



Quality Achievement Awards

Rationale:

The path to higher quality is paved with good incentives and supports. All states that have Quality Rating Systems offer some type of financial reward for achieving higher levels of quality above minimum health and safety standards and provide supports to help programs achieve quality.

Step Up To Quality rated programs are eligible for annual Quality Achievement Awards which will be paid out every six months. 25% of the annual award must be spent on Quality Improvement Supports. The attached chart shows the maximum annual award a program may receive.

Guiding Principles:

- All programs providing high quality early care and education services should receive both quality achievement awards and quality improvement grants.
- ODJFS has a mission to support poor and low-income working families therefore programs serving subsidized children will receive a larger annual award than those that don't.
- Research demonstrates that children living in poverty have the most to gain by being in high quality early care and education programs and the most to lose if they are not in quality programs. Therefore funding is strategically targeted to get the greatest impact and gains.
- Market rate alone can not provide the level of quality necessary to strengthen the school readiness needs of Ohio's most vulnerable children. The awards and grants can increase a program's ability to either improve quality or to sustain quality. The School Readiness Solutions Group recommends providing 25% of the cost of high quality services to programs that serve low income families and a lesser percent to all programs.
- Awards should be flexible enough to meet the individual needs of programs while directing a portion of the funding towards system-wide needs based on the pilot research data.

Criteria:

- Awards are contingent on available funding
- Awards are contingent on serious risk compliance and maintenance of Step criteria

Funding formula:

- Subsidy means children receiving early care and education services funded by TANF and/or CCDF
- The subsidy % = $\frac{\text{subsidized enrollment}}{\text{total enrollment (at the time of the last licensing inspection)}}$
- If a program has subsidized children but no ELI children the subsidized enrollment data will be taken from the most recent 3299 child care utilization 90 day rerun report.
- If a program has ELI children, the program must submit a name list of ELI children and signed attendance sheets in order to determine subsidized enrollment.
- If a program has both, the enrollment numbers will be added together for a total.
- Size is based on license capacity.



Quality Achievement Awards

Awards are contingent on funding, licensing compliance & the maintenance of Star rating requirements.				
Subsidy % <small>*based on dividing the subsidized enrollment by the total enrollment at the time of the last licensing visit</small>	Size <small>*based on license capacity</small>	1 Star	2 Star	3 Star
0 - 9%	Small (0-59)	3,000	5,000	8,000
	Medium (60-99)	5,000	7,000	10,000
	Large (100-159)	7,000	9,000	12,000
	Very Large (160 plus)	9,000	11,000	14,000
10 – 40%	Small (0-59)	4,000	8,000	12,000
	Medium (60-99)	6,000	12,000	18,000
	Large (100-159)	8,000	16,000	24,000
	Very Large (160 plus)	10,000	20,000	30,000
41 – 70%	Small (0-59)	5,000	10,000	15,000
	Medium (60-99)	7,000	14,000	21,000
	Large (100-159)	9,000	18,000	27,000
	Very Large (160 plus)	11,000	22,000	33,000
71% and above	Small (0-59)	6,000	12,000	18,000
	Medium (60-99)	8,000	16,000	24,000
	Large (100-159)	10,000	20,000	30,000
	Very Large (160 plus)	12,000	24,000	36,000
25% of a center's annual award (listed on the chart above) must be spent on the following approved supports				
Critical Repair Grants	Purpose: To improve the health and safety of the physical environment.			
Classroom Improvement Grants	Purpose: To provide developmentally appropriate materials and furnishings to support child development across all domains.			
Early Learning Resource Grants	Purpose: To provide curriculum and assessment resources to support children's early learning and school readiness.			
Accreditation Grants	Purpose: To assist with national accreditation costs.			