a conditional license.
    - b. After a request is withdrawn and a provider wants to have quality indicators verified in the future, a program representative must submit a new request to have indicators verified.
  
- B. During and After a Licensing Inspection:
  - 1. Purpose of Inspections
    - a. Unannounced Inspections
      - i. To be eligible for a grant for achieving quality environment, a child care program must have quality indicators verified during an unannounced inspection.
      - ii. Whether a program is eligible for a Quality Indicator grant is based on achieving the requisite number of points for a quality environment, verified during the unannounced inspection.
    - b. Announced Inspections
      - i. Announced inspections afford a child care program the opportunity to evaluate its progress toward achieving a quality environment and thereby, eligible for the Quality Indicator incentive.
      - ii. During an announced inspection, quality indicators may be reviewed but not verified.
  - 2. Unannounced Inspections: When the program has requested to have quality indicators verified, the licenser will:
    - a. Document the quality indicators verified as outlined (link to the indicators);
    - b. Notify the program representative of the indicators that were verified during the inspection; and
    - c. If the program qualifies for the incentive, notification will be sent to the provider with instructions on how to redeem the incentive.
  - 3. Announced Inspections: A licenser may review the quality indicators at an announced inspection. At the inspection, the licenser will ask the provider if he/she would like the licenser to look for quality indicators. If yes, the licenser will:
    - a. Document the quality indicators reviewed as outlined (link to the indicators); and

- b. Notify the program representative of the indicators that were reviewed at the inspection.

C. Quality Indicator Incentive

- 1. The program must be DWS Eligible.
- 2. Points awarded for Quality Indicators:
  - a. A minimum of 10 points is required to receive the incentive. For center-based programs, applicable indicators must be verified in every classroom.
  - b. Points are awarded as follows:
    - i. Up to 5 points each
      - a) Ratios as defined by quality indicators
      - b) Group Size as defined by quality indicators
    - ii. 1.5 points for interest centers in the program
      - a) The points awarded for interest centers will be calculated by multiplying the number of interest centers that are in the classroom with the fewest centers (excluding rooms where all children in care are under 12 months old). For example, if a program has four classrooms as shown below:

Room:	# Interest Centers
Infant Toddler	4
Two year olds	3
Preschool	5
School Age	6

The program will receive 1.5 multiplied by 3 (the lowest number of interest centers in a classroom), or 4.5 points.

- b) A maximum of 7.5 points can be awarded for interest centers.
      - c) Interest centers are not a requirement for rooms where all children in care are under 12 months old.
    - iii. 0.5 points for each additional indicator achieved on the Quality Indicator list, up to a maximum of 7.5 points.
- 3. Incentive amount will be based on the following factors and calculated the day the incentive is awarded:
  - a. License Capacity. The incentive amount will be based on the licensed capacity on the day the incentive is awarded as follows:

Licensed Capacity	Incentive Amount
0-16	\$300
17-50	\$400
51-100	\$500
101-150	\$600
151 and higher	\$700

- b. Subsidy Enrollment Bonus. Programs with 25 percent or more children enrolled who receive subsidy payments, as reported by DWS, and determined by the Utah Registry for Professional

Development: Early Childhood and Youth Workforce (URPD), will receive an additional \$100.

4. The incentive may be used to:
  - a. Purchase applicable Environmental Rating Scales (ERS) or Program Quality Assessment (PQA) manuals or online training;
  - b. Pay for Office of Child Care (OCC) approved trainings and coaching, such as Career Ladder approved courses and conference registration fees;
  - c. Pay for OCC approved accreditation fees, such as self-study or application fees;
  - d. Purchase materials for the program to help achieve quality indicators; or
  - e. Other items approved by the OCC.
5. The incentive must be expended within one year of the award date.
6. If a program does not qualify for the incentive, the program may be eligible for an incentive after the next annual unannounced inspection.