

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 13, 2018

Bret Crow, Bret.Crow@jfs.ohio.gov or
Angela Terez, Angela.Terez@jfs.ohio.gov
(614) 466-6650

Workshops to Help Ohio's Child Care Providers Become 'Step Up To Quality' Rated

COLUMBUS, OHIO – Starting this week, Ohio's child care providers can attend free workshops to learn more about Step Up To Quality, the state's five-star tiered quality rating and improvement system. Step Up To Quality recognizes child care programs that go above and beyond to promote children's learning and development. Starting in 2020, all Ohio child care programs that provide publicly funded child care must participate in Step Up To Quality.

"It's important that all Ohio children get the high-quality early care and education experience they need to succeed in school," said Cynthia Dungey, director of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), which oversees Step Up To Quality in partnership with the Ohio Department of Education. ODJFS also supervises the state's publicly funded child care program. "Step Up To Quality helps ensure that Ohio's child care programs provide this experience, and these workshops will guide providers through the process."

At the workshops, staff from ODJFS and the Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association will explain to providers that offer publicly funded child care services how to prepare for, register for and maintain a star rating.

"Being a five-star Step Up To Quality rated program is rewarding because it sets our program apart from the many others in the community," said Wilbert Owens, owner of Our Kidz Enrichment and Child Care Center in Columbus. "We did it. You can, too!"

"Becoming a five-star rated program has helped my business thrive!" said Cheryl Odom, owner of Cheryl's Kids, a Columbus home-based program. "It allows parents with young children to recognize that my program provides a firm foundation for their children in a safe, home-away-from-home environment that welcomes family engagement and provides a fun learning atmosphere. It shows that I have a passion for working with young children and creating a strategy for their early development."

The next workshop will be held from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., on Saturday, Sept. 29, at 4020 E. Fifth Ave., Columbus, for family child care home providers and administrators. Those interested can register at registry.occrra.org. This Saturday's workshop for child care center administrators and programs is full.

Families can search for child care providers by county, city, zip code, program type and Step Up To Quality rating at ChildCareSearch.Ohio.gov. Programs serve children of all ages, from infants to preschoolers to school-age children who need child care before and after school.

-30-

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services manages vital programs that strengthen Ohio families. These include job training and employment services, unemployment insurance, cash and food assistance, child care, child and adult protective services, adoption, and child support services.



[@OhioJFS](https://twitter.com/OhioJFS)



facebook.com/OhioJFS



youtube.com/user/OhioJFS