

“Quality Counts” in 20-21 **For Rated Sites**

- CSPP, CCTR, Head Start, Early Head Start, and SELPA

Guidelines for **Directors** of Child Care Centers

Quality Counts – Raising the Quality of Early Learning & Care

Welcome Back! Below are the guidelines for rated sites to participate in Quality Counts in FY 20-21.

Who is eligible:

- Sites that participated last year
- New sites that are licensed and willing to meet the requirements. Your site will be rated on the QRIS matrix every few years.

All sites must fill out an application every year. If the site is returning, less information will be required.

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

[Click Here for Application](#)

REQUIREMENTS For Rated Sites:

1. An application must be completed.
2. A Quality Improvement Plan for each site is required to be input on iPinwheel and approved. Help will be provided.
3. A site will be rated every 3-5 years using the QRIS matrix. Sites rated at 4 or 5 must be rated every 5 years, while sites rated at 3 or below must be rated every 3 years. The last rating was done in FY 18-19, therefore, unless there has been a significant change, the next rating will either be due in FY 21-22 or in FY 23-24, depending on the current rating. Sites that have never been rated have the option to do so this year.

Block Grants or Quality Improvement Site Stipends will be awarded contingent on the rating earned and evidence that the Quality Improvement Plan was completed. This amount will be determined annually, based on funding availability. The timeline for fund release will be June 2021 unless an agreement is reached between both parties to release the funds earlier.

At this point in time, we estimate the following stipends:

For sites rated at 4: \$3,250 per classroom

For sites rated at 3: \$2,750 per classroom

Thank you for your continued commitment to quality! If you have questions please contact **Samantha White** at swhite@atcaa.org or Beth Barnett at bbarnett@tcsos.us.