

# “Quality Counts” in 2021/22

*Raising the Quality of Early Learning & Care*



## Guidelines for Family, Friend and Neighbor Caregivers

The “Quality Counts” Consortium welcomes your participation in our incentive program if you care for young children ages birth up to kindergarten.

### **How to get started:**

Complete the on-line application. A link is provided below.

[Apply Here](#)

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: October 31, 2021**

ICES staff will contact you regarding next steps, including completion of a W-9 if needed.



### **STIPEND OPPORTUNITIES for family, friend, and neighbor caregivers:**

You may earn up to **\$500** through participation in activities that support your caregiving experience. Increase your knowledge of child development, health and safety, social emotional development in young children, how reading, music, and movement encourage children’s healthy growth – and more!

### **Options for how to earn the stipend:**

- Complete, in partnership with the child's parent, an Ages and Stages Questionnaire. This easy to use tool helps caregivers to see how children are developing by doing fun, simple activities with them.
- Choose from a broad assortment of online webinars on early childhood topics and/or Early Childhood college units.
- Pick up a kit from ICES that’s full of learning activities to do with kids.

- Different activities can be combined to earn eligible stipend hours

**\*\*Below is a link to a list of many early childhood education websites and information about trainings or conferences you may wish to use for earning your stipend hours. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Barnett [bbarnett@tcsos.us](mailto:bbarnett@tcsos.us) or Suzan Greenwood [suzang@icesagency.org](mailto:suzang@icesagency.org)**

**[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1JKuUY5OWxcU2dXY4gPWdbWx\\_soyhhyXyoV16atbySMI/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1JKuUY5OWxcU2dXY4gPWdbWx_soyhhyXyoV16atbySMI/edit?usp=sharing)**

**You will earn \$25 for each approved hour of participation. To receive the maximum stipend you will need to complete 20 hours of participation and activities. ICES will provide you with suggestions for the above activities and support you every step of the way.**

**Requirements to participate and earn a stipend:**

1. Application completed.
2. You must work with a Quality Counts representative to agree on specific site-based quality improvement activities over the course of the fiscal year. For FY 21-22, this will be Suzan Greenwood (ICES)
3. You will be required to provide confidential information on the demographics of children served at one point in time during the year.
4. At year end, stipends will be awarded based on completion of agreed upon activities.
5. You must have a <b>W-9 on file</b> . If you have submitted one in the past, and your information has not changed, you <b>do not</b> have to resubmit. If you are new or have never participated in the stipend program, you do need to submit one.

**Timeline:** The annual timeline for earning a Quality Counts stipend is from June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 to May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022

**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. A \$500 stipend will not trigger this reporting, unless you have earned other independent income from the County of Tuolumne.