

## Incentive for New Programs

Ready to join Step Up To Quality? Join your colleagues in becoming rated! As of February, 88% of Ohio child care programs with PFCC provider agreements were rated.

To encourage newly licensed child care programs to provide Publicly Funded Child Care (PFCC), the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) has created an incentive payment. New programs with signed PFCC provider agreements are eligible.

Child care centers can receive \$5,000, and family child care providers can earn \$2,500. Both the new license and the provider agreement must become effective between Jan. 16 and June 30. ODJFS will issue the payments automatically via electronic funds transfer approximately 60 days after meeting the requirements.

If you have questions, please call the ODJFS Child Care Policy Help Desk at (877) 302-2347, option 4.

Ohio law requires all providers that receive state funding to participate in SUTQ by July 1, 2020. To avoid a gap in your program's ability to serve children in PFCC, you should submit your SUTQ registration no later than March 1, 2020. If you need help with this process, please contact your local child care resource and referral agency. To find contact information for your area's agency, visit [occrra.org/member-agencies](http://occrra.org/member-agencies).

To help spread the word about the many advantages of Step Up To Quality, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services has been running a social media campaign on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Visit [boldbeginning.ohio.gov](http://boldbeginning.ohio.gov) to learn more. Also be sure to follow @BoldBeginningOH on social media and look for the hashtags #StepUpToQuality, #SUTQ, and #BoldBeginning.



## Professional Development Resources

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services is committed to helping Ohio's Publicly Funded Child Care providers achieve their professional development goals and reach their potential.

### T.E.A.C.H Early Childhood<sup>®</sup> OHIO

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood<sup>®</sup> OHIO offers scholarships for early childhood professionals who want to earn a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or associate's degree in early childhood education or child development. Assistance is available to help cover the cost of tuition, books and related expenses.

### POWER Ohio

POWER Ohio offers cash incentives for early childhood professionals who successfully complete higher education courses and degrees and for staying employed with their current early childhood programs. You can earn \$300 or more for each class you pass on your way to earning a CDA credential or an associate's degree and when you graduate.

For more information about the programs above, please visit: [occrra.org/our-resources-page](http://occrra.org/our-resources-page).

# FREE Resources to Help Your Program Become Star-Rated!

Achieving star ratings is good for the children you care for—and good for your business, too! It's also easier than you think. Check out these FREE resources:

- Free curriculums that allow you to meet 1- and 2-star standards and help you achieve a 3-, 4- and 5-star rating.
- Free trainings in a variety of topics, including health and safety standards and child care best practices. Many provide Ohio Approved Hours. Visit [registry.occrra.org/cart/training\\_list](https://registry.occrra.org/cart/training_list) to learn more.
- Scholarships for child care providers interested in earning associate's degrees or a child development associate credential. Visit [occrra.org/our-resources-page](https://occrra.org/our-resources-page).

- Free technical assistance from state staff, county staff and your local child care resource and referral agency:
  - [jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/providers.stm](https://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/providers.stm)
  - [occrra.org/member-agencies](https://occrra.org/member-agencies)

## Need online or in-person training for the Creative Curriculum or Teaching Strategies Gold curriculum?

Visit the Ohio Professional Registry at [registry.occrra.org/cart/training\\_list](https://registry.occrra.org/cart/training_list). Programs with curriculums issued through ODJFS also can take advantage of in-person trainings offered by Teaching Strategies: [teachingstrategies.com/solutions/develop](https://teachingstrategies.com/solutions/develop)



## Ready to start the process to become rated?

Visit [boldbeginning.org](https://boldbeginning.org) for Step Up to Quality resources or contact your child care licensing specialist today!