

**QRIS Application Instructions 2019-2020**

**Quality Counts** **Humboldt** is the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for early care and education programs in Humboldt County. Quality Counts will help improve early care and education in our community by:

* Giving early educators valuable tools and one-on-one coaching for improving their programs,
* Establishing uniform standards of excellence in early care,
* Empowering parents to make well-informed decisions about the quality of care their children receive, and
* Improving outcomes for children who attend higher quality care throughout Humboldt County.

**Benefits of Participating in Quality Counts Humboldt**

All Quality Counts Humboldt participants receive the following:

* Coaching and technical assistance from a trained expert in quality early education
* Access to training and numerous professional development opportunities
* Eligibility for materials or incentives based on points earned on the QRIS Matrix (**Incentive amounts will be determined by number of participants and funds available**).

**Eligibility for Participation in Quality Counts Humboldt**

Quality Counts Humboldt is currently available to California State Preschool Programs. All Humboldt County CSPP programs that apply will be considered, with a goal of including a broad representation of our county’s communities, including geographic, cultural and demographic considerations.

**Application Process C. Eligible uses**

* Fill out the Quality Counts application and self-assessment checklist
* Sign and submit the attached application form and assessment checklist by **Oct 11, 2019**. Late applications may be accepted on a case by case basis, to ensure a fair process for all applicants.
* The QRIS Consortium will review your Quality Counts application for final approval.
* Not all applications may be recommended for participation due to capacity limitations.
* **The Quality Counts Coordinator will notify applicants by Oct 25, 2019. A letter will be mailed to you letting you know if you have been accepted to QRIS and what the next steps are. You may reapply in the next open cycle if you were not accepted into this one.**
* **Please keep copies of all documents you submit.**
* Applications may be submitted by mail, email (scanned signature pages required), or in person.

**Applications are due Oct 11, 2019 (by 5 pm)**

**Mail, email or deliver applications to:**

Star Mohatt

QRIS Coordinator

First 5 Humboldt

325 2nd Street, Suite 201

Eureka, CA 95501

smohatt@co.humboldt.ca.us

(707) 445-7385

**Requirements to Participate and be eligible to receive Quality Counts Humboldt Materials, Coaching and Financial Incentives**

* Fill out an application and a self-review checklist
* Be approved for participation
* Receive training on iPinwheel database and upload data
* Arrange any needed assessments with the QRIS coordinator (ECERS and/or CLASS)
* Meet with a coach to create a Quality Improvement Plan and begin a coaching relationship
* Participate in any site and file review necessary
* Receive a rating
* For those selected this year, Tier 2 and 3 programs receive coaching and materials with the goal of moving to a higher tier, while Tier 4 and 5 programs will receive financial incentives and coaching.

**If you do not comply with these responsibilities, you may be required to return your Award and you will not be considered for future funding or participation in Quality Counts Humboldt**.