

“Quality Counts” in 20-21

How to Earn an Individual Stipends

Quality Counts – Raising the Quality of Early Learning & Care



The “Quality Counts” Consortium in Tuolumne County is offering incentives for teachers and family engagement staff to participate in quality improvement activities this year.

Who is eligible:

- Teachers and instructional aides, who work directly with children from birth up to Kindergarten at licensed or license-exempt child care centers for at least 15 hours per week for the extent of your sites school/program year. This includes Apprentices and Student Teachers that have earned a permit.
- Home Visitors, Family Advocates and Family Engagement staff who work at Quality Counts sites with parents of children birth to five.
- Family, Friend and Neighbor caregivers.
- Program Managers and Directors who directly supervise these staff members, and/ or who are working toward QRIS goals for the site.
- There is an eligibility requirement to work a minimum of 15 hours a week for the length of the school year (as determined by your site.)
- Your site must have agreed to fully participate in Quality Counts. Your director will know if this is true (51% of staff must attend initial QC meeting with coach for goal setting).

How to get started:

You must complete the on-line application every year. A coach will then contact you regarding next steps, including completion and return of a W-9 if needed.

If you have questions about the application process, contact one of the following:

- If you work at a Private Site: Suzan Greenwood at ICES (533-0377, (suzang@icesagency.org))
- If you work at ATCAA (Home Visitors and FLC too): Samantha White, (swhite@atcaa.org)
- If you work at Columbia College, SELPA, Belleview, and alternative sites (Raising Healthy Families, Early Start) : Beth Barnett (bbarnett@tcsos.us)

A link to the online application is provided, below. The link will also be on the First 5 Tuolumne website.

[Apply Here](#)

INDIVIDUAL STIPEND REQUIREMENTS for education and professional growth:

- You must confirm that last year’s W-9 has the correct information or provide an updated W-9.
- You will meet with a coach to complete an individual professional growth plan on iPinwheel.
- You will learn how to put information on completed units, workshops and on-line training on the iPinwheel data system for approval by a coach.
- You may be asked to provide additional information if you work at a state-funded site.
- You will be required to get a Workforce Registry number if you don’t already have one. ICES will provide assistance with this.

Options for Stipend	You May Choose Any Combination to Earn Your Hours	We Can Only Promise a Maximum Stipend of: \$350
COLLEGE UNITS- (Must earn “C” grade or better) 1 UNIT= \$175 2 UNITS= \$350	*Must be linked to earning a permit or degree in ECE, or closely related field	You must put education and transcripts into iPinwheel as a PDF . Coach will approve hours
ONLINE WORKSHOPS, TRAININGS, PODCASTS, RESOURCE ARTICLES, COACHING (COACHING COMPANION OR PYRAMID MODULES) WITH BETH BARNETT	*Linked to Professional Growth Plan *Cannot have been paid by employer for same PD *Refer to electronic PD Resource List provided with this document. (It will be updated to keep it current) *Coaching hours will be uploaded and approved by Coach... ALL other PD hours with certificates or reflections will be uploaded by you	\$25 PER HOUR

- **Trainings where travel out of county is involved, will be eligible as follows (although we do not anticipate this option during FY 20-21):**
- **If the individual is attending during paid work hours, one hour of stipend credit/training day will be awarded for the extra effort.** (For example, a two-day training would earn 2 stipend hours). Your supervisor must approve this in iPinwheel.

- **Do not waive payment** from your employer to change this scenario. We will not pay a stipend in this circumstance.
- If the individual is attending outside of paid work hours, the hours for the training alone (not travel time) will be credited toward a stipend. (For example, a two-day training with 6 hours on Day One and 4 hours on day 2 would earn 10 stipend hours). You must upload agendas to iPinwheel.

Hours that are not stipend- eligible:

- Training hours that are paid by your employer or another entity.
- Extra hours you may spend being observed by a coach, or coaching linked to regular workplace activities are not considered stipend eligible. The coaches will determine credit-able coaching hours.
- Any training that is required by Licensing.

Timeline.

- The annual timeline for earning a Quality Counts Teacher stipend is from June 1st 2020 to May 31st 2021 (unless a stipend has already been paid for those June hours last year).
- If a college course will be completed in June 2021, the Quality Counts program must be informed and the transcript must be posted prior to June 30th.
- If a teacher leaves employment as an Early Childhood educator in Tuolumne County during the school year due to personal hardship circumstances, eligibility for receiving a stipend at year-end will be determined on a case-by-case basis. This request must come from the teacher's supervisor, not the individual teacher.

Regarding W-9s: If you receive \$600 or more in a stipend, the County of Tuolumne must report this as income to the Internal Revenue Service, using the information provided on your W-9. This occurs during a calendar year. Earning a stipend of \$350 will not trigger this reporting, unless you have earned other independent income from the County of Tuolumne.