

Quality Counts Humboldt Application

I. CONTACT INFORMATION	
Name (First, Last): _____	Date: _____
Personal Mailing Address: _____	City and Zip Code: _____
Phone number(s): Cell: _____ Work: _____ Other: _____	Preferred method of contact ☐ Phone ☐ Email ☐ Text
Email(s): Personal: _____ Work: _____	
CA Child Development Permit Level: ☐ NA if no permit ☐ Assistant ☐ Associate ☐ Teacher ☐ Master Teacher ☐ Site Supervisor ☐ Program Director	
Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential: ☐ NA if no CDA ☐ Infant/Toddler ☐ Preschool ☐ Family Child Care ☐ Home Visitor	
Do you have a degree in Child Development or a related field? ☐ Yes ☐ No Education Level (Please check highest level of education completed and specify subject) ☐ High School/GED ☐ AA Degree (Subject: _____) ☐ BA/BS Degree (Subject: _____) ☐ Graduate Degree (Subject: _____)	
Are you participating in the Family Child Care Home Education Network (FCCHEN) Program? ☐ Yes ☐ No Do you accept Child Care subsidies through Changing Tides Family Services? ☐ Yes ☐ No	
Which Grant are you applying for? (Rank your choices – you may only qualify for one grant)	
_____ IMPACT Legacy	
_____ Quality Improvement Grant (QIG) (Family Childcare Owners only)	
_____ QRIS-CSPP (Centers with State Preschool Programs only)	
_____ Workforce Pathways	
II. PROGRAM INFORMATION	
Name of Childcare Program you own or work in: _____	

Does your program hold a valid License through Community Care Licensing (CCL)? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ License-Exempt		If yes, CCL License Number(s): _____
Please check type of childcare you work in ➔	☐ State-funded Licensed Center ☐ Tribal Childcare Center ☐ Private Childcare Center	☐ Licensed Family Childcare Home (FCCH) ☐ Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) Childcare
What is the total licensed capacity? ☐ Preschoolers (36 months – K) _____ ☐ Toddlers (18 months – 35 months) _____ ☐ Infants (birth - 17 months) _____ ☐ School Age (5-8 years) _____		How many children are <u>currently</u> enrolled? ☐ Preschoolers (36 months – K) _____ ☐ Toddlers (18 months – 35 months) _____ ☐ Infants (birth - 17 months) _____ ☐ School Age (5-8 years) _____
Does your program have WiFi? ☐ Yes ☐ No		
How do you plan to access the online database or training? ☐ iPad/tablet ☐ Desktop/Laptop computer ☐ Phone		
Please briefly answer the following questions. <i>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.</i>		
1. Briefly describe your program and program philosophy.		
2. What do you hope your program will achieve through participation in a 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 the primary language that you use in your program? _____

3. Number of Children with an Individual Family Services Plan (IFSP) (0-3 yrs) _____

4. Number of Children with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) (Over 3 yrs) _____

5. Number of Children in Foster Care _____

6. Number of Children receiving an Alternative Payment Program and/or CalWORKs Voucher _____

7. Number of Children who are considered homeless _____

8. Ethnicity of Children in Care (*Put number of children*):

Alaska Native/ Pacific Islander	Asian	African American/Black	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian	White	Multiracial	Other (Please specify)	Unknown

9. Preschool-aged Children's Primary Language (*Put number of children*):

English	Spanish	Other (Please specify)	Unknown

- All professional development, training, activities, higher education, assessments, and documentation must be completed between May 16, 2026, and May 15, 2027. No late paperwork will be accepted.

This application must be submitted no later than **Friday, September 25, 2026**

Authorization for Release of Information

I, _____ give permission for
(Childcare 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 Childcare 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 Quality Counts Coach, calculate professional development hours completed to earn a stipend, and to develop site Tier Ratings for CSPP programs. It will be kept confidential and may only be shared with QCC staff and coaches for the above stated purposes.

(Childcare Provider/Owner or Authorized Staff Member Signature)

Date

(Phone number/email)

CERTIFICATION OF APPLICATION

The Applicant Certifies:

To the best of my knowledge and belief, the 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 <i>(Person authorized to bind this agreement)</i>
Name of Childcare Program where you work/own	Date

Funding is limited and there are caps on the number of participants or childcare 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.

All Program Requirements

- Licensed programs must be in Good Standing with Community Care Licensing
- **All professional development, training, activities, higher education, assessments, and documentation must be completed between May 16, 2026, and May 15, 2027. No late paperwork will be accepted.**
- Follow the guidelines and requirements for each grant as they all differ based on programs served, grant requirements and funding available.

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 childcare providers to get professional development, set goals and/or pursue higher education.

Programs Available for 2026 - 2027:

- **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 *Quality Continuum Framework-Measured Quality Elements*, this program is designed to assess quality and provide Tier Ratings for childcare centers based on established criteria. Programs can earn awards based on their Tier Ratings.
- **QUALITY IMPROVEMENT GRANT (QIG).** A grant that enables Family Childcare Programs 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 structured around the *Quality Continuum Framework-Measured Quality Elements*.
- **WORKFORCE 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 Childcare Providers. Individuals can earn incentives for completing professional development and/or higher education 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 childcare 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.

Eligibility (Who can apply for which program?):

- **IMPACT Legacy:** Licensed Family Childcare Providers, staff working in public or private Childcare Centers including Tribal Programs & Head Start (without CSPPs), and Family, Friend & Neighbor Childcare Providers
- **CSPP:** Childcare Centers with at least one State Preschool classroom
- **QIG:** Licensed Family Childcare Programs
- **Workforce Pathways:** Individuals who work in or operate public or private Childcare Centers including Tribal programs & Head Start, Licensed Family Childcare Homes, and Family, Friend & Neighbor Childcare Providers.

More Information about QCH ECE Quality Improvement Grants

Where can I get more information?

For IMPACT Legacy, CSPP and QIG

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

For Workforce 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/childcare program
- Current goals
- Professional development needs

Funding Disclaimer:

Funding is limited and there are caps on the number of participants or childcare 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.

Program Requirements:

Licensed Programs must have a current license and be in “Good Standing” with Community Care Licensing.

All professional development, training, activities, higher education, assessments, and documentation must be completed between May 16, 2026, and May 15, 2027. No late paperwork will be accepted.

Follow the guidelines and requirements for each grant as they all differ based on programs served, grant requirements and funding available.

Quality Counts Humboldt - IMPACT Legacy Information and Guidelines

Quality Counts Humboldt - 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. Research shows that high-quality programs make a lasting difference in children's lives.

Who is Eligible to Apply for IMPACT Legacy?

Individual participants must be working in one of the following categories of childcare programs:

- Licensed Family Childcare Providers
- Family Friend & Neighbor Childcare Providers
- Staff from Center-based childcare programs, including Tribal, Private and Head Start programs, that do not have a state preschool classroom.

IMPACT Legacy Grant Priorities:

- Programs providing infant and toddler care.
- Traditionally underserved populations, including multilingual learners, newcomer families, children in foster care, rural or isolated communities, and families experiencing homelessness.

IMPACT Legacy Requirements & Stipends:

- Complete a minimum of 15 hours of **Professional Development or 1 unit of college course work**.
- Attend at least one coaching session with an **IMPACT Legacy Coach** (will be assigned to you).
- Participate in a minimum of two (2) **Professional Learning Community sessions (PLC's)** with your coach and cohort.
- Work with an **IMPACT Legacy coach** to create and implement a **Quality Improvement Plan (QIP)** in Hubbe
- Keep professional development, coaching logs and **QIP** updated in the **Hubbe** database for the year.
- **\$500** stipends can be earned by individuals who complete the above requirements.

All professional development, training, activities, higher education, assessments, and documentation must be completed between May 16, 2026, and May 15, 2027. No late paperwork will be accepted.

Funding Disclaimer:

Funding is limited and there are caps on the number of participants or childcare programs that can be funded through each funding stream, as well as parameters for who is eligible to apply. Depending upon the funding available, your stipend may differ from the estimated amount. If more than 32 applicants apply to participate in IMPACT Legacy, we will hold a random lottery to select the final participants.

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

Quality Counts Humboldt – QRIS CSPP Block Grant Program

Quality Counts Humboldt -California State Preschool Program Block Grant (CSPP) Structured around the **Quality Continuum Framework-Measured Quality Elements**, this program is designed to assess quality and provide Tier Ratings for childcare centers based on established criteria. Programs can earn awards based on their Tier Ratings.

Who is Eligible to Apply?

Childcare programs with at least one California State Preschool classroom can participate in the QRIS CSPP Block Grant. The program participates and is rated as a whole; individuals cannot receive stipends.

What is the Process to Apply and Participate?

- Fill out an application and self-review checklist.
- Start or continue a coaching relationship with an assigned coach.
- Create or update a Quality Improvement Plan

What Does Site Rating Consist Of?

An external Rater evaluates sites and will assign a rating based on their CLASS and CLASS Environment Scores. **The Quality Continuum Framework** will no longer be used for rating, but can be used as a self-evaluation and Quality Improvement tool, and consists of the following elements:

- Child Observation (DRDP)
- Developmental and Health Screenings (ASQ, annual Physician's Report)
- Lead-Teacher's education, permits and professional development.
- Director's education, permits and professional development.
- CLASS Assessment Scores
- Ratios and Group Size

To complete a site rating a program will need to

- Arrange assessments (if needed) with QRIS Coordinator.
- Meet with a coach to enter or update their Quality Improvement Plan into Hubbe

All participating programs will receive coaching, but Tiers 3, 4 and 5 programs will also be eligible to receive awards based on their Tier Rating and available funds.

All professional development, training, activities, higher education, assessments, and documentation must be completed between May 16, 2026, and May 15, 2027. No late paperwork will be accepted.

Funding Disclaimer:

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

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

Quality Counts Humboldt – Quality Improvement Grant (QIG)

Quality Counts Humboldt – Quality Improvement Grant (QIG) A grant that enables Family Childcare Programs 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 structured around the *Quality Continuum Framework-Measured Quality Elements*. (See appendix)

Who is Eligible to Apply?

- Licensed Family Childcare Programs

Requirements:

Family Childcare Programs can earn incentives by completing professional development and/or child development units and working with a coach to create and implement a Quality Improvement Plan structured around the *Quality Continuum Framework-Measured Quality Elements*.

QI Grant Priorities:

Priority will be given to programs who serve:

- Children utilizing subsidies.
- Children who have experienced trauma.
- Children who have experienced natural disasters.
- Children in foster care
- Children with special needs.

In addition to the above priorities, an overarching goal is to support those programs that affirm the cultural diversity of families served.

Incentives:

Incentives will be awarded to Family Childcare Programs who complete a minimum of 10 hours of coaching with 20 hours of approved professional development **OR** 10 hours of coaching with 1.5 units of college courses leading to a degree. Incentives can be earned by completing a minimum 30 hours in the above combination and incentive amounts may vary depending upon available funding.

All professional development, training, activities, higher education, assessments, and documentation must be completed between May 16, 2026, and May 15, 2027. No late paperwork will be accepted.

Funding Disclaimer:

Funding is limited and there are caps on the number of participants or childcare programs that can be funded through each funding stream, as well as parameters for who is eligible to apply. Depending upon the funding available, your stipend may differ from the estimated amount. If more applicants than we have funding for apply to participate in the QIG, we will hold a random lottery to select the final participants.

For questions, please contact the QRIS & IMPACT Coordinator, Star Mohatt, at First 5 Humboldt:
(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 childcare and education workforce and is available to individuals in a variety of programs. Individuals can earn incentives for completing professional development and/or child development units.

Who Can Apply for Workforce Pathways?

Individual staff who work in Center-based Childcare programs including Tribal Childcare and Head Start, Licensed Family Childcare Homes, and Family, Friend, and Neighbor Childcare Providers.

Requirements to Earn an Incentive:

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

Incentive Range:

Individual incentives can be earned based on professional development hours and/or college units completed (incentives can increase with hours and units completed and may be adjusted based on available funding and number of participants who qualify.)

Incentive Levels:

Incentives will be awarded based on hours of professional development **OR** college classes completed. (**Must select either professional development OR higher ed track**). Levels of participation can be seen on the chart below and will determine an individual's incentive level:

Level 1: 15 professional development hours or 1 unit of a college course leading to a degree.

Level 2: 30 professional development hours or 2 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 and will create an Individual Workforce Pathways Plan. Activities include creating goals and plans to achieve either professional development **or** higher educational goals.

All professional development, training, activities, higher education, assessments, and documentation must be completed between May 16, 2026, and May 15, 2027. No late paperwork will be accepted.

Funding Disclaimer:

Funding is limited and there are caps on the number of participants or childcare 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 incentive may differ from the estimated amount.

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

Quality Counts Humboldt Grant Comparison Chart

	IMPACT Legacy	QRIS-CSPP Block Grant	Quality Improvement Grant (QIG)	Workforce Pathways
Who is Eligible?	Individual staff who work in Center-based Childcare Programs without a CSPP, including Tribal Childcare, Head Start and private programs, Family Childcare Homes and Family, Friend, and Neighbor Childcare Providers.	Licensed Childcare Centers with at least one State Preschool classroom.	Licensed Family Childcare Providers	Individual staff who work in Center-based Childcare Programs, including Tribal Childcare, Head Start and private programs, Family Childcare Homes and Family, Friend, and Neighbor Childcare Providers.
Requirements to earn a Stipend, Incentive or Award	Minimum of 15 hours of Professional Development or 1 unit of college coursework, and completion of other IMPACT program requirements. (Completed between May 16, 2026 & May 15, 2027)	Tier Rating of 3, 4 or 5 based on CLASS Assessment and CLASS Environment Assessments (Completed between May 16, 2026 & May 15, 2027)	10 hours of coaching and 20 hours of Professional Development OR 10 hours of coaching and 1.5 units of college coursework; must set goals based on QCF with coach. (Completed between May 16, 2026 & May 15, 2027)	Minimum of 15 hours of Professional Development OR 1 unit of college coursework and must work with the Workforce Pathways Advisor to set goals. (Completed between May 16, 2026 & May 15, 2027)
Stipend, Incentive or Award Range*	*Stipends may be adjusted based on available funding and number of participants who qualify	*Awards may be adjusted based on available funding and number of participants who qualify	*Incentives may be adjusted based on available funding and number of participants who qualify	*Incentives may be adjusted based on available funding and number of participants who qualify