A FUNDING OPPORTUNITY for private child care and preschool programs that provide high-quality preschool services to 4-year-old children is available through the Department of Workforce Services, Office of Child Care (OCC).

The Utah legislature passed Utah Code 53A-1b-105 in 2016. The High-Quality School Readiness Expansion (HQSR-E) includes two components to allow private child care providers, Head Start programs and public schools to receive funding for: (1) scholarships for 4-year-olds experiencing intergenerational poverty to attend a high-quality preschool program; and (2) grants for high-quality preschool programs to expand the capacity of low-income 4-year-olds the program is serving.

As specified in HQSR-E, before the program is eligible to receive funds for either component, it must meet the 10 quality criteria established by the Utah Code 53A-1b-105. Interested programs will be evaluated through an onsite observation using the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale-3 (ECERS-3). Only programs certified as high-quality through the observation are eligible to participate in HQSR-E.

How to Apply:

1. **Request an Observation**: OCC is providing interested programs the opportunity to be certified as a high-quality preschool program. In order to request an observation, programs must complete the High-Quality Certification request form, available at jobs.utah.gov/occ.

2. **Return Form by close of business November 30, 2017**: Once programs are certified as high quality, they will be approved to serve 4-year-olds eligible for scholarships, apply for grant funding to expand capacity to low-income 4-year-olds, or both. The request for grant application will be released in spring 2018.

**For more information please contact:**

Florence Schapira at schoolreadiness@utah.gov

jobs.utah.gov/occ