

# “Quality Counts” in 2021/22

*Raising the Quality of Early Learning & Care*

## Individual Stipends

**For Staff Working at a Center or Alternative Support Site**



The “Quality Counts” Consortium in Tuolumne County is offering incentives for teachers, aides, 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 site’s school/program year.** This includes **apprentices and student teachers** that have earned a permit, **Home Visitors, Family Advocates, and Family Support Site staff** who work at Quality Counts sites, Program Managers/Directors who directly supervise staff members, and/ or who are working toward QRIS goals for the 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 an initial QC meeting with a 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 Center, Family Childcare Home, or Family Friend or Neighbor Suzan Greenwood at ICES (533-0377, ([suzang@icesagency.org](mailto:suzang@icesagency.org)))
- If you work at ATCAA (Home Visitors and FLC): Samantha White, ([samwhite@atcaa.org](mailto:samwhite@atcaa.org))
- If you work at Columbia College, SELPA, Belleview, and alternative support site(Raising Healthy Families, Early Start): Beth Barnett ([bbarnett@tcsos.us](mailto: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](#) **APPLICATION DEADLINE: October 31, 2021**

### **INDIVIDUAL STIPEND REQUIREMENTS:**

- You must confirm that last year’s **W-9** has the correct information or provide an updated W-9 (everyone must have one on file).
- 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.

<b>Options for Stipend:</b> Choose Any Combination to Earn Your Hours	<b>Important Details:</b>	<b>Maximum Stipend:</b> <b>\$500</b>
1. COLLEGE UNITS- (Must earn "C" grade or better)	*Must be linked to earning a permit or degree in ECE, or closely related field  *You must upload education and transcripts into iPinwheel. A coach will approve hours	1 UNIT= \$175 2 UNITS= \$350 3 Units= \$500  * You may combine units with option #2 to earn the full amount.
2. ONLINE WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES, TRAININGS, PODCASTS, RESOURCE ARTICLES, COACHING-(COACHING COMPANION OR PYRAMID MODULES) WITH BETH BARNETT OR SAMANTHA WHITE	*Linked to Professional Growth Plan *Cannot have been paid by employer for same PD *Refer to electronic PD Resource List for options *Coaching hours, PD, certificates, transcripts, and reflections are your responsibility to upload into iPinwheel	\$25 PER HOUR  * 20 hours will earn \$500
<b>*Apprentices Only</b> <i>(Columbia College Apprenticeship Students)</i>	* Units completed as part of the Apprenticeship program at Columbia College cannot be used for earning a stipend * All professional development, not required by apprentice program, are eligible for a stipend.	\$25 PER HOUR * 20 hours will earn \$500

\*\*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)

[Professional Development Opportunities- Click Here](#)

## **IMPORTANT THINGS TO UNDERSTAND:**

### **Trainings where travel out of county is involved, will be eligible as follows:**

- 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 1 and 4 hours on day 2 would earn 10 stipend hours). You must upload agendas or certificates to iPinwheel.

### **HOURS THAT ARE NOT STIPEND- ELIGIBLE:**

- 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, your employer or TCSOS

### **TIMELINE:**

- The annual timeline for earning a Quality Counts Individual stipend is from **June 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 to May 31<sup>st</sup> 2022** (unless a stipend has already been paid for June hours last year).
- If a college course will be completed in June, the Quality Counts program must be informed and the transcript must be posted prior to June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- If a teacher leaves employment as an early childhood educator 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 \$500 will not trigger this reporting, unless you have earned other independent income from the County of Tuolumne.**