

Quality Counts Humboldt ECE Quality Improvement Grants

Quality Counts Humboldt is the Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) in Humboldt County. QRIS systems are used across the country to improve and support the quality of early care and education programs. Numerous studies show that when children receive high quality care and education during their early years of life, they are better prepared for school, better readers, and are more likely to graduate high school. These outcomes benefit every child and family in our community.

Quality Counts Humboldt provides a variety of quality improvement programs that are designed to support child care providers to get professional development, set goals and/or pursue higher education.

Programs Available for 2023 - 2024:

- **IMPACT (Improve and Maximize so All Children Thrive) Legacy.** Funded by First 5 California, this program uses a Peer-Coaching model and participants can earn stipends for completing professional development and/or child development units
- **QRIS – CSPP (CA State Preschool Program).** Structured around the CA QRIS Rating Matrix, this program is designed to assess quality and provide Tier Ratings for child care centers based on established criteria. Programs can earn awards based on their Tier Ratings
- **QUALITY COUNTS CALIFORNIA (QCC).** A grant that enables individuals to earn incentives by completing professional development and/or child development units and working with a coach to create and implement a Quality Improvement Plan
- **PATHWAYS.** This program focuses on professional development and/or higher education and is available to individuals in a variety of programs, including Family, Friend, and Neighbor Child Care Providers. Individuals can earn stipends for completing professional development and/or child development units

You will be able to qualify for incentives from only one of these programs, so make sure you evaluate the features and pick the one that is best for you and your situation. (In some cases, you may only be eligible to apply for one or two of them depending upon what kind of child care program you operate or are employed by). Look carefully at the list below to see where you fit and which program is right for you to apply for. All participants are required to utilize the CA Early Care and Education Workforce Registry.

Eligibility (Who can apply for which program?):

- **IMPACT Legacy:** Licensed Family Child Care Providers, staff working in Tribal Programs and Family, Friend & Neighbor Child Care Providers
- **CSPP:** Child Care Centers with at least one State Preschool classroom
- **QCC:** Licensed Family Child Care Providers, Family, Friend, and Neighbor Child Care Providers, and staff from Center-based child care programs that do not have a State Preschool classroom, including Tribal Programs
- **Pathways:** Individuals who work in any of the above programs that are eligible to accept state funding

Where can I get more information?

For IMPACT Legacy, CSPP and QCC:

Star Mohatt, QRIS Coordinator
First 5 Humboldt
707-445-7385
smohatt@co.humboldt.ca.us

For Pathways:

Jennifer Black, Workforce Pathways Advisor
Changing Tides Family Services
707-444-8293
JBlack@changingtidesfs.org

We can help explain the features of each program, but the decision of which to apply for will be up to you based on your:

- Eligibility/child care program
- Current goals
- Professional development needs

Funding Disclaimer:

Funding is limited and there are caps on the number of participants or child care programs that can be funded through each funding stream, as well as parameters for who is eligible to apply. Depending upon the funding available and the number of applicants to a program, your stipend may differ from the estimated amount.

Quality Counts Humboldt Grant Comparison Chart

	IMPACT Legacy	CSPP	QCC	Pathways
Who is Eligible?	Individuals who operate or work in Licensed Family Child Care Homes, Tribal Child Care Programs, or Family, Friend, and Neighbor Child Care Providers.	Licensed Child Care Centers with at least one State Preschool classroom.	Licensed Family Child Care Providers, Family, Friend, and Neighbor Child Care Providers and staff from Center-based child care programs that do not have a state preschool classroom, including tribal programs.	Individual staff who work in Center-based Child Care Programs, Tribal Child Care Programs, Family Child Care Homes, Friend, and Neighbor Child Care Providers eligible to accept state funding.
Requirements to earn a Stipend, Incentive or Award	Minimum of 15 hours of Professional Development or 1 unit of college coursework, and completion of IMPACT program requirements. (Completed between May 15, 2023 & May 15, 2024)	Tier Rating on CA QRIS Matrix of 4 or 5; 21 hours of Professional Development for all Lead Teachers and Directors. (Completed between May 15, 2023 & May 15, 2024)	Minimum of 15 hours of Professional Development or 1 unit of college coursework and must meet to set goals and work with a QCC Coach. (Completed between May 15, 2023 & May 15, 2024)	Minimum of 15 hours of Professional Development or 1 unit of college coursework and must meet to set goals and work with the Workforce Pathways Advisor. (Completed between May 15, 2023 & May 15, 2024)
Stipend, Incentive or Award Range *	\$500 (if available funding) individual stipends can be earned based on Professional Development hours and/or College units completed. *Stipends may be adjusted based on available funding and number of participants who qualify	Depending on Rating Tier, a program can earn \$4000 or \$5000 (Awards go to programs or agencies, not individuals). *Awards may be adjusted based on available funding and number of participants who qualify	\$500-\$1500 individual incentives can be earned based on Professional Development hours and/or College units completed (Incentives can increase with hours and units completed). *Incentives may be adjusted based on available funding and number of participants who qualify	\$500-\$1500 individual stipends can be earned based on Professional Development hours and/or College units completed (Stipends can increase with hours and units completed). *Stipends may be adjusted based on available funding and number of participants who qualify

Quality Counts Humboldt - IMPACT Legacy Information and Guidelines

IMPACT (Improve and Maximize Programs So All Children Thrive) Legacy is the third round of a quality improvement grant partially funded by First 5 California and implemented and structured specifically by First 5 Humboldt to fit the unique needs of Humboldt County's Child Care Providers.

IMPACT Legacy's goal is to help children ages 0 to 5 and their families thrive by fostering high-quality early childhood settings and supporting and engaging families in the early learning process. Through these efforts we can empower families with the information and support they need to optimize their children's development so more Humboldt County children enter school ready to learn and become active participants of their communities. Research shows that high-quality programs make a lasting difference in children's lives.

IMPACT Legacy supports early childhood settings in our community by:

- Giving early childhood professionals networking opportunities, one-on-one coaching, and valuable tools for improving their programs
- Establishing uniform standards of excellence in early childhood settings
- Empowering parents to make well-informed decisions about child care quality
- Improving outcomes for children by increasing quality in early childhood settings throughout Humboldt County

Benefits of Participating in IMPACT Legacy:

All **IMPACT Legacy** participants receive the following:

- One-on-one coaching and/or technical assistance from a peer coach and the IMPACT coordinator
- Numerous training and professional development opportunities
- Access to a centralized database (Hubbe) for tracking professional development
- Opportunity to earn stipends each year of up to \$500 for individuals who meet the minimum requirements. (Stipend amounts subject to change based on funding)

Eligibility for Participation in IMPACT Legacy:

IMPACT Legacy is open to child care settings that include Family, Friend, and Neighbor Child Care Providers, Licensed Family Child Care Homes* and Center-based Child Care programs that do not have a state preschool component. Individual participants must be 18 years of age and working in one of the above categories of programs.

**Licensed settings must be current and in good standing with Community Care Licensing.*

IMPACT Legacy Requirements for earning a Stipend:

- Complete a minimum of 15 hours of Professional Development or 1 unit of college course work
- Attend a coaching session with an **IMPACT Legacy** Coach
- Participate in a Professional Learning Community (PLC) with your coach and cohort (minimum 2X per year)
- Complete Hubbe and Workforce Registry training through F5H or approved online session
- Complete Module 1 (2 hours) of Safe Spaces Training: Foundations of Trauma Informed Practice on CA Early Childhood Online (CECO)
- Keep professional development documentation updated in the Hubbe database for the year

For questions, please contact Star Mohatt, QRIS Coordinator at First 5 Humboldt at:
(707) 445-7385 or smohatt@co.humboldt.ca.us

Quality Counts Humboldt – QRIS CSPP Block Grant Program

The **Quality Counts Humboldt - CSPP-QRIS Block Grant** is a yearly grant funded by the California Department of Education (CDE) to support State Preschools with ongoing Quality Improvement activities. Any child care program with at least one State Preschool classroom is eligible to apply. Block Grants for Tier Ratings are awarded at the program level to be used for activities such as equipment and materials purchases, minor facilities improvements, and staff training and professional development.

State Preschool Programs participating in the Quality Counts Humboldt CSPP Block Grant will have:

- Ongoing support, training, and coaching for quality improvement
- Access to Hubbe database for tracking professional development and other program data
- An official CLASS assessment by a reliable external assessor
- QRIS Tier Site Rating with the updated CA QRIS Rating Matrix
- Opportunity to earn financial awards or material awards (depending upon tier rating and funding available)

Qualification for participation:

Sites must have a State Preschool contract and all participating programs must be licensed by Community Care Licensing, current, and “In Good Standing.”

Site Ratings:

Quality Counts employs a monitoring and verification system that includes tracking elements of quality in Hubbe and receiving an on-site review by the QRIS rater at intervals of two-five years, depending on Tier Rating. Participating programs will be assessed on the following elements of quality on the CA QRIS Rating Matrix:

1. Child Observation (DRDP)
2. Developmental and Health Screenings (ASQ tool and vision & hearing screenings)
3. Lead Teacher Qualifications (number of Child Development Units and degree(s) earned)
4. Effective Teacher-Child Interactions (CLASS)
5. Ratios and Group Size
6. Director Qualifications (number of Child Development Units and degree(s) earned)

For questions, please contact Star Mohatt, QRIS Coordinator at First 5 Humboldt at:
(707) 445-7385 or smohatt@co.humboldt.ca.us

Quality Counts Humboldt – Quality Counts California (QCC) Grant

Who can apply for a QCC Grant?

Licensed Family Child Care Providers, Family, Friend, and Neighbor Child Care Providers and staff from Center-based child care programs that do not have a state preschool classroom, including tribal programs.

Guidelines for Earning a Professional Development Incentive:

Incentives will be paid to *individuals* so owners and/or employees (**listed on the license**) of child care programs would be eligible to apply.

Incentive Levels:

Incentives will be awarded based on hours of training attended and/or college classes completed (**Can be one or the other, or a combination of both**). See the Incentive Levels Chart below:

\$500	15 training hours or 1 Unit of a college course leading to a degree.
\$1,000	30 training hours or 2 Units of a college course leading to a degree.
\$1,500	45 training hours or 3 Units of a college course leading to a degree.

Professional Development:

Any Professional Development that individuals engage in must link to that individual's Quality Improvement Plan.

Documentation Required:

Individuals can turn in documentation of a class or training completion (certificates, transcripts, or grades, etc.) to verify attendance. Participants will be able to count any trainings or classes attended since May 15, 2023. Upon receipt of completion documents by the deadline of May 15, 2024, the QRIS Coordinator will evaluate which Incentive Level an individual has earned.

Timeline for Completion of Documentation:

All Professional development must be completed between May 15, 2023 and May 15, 2024. Documentation can include a training and education report from the CA Early Care and Education Workforce Registry, certificates of completion, transcripts, or letters from instructors.

Funding Disclaimer:

Funding is limited and there are caps on the number of participants or child care programs that can be funded through each funding stream, as well as parameters for who is eligible to apply. Depending upon the funding available and the number of applicants to a program, your stipend may differ from the estimated amount.

For questions, please contact Star Mohatt, QRIS Coordinator at First 5 Humboldt at:
(707) 445-7385 or smohatt@co.humboldt.ca.us

Quality Counts Humboldt - Workforce Pathways Program

Quality Counts Humboldt - Workforce Pathways Program focuses on professional development and/or higher education of the child care and education workforce and is available to individuals in a variety of programs. Individuals can earn stipends for completing professional development and/or child development units.

Who can apply for Pathways?

Individual staff who work in Center-based Child Care programs, Tribal Child Care Programs, Family Child Care Homes, and Family, Friend, and Neighbor Child Care Providers eligible to accept state funding.

Requirements to earn a Stipend, Incentive or Award:

Incentives will be paid to *individuals* so owners and/or employees (**listed on the license**) of child care programs would be eligible to apply.

Stipend, Incentive or Award Range *

\$500-\$1500 individual stipends can be earned based on Professional Development hours and/or College units completed (Stipends can increase with hours and units completed).

***Stipends may be adjusted based on available funding and number of participants who qualify.**

Incentive Levels:

Incentives will be awarded based on hours of training attended and/or college classes completed (**Can be one or the other**). See the Incentive Levels Chart below:

\$500	15 training hours or 1 Unit of a college course leading to a degree.
\$1,000	30 training hours or 2 Units of a college course leading to a degree.
\$1,500	45 training hours or 3 Units of a college course leading to a degree.

Guidelines for Earning Incentives

All participants will meet at least quarterly with the Workforce Pathways Advisor, create an Individual Workforce Pathways Plan, and will utilize the CA Early Care and Education Workforce Registry. Activities include creating goals and plans to achieve either professional development or higher educational goals.

Funding Disclaimer:

Funding is limited and there are caps on the number of participants or child care programs that can be funded through each funding stream, as well as parameters for who is eligible to apply. Depending upon the funding available and the number of applicants to a program, your stipend may differ from the estimated amount.

For questions, please contact the Workforce Pathways Advisor, Jen Black, at Changing Tides Family Services at: (707) 444-8293 or jblack@changingtidesfs.org

Authorization for Release of Information

I, _____ give permission for
 (Family Child Care Provider/Owner or Authorized Staff Member)

- Changing Tides Family Services
- Northcoast Children’s Services
- Another agency (Please specify) _____

to release the following to the Quality Counts Humboldt - Quality Ratings & Improvement System (QRIS) Program:

- ___ Family Child Care Environmental Rating Scale (FCCERS) assessment results
- ___ CLASS Observation scores
- ___ College Transcripts and/or degrees
- ___ Professional Development documentation (certificates, etc.)
- ___ DRDP Summary page and/or sample completed DRDP
- ___ ASQ-3 and/or ASQ-SE completed form and/or summary of children assessed
- ___ Child Plus Information
- ___ Other (please specify) _____

The information from these documents will be used to develop Quality Improvement Plans with my QRIS Quality Counts Coach, and to develop site Tier Ratings. It will be kept confidential and may only be shared with QRIS staff and coaches for the above stated purposes.

(Family Child Care Provider/Owner or Authorized Staff Member Signature) Date

(Phone number/email)

Quality Counts Humboldt Application

I. CONTACT INFORMATION	
Name (First, Last):	Date:
Personal Mailing Address:	City and Zip Code:
Phone number(s): Home: _____ Work: _____	Preferred method of contact <input type="checkbox"/> Phone <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Text
Email(s):	
CA Early Childhood Workforce Registry ID Number:	
CA Child Development Permit Level: <input type="checkbox"/> NA if no permit <input type="checkbox"/> Assistant <input type="checkbox"/> Associate <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher <input type="checkbox"/> Master Teacher <input type="checkbox"/> Site Supervisor <input type="checkbox"/> Program Director	
Do you have a degree in Child Development or a related field? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Education Level (Please check highest level of education completed and specify subject) <input type="checkbox"/> Less than a High School Diploma <input type="checkbox"/> High School/GED <input type="checkbox"/> AA Degree (Subject: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> BA/BS Degree (Subject: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate Degree (Subject: _____)	
Which Grant are you applying for? (Mark only one box)	
<input type="checkbox"/> IMPACT Legacy	
<input type="checkbox"/> Quality Counts California (QCC)	
<input type="checkbox"/> CSPP (Centers with State Preschool Programs only)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pathways	
II. PROGRAM INFORMATION	
Name of Child Care Program	
Does your program hold a valid License through Community Care Licensing (CCL)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	CCL License Number:
Please check type of child care you work in ⇒	<input type="checkbox"/> State-funded Licensed Center <input type="checkbox"/> Licensed Family Child Care Home (FCCH) <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Child Care Center <input type="checkbox"/> Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) Child Care <input type="checkbox"/> Private Child Care Center
License Capacity:	Current enrollment:
<input type="checkbox"/> Infants (birth - 17 months): _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Infants (birth - 17 months): _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Toddlers (18 months – 35 months): _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Toddlers (18 months – 35 months): _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Preschoolers (36 months – K): _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Preschoolers (36 months – K): _____

Does your program have WiFi? Yes No

How do you plan to access the online database or trainings?
 iPad/tablet Desktop/Laptop computer Phone

Please briefly answer the following questions. *If you add a separate piece of paper, please number your responses to match the question number and label each page with your name and program name.*

1. Briefly describe your program and program philosophy.

2. What do you hope your program will achieve through participation in the QCC Program?

3. Describe one or two areas you would like to focus on to improve the quality of your program.

III. DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

1. In what language would you prefer services and materials?

English Spanish Other _____

2. What is your primary language of instruction? _____

3. Number of Children with IFSPs _____ Number of Children with IEPs _____

4. Number of Children in Foster Care _____

5. Number of Children who are considered homeless _____

6. Ethnicity of Children in Care (please indicate how many of each):

Alaska Native/American Indian	Asian	African American/Black	Hispanic/Latino	Pacific Islander	Caucasian	Multi-racial	Other Please Specify	Unknown

7. Preschool-aged Children's Primary Language (please indicate how many of each):

English	Spanish	Other Please Specify	Unknown



CERTIFICATION OF APPLICATION

The Applicant Certifies:

To the best of my knowledge and belief, information in this application is true and correct. The application has been authorized by the governing board of the applying Site/Program (if applicable). I understand that any materials created under this grant are public domain and may be used and/or reproduced by the State of California, First 5 California and First 5 Humboldt. I understand that this is a public document and open to public inspection.

Name

Signature *(Person authorized to bind this agreement)*

Title (optional)

Date

Funding is limited and there are caps on the number of participants or child care programs that can be funded through each funding stream, as well as parameters for who is eligible to apply. Depending upon the funding available and the number of applicants to a program, your stipend may differ from the estimated amount.