

Utah's Child Care Quality System

Utah is currently implementing a new Child Care Quality System (CCQS), with center-based programs beginning October 2019 and family-based programs beginning Spring 2021. This system will help parents make informed choices about the child care programs their child attends so that the program will better prepare their child for kindergarten and life. This system will also ensure government child care subsidies are supporting quality programs.



NEW FEDERAL REQUIREMENT FOR SUBSIDY RATES

The federal Child Care Development Fund law requires all states to consider the level of quality when establishing subsidy rates for child care providers. As a result, Utah must identify the quality of its child care programs and publish the results to the general public. This requirement supports information child care providers already know — children in high-quality child care programs that supports their growth and development are better prepared for kindergarten and life.



QUALITY RATINGS FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

Participation is voluntary for child care programs not covered by state child care subsidies, however; all licensed programs will be eligible to receive a rating. All programs that care for children covered by child care subsidies will receive a rating. Each participating provider will receive a rating based on points achieved in five areas that influence quality:

**Health and Safety | Learning Environments and Relationships
Leadership and Professional Development
Management and Administration | National Accreditation**

There are four levels of quality ratings that a provider could receive from the new Child Care Quality System. Providers that receive "High Quality" or "High Quality Plus" ratings may receive an Enhanced Subsidy Grant.

Beginning October 2019, center program ratings will be available to the public at careaboutchildcare.utah.gov.



HOW THIS HELPS CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

- **Enhanced Subsidy Grant:** Programs rated High Quality or High Quality Plus may receive a monthly Enhanced Subsidy Grant.
- **A Valuable Marketing Tool:** Receiving a high-quality ranking from the state is an impressive selling point for providers as they promote their business.
- **Funding Resources:** The Office of Child Care is reallocating funds to help providers achieve a higher rating.



HOW THIS HELPS PARENTS

The Office of Child Care is committed to helping parents make informed choices on child care. Nationally, the quality of a child care program is important to parents who rely on child care while they are working. The new system is an important way to inform parents about the quality of child care programs which will help them select a provider that meets their needs. In addition to quality, parents also consider the location, cost and personal recommendations when making their selection.



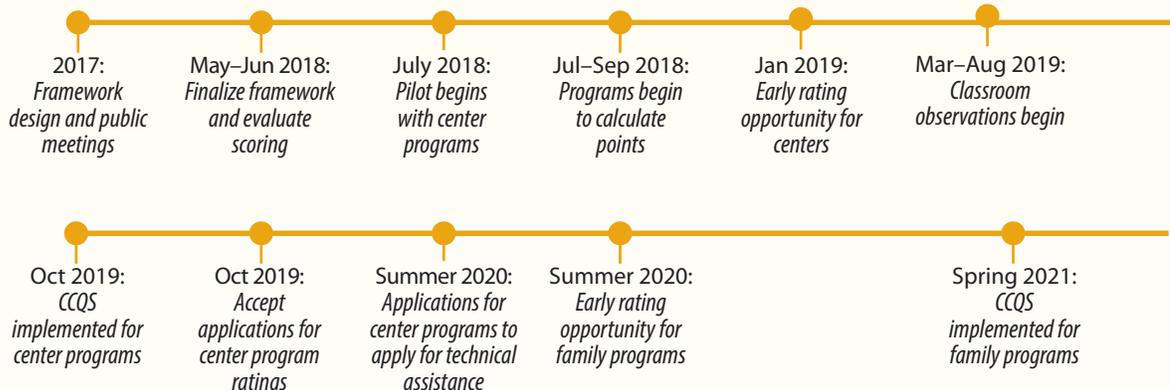
PROGRAM FEEDBACK

The Office of Child Care values the expertise of the state’s child care programs and appreciates the efforts they have made to provide safe and healthy settings for Utah’s young children. The office received feedback from many programs while developing the new system in an effort to balance the needs of the children with a program’s business needs. Feedback and recommendations will continue to be received through the CCQS subcommittee, the Office of Child Care Advisory Council and statewide public meetings.

A survey was also sent to all child care programs about the costs of managing a quality program. This feedback will help the Office of Child Care determine how to reallocate funds to support programs that want to achieve higher quality ratings..



TIMELINE



**Questions? Contact the Office of Child Care
at ccqs@utah.gov**