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CCQS Frequently Asked Questions for Family Child Care

When will I be able to apply for a certified quality rating for my child care program?

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all activities related to Utah's Child Care Quality System (CCQS) stopped in March 2020. To begin recovery efforts as the pandemic continues, the Office of Child Care has developed a temporary CCQS framework for family child care providers. Licensed Family programs will be able to apply for a certified quality rating and be scored using a temporary CCQS framework between June and December 2021.

What is the temporary CCQS framework? How is the scoring different?

The temporary CCQS framework was created to bridge the gap created by the pandemic. As the child care community continues to adjust to and recover from the effects of the pandemic, the Office of Child Care has developed a temporary CCQS framework for family child care programs. The Office of Child Care is working with partner agencies to rebuild the structure of CCQS, including ensuring that staff conducting observations are reliable. The temporary framework does not include the requirement for an on-site observation. It does include requirements to complete training courses directly related to the Environment Rating Scale tool that will be used when observations resume. When scored, the program may be awarded a Certified Foundation of Quality or Certified Building Quality rating that will be effective for up to one year.

What are the advantages of receiving a rating with the temporary CCQS framework?

Family programs that participate by receiving a rating utilizing the temporary framework will have the first opportunity to receive a High Quality or High Quality Plus certified quality rating when on-site observations begin. Both of these ratings qualify a program to receive an Enhanced Subsidy Grant payment each month for 12 months. On-site observations are required to achieve the highest ratings and programs that have observations but do not score enough points to be rated High Quality or High Quality Plus may still be eligible to receive a Quality Observation Award.

Programs that receive a certified rating may also be eligible to apply for [Professional Development Cost Sharing](#).

Do I have to apply for a certified quality rating?

No, a program can choose whether or not to apply for a certified quality rating. However, all licensed family child care programs that have a license in good standing (not a conditional license) and are willing to accept funding from the Office of Child Care, including funding for

children covered by child care subsidy, will be assigned a Default Foundation of Quality rating. A Default Foundation of Quality rating will be included in the public search quality rating filters on the Care About Childcare application at careaboutchildcare.utah.gov.

I do not need a certified quality rating or a Default Foundation of Quality rating. Does my program have to be rated?

No. A licensed family child care program may choose not to receive a rating at all. Licensed family child care programs that elect to opt out of CCQS will no longer be eligible to receive subsidy or grant funding through the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) contracts from the Office of Child Care. Programs will also be given a “Not Participating” status on the program’s profile on careaboutchildcare.utah.gov. Licensed family child care programs that opt out of CCQS may choose to opt in again at any time.