

Montgomery County Child Care Directors Forum May 2, 2024

Sandra Raye-Redmond, Director of Program Implementation, welcomed everyone at 10 a.m. She reviewed the agenda and noted there will be a summary posted on the Preschool Promise website next week.

4C for Children – Katie Thompson, Coaching Specialist

Quality programs and coaching – Anyone interested in coaching that is not receiving it through Preschool Promise should reach out to Ashley Chiles at 937-723-2718 or achiles@4cforchildren.org. Ashley is also the contact for learning about LENA which is a program that detects conversational interactions between teacher and child. Lastly, 4C will be receiving new marketing materials for SUTQ in the next few months; they will reach out to everyone when those are ready for pickup.

Professional Development and CDA – There are two upcoming CDA cohorts with one starting on June 4 and another starting August 6. The cohort starting June 4 will have some virtual sessions and some in person at the Southwest Ohio office in Cincinnati. The August 6 cohort is completely virtual. If you are interested in either cohort, you must attend an orientation session. Two orientation sessions are scheduled for [May 23, 6:30-9 p.m.](#) and another one on [June 13, 6:30-9 p.m.](#) Both are in person at the Miami Valley office.

Planning for the *4C annual conference* is underway. The conference is October 25-26 at the Sharonville Convention Center. Save the Date postcards are going out soon. Registration will open mid-July.

The *Foster Hub* is connecting with partner public and private agencies to support them with their foster care recruitment and retention efforts. We are out in the community spreading awareness about the need for more quality foster homes

May is foster care appreciation month, so take a moment to thank anyone you know who is doing the work. Watch for billboards, commercials and radio ads that are surrounded around the foster care aware. We need more foster homes, so if you are interested in learning more about how you can support this community need reach out to Lakisha at Lancrum@4cforchildren.org

4C's *Child Care Careers* team continues to assist programs in Montgomery County with new hires. If they have someone they are interested in hiring, we may be able to help with background checks, ODCY required training and other general onboarding needs. They can get more information at <https://www.4cforchildren.org/child-care-careers/> and have the potential hire complete the interest form [here](#).

The *Business Services* team is looking for five people in Kettering who want to start their own family child care business. Licensed Type B programs wanting to expand to Type A are eligible. See the attached flier with a QR code that interested parties can use to get more information. Free resources include training, safety materials, technology support, learning materials, and more! Please share the information with anyone you know in Kettering.

Family and Community Services - Please use the 4C [provider portal](#) to update information about openings for children so 4C can match families with your center/program.

brightwheel – Nick Hunt, State Partnerships Lead

brightwheel is the official technology partner with the Ohio Department of Children and Youth (ODCY). It is a child care management software completely free through the State. All licensed programs, including current subscribers to brightwheel, can use it for free by registering to receive it through ODCY. It will be free at least through June 30, 2025, and hopefully after that date.

brightwheel is a platform to take care of business and management aspects of your program all in one place. It can run on a PC, tablet, or phone; there's an app as well as the website. An administrator can add staff accounts with individualized levels of access given to them.

He gave a "tour" of the program demonstrating various aspects. Just some of the components of brightwheel are:

- Admissions and applications portal that includes creation and storage of forms
- Family connection through child profiles
- Tracking children's attendance
- Log classroom activities including meals, health check
- Billing platform that providers often report saves them time

brightwheel has a 97% customer satisfaction rating. If you're interested in learning more, use the link to sign up to schedule a 1:1 demo of the platform with a product specialist and get your account created. If you decide to establish an account, you will receive an onboarding coach who will support you with launching Brightwheel in your program.

A question was raised about the security of brightwheel. Nick reported they use the highest level of data security and storage. Email the question to ohio@mybrightwheel.com and we will look into the specifications and communicate with you about those.

If you'd like to learn more about how you can get this child care management software for your program, you can sign up to speak with a brightwheel team member [here](#). If you have any questions or are already a brightwheel customer who would like to receive their subscription through the state, please email ohio@mybrightwheel.com to get more information! Current customers should note that the experience part of the program is not covered by ODCY.

Attached is a summary document created by the Department of Children and Youth.

Preschool Promise updates

While waiting for the next presenter to join the call, Sandra announced that Preschool Promise is putting together a resource tool kit for our provider partners. Distribution has started with new providers but all our provider partners will receive one. It is a binder of information covering areas about which people have had questions and highlights some critical information in the Preschool Promise provider manual.

Ashley Marshall, Senior Director of Operations, reported the family application for the 2024-2025 school year will be available soon. It has been delayed slightly due to the transition to a new records management system.

Ashley also reported that the Star Attendance program will not be offered after this school year. Preschool Promise will be communicating that directly to families that will be affected.

Lindsey Riley, Enrollment Manager, stated the family application process has been revised and hopefully will be simpler for families to complete. Some of the required documents have been expanded to include additional options for families to verify eligibility for Preschool Promise. The previously mentioned resource tool kit for Preschool Promise providers will include fliers with new requirements for verifying residency and an overview of the benefits for families participating in Preschool Promise. In the meantime, providers can talk with currently enrolled families about the program and how they can benefit. A link for families to sign up for application notifications is [here](#) on our website. We will contact all participating providers as soon as everything is ready for families to apply for the 2024-25 school year.

We have been working to auto re-enroll students that are Preschool Promise eligible for a second year. This will ensure that if your families were in Preschool Promise for the 2023-24 program year, they will not need to apply again. On the provider portal, take a look at the roster for the 2024-25 program year and let us know if there are children that need to be added or removed. Those would be students who will not be part of the program next school year (i.e. going to Kindergarten in August) or any that were in your program this year and will return but were not automatically re-enrolled.

If you have any questions about child enrollment, providers may reach out to her at Lindsey.Riley@preschoolpromise.org

Lead Safe Ohio – Libby Schroeder, Community Development Manager, Montgomery County

Libby reported there is a \$150 million grant being used statewide to prevent lead poisoning. Montgomery County has been awarded \$4.7 million for lead prevention or remediation that can be used in qualifying facilities. A qualifying facility is built before 1978 that has lead paint or dust in the building.

The lead remediation will be a process that will involve space being unusable for a period of time. Children will not be able to be in rooms where remediation is being done. Consider whether it is possible for you to continue operations if that takes place.

Ashley Marshall noted some Preschool Promise programs went through a facilities assessment. Reach out to Ashley Marshall to see if you have ever had testing for lead.

This is open to all Montgomery County providers and Libby is reaching out to programs that may be eligible. We want to get a group together to see how this may work. Libby can be contacted at schroedere@mcoho.org.

Someone asked if the grant could be used for a feasibility study for using an older building for child care programming. Libby stated her understanding is that the facility must currently be used as a child care facility; future use of a site is not covered by the grant.

Licensing updates – Trentae Taylor and Kelly Paull

Kelly Paull and Trentae Taylor are licensing supervisors from the Dayton field office for the Department of Children and Youth (formerly with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services).

Written Emergency Disaster Plans - Guidance Letter from the Department of Children and Youth with information to assist programs in fulfilling new licensing requirements for the Written Emergency Disaster Plans that was introduced in December 2023. It is **attached** for your review.

Rules in Clearance - Two clearance packages were in clearance until March 26, 2024. This included the five-year review of the Step Up to Quality rules as well as the Publicly Funded Child Care payment rate rule.

DCY Early Care and Education Providers Monthly Call- The Department of Children and Youth (DCY) invites you to attend a regular cadence of meetings to share early care and education updates and hear directly from you as we build the infrastructure of programs for the new agency. Two of the guiding principles of DCY are transparency and accountability; therefore, these meetings will be an opportunity for strengthening our relationship with our partners. Links to join the meeting are sent to the email address in OCLQS. Previous agendas included the following items and meeting follow up has been sent:

- Step Up To Quality Rules and Updates
- Publicly Funded Child Care (PFCC) Payment Rules
- Early Childhood Education (ECE) Program Enrollment/Early Intervention Expansion
- Federal Rules on Early Care and Education Regulations and Publicly Funded Child Care Payments (waiver)
- Bright Wheel/Child Care Management System (CCMS) short overview and webinar announcement

Provider Call follow up-

If you have not attended the Early Care and Education Provider/Stakeholder call, please plan to join us next month! Each month our number of participants has grown and this past month we exceeded 6,200 participants!

Based on questions we received during the call, we are providing the following documents that will be attached to the follow up from this call:

1. Stakeholder Presentations - Attached you will find the presentations from the November 28, January 23 and February 27 sessions.
2. Stakeholder Call Questions, February 27th - While we have not had time to answer the questions yet, we wanted to share the questions that were submitted during the call. We will use those questions to develop our draft rules, trainings and guidance documents and will try to incorporate as many answers as possible in future ECE Provider calls.
3. 35th Percentile payments for the Publicly Funded Child Care Program - Below is the link to the rates for the 35th percentile that were made effective earlier in February.

<https://emanuals.ifs.ohio.gov/pdf/pdf-letters/CCMTL-166---2024-35th-Percentile-PFCC-Provider-Rates.pdf>

4. Infant and Toddler Infrastructure Grants - As was mentioned on the call, we received good feedback to shape the application process for the SFY 25 Round 2 awards. We are sharing with you the questions and answers document for these grants in hopes that we can build upon this information from Round 2 funding.
5. Consumer Education Survey for Rated Programs - As we work through the transition from stars to medals, we will continue to reach out to rated programs to gather feedback. The recent survey collected a lot of great information. If you participated, thank you!

Child Care Manual Procedure Letter (CCMPL) 176 - The attached child care manual procedure letter was posted recently introducing new grants available for our early care and education providers.

Day Without Child Care – Tami Lunan, Ohio Organizing Collaborative

Tami is the Director of the Care Economy Organizing (CEO) Project with the Ohio Organizing Collaborative. The project involves parents and teachers in fighting for fully-funded child care and recognition that child care is early childhood education, not babysitting.

The premise of the CEO Project is that every child deserves access to high-quality child care no matter what ZIP code they live in. Early childhood education is one of the biggest social justice issues of our time. If children are not on track educationally, they will start behind upon entering the K-12 system and are less likely to thrive. Also, we want to be sure people who do this work deserve equitable wages. One of the project's goals is to elevate the importance of early education and the people who deliver that service.

The CEO project has organized the Day Without Child Care rally on Monday, May 13th. Numerous providers from Dayton are already signed up to participate; please join us. She provided a link to a [toolkit](#) which has detailed information and materials relating to the event. To sign up to attend, click [here](#).

A question was asked about whether children are welcome. There will be activities for children who come to the event. It is NOT child care but they have many activities, games, and snacks. Some of the rally is getting together to talk about the issues; a portion of the rally is at the Statehouse. It's an opportunity to say this is what we need to stabilize the industry.

Final announcements

Sandra thanked everyone for participating in the forum. She reported that Preschool Promise partners participating in our PLCs and coaching will receive details of picking up stipend checks around July 16.

She thanked providers who participating in the survey about the summer internship program.

Sandra reported this is her last Directors Forum. She will be leaving Preschool Promise at the end of the summer.

The meeting ended at 11:20 a.m.

Want to Make a Difference In the Lives of Children? *Open a Child Care Program!*



FREE Resources...

- Training
- Safety Materials
- Background Checks
- Technology Supports
- Furnishings
- Learning Materials

4C for Children Can Help

Visit our website for **FREE** business and training resources to help you successfully launch your business.

4cforchildren.org/kettering-family-child-care-program





Child Care Management Software

What You Need to Know!

The Ohio Department of Children and Youth (DCY) has partnered with **brightwheel**, a child care management software (CCMS) company, to provide **free** brightwheel CCMS premium subscriptions (full payment) to all Ohio licensed/approved/certified child care programs who wish to take advantage of this opportunity. There are currently more than 800 Ohio early childhood care and education programs already using brightwheel CCMS.

What can brightwheel CCMS help with?

Some of the options the **free** brightwheel CCMS premium subscription can provide to your program include:

- Recording children's attendance (overall and between classrooms)
- Electronic access to current DCY required and sample forms (updated by DCY as needed)
- Family communication options
- Automated fee payment options
- Managing admissions & paperwork
- Photo & video sharing capabilities
- Tracking lesson plans & observation information

How do I sign up?

Free access to the brightwheel CCMS begins on March 26, 2024. A brightwheel Product Specialist will help walk you through the free sign-up process.

- To learn more about the brightwheel CCMS platform or schedule your sign-up appointment [Click here](#) or email ohio@mybrightwheel.com

How would the brightwheel CCMS track attendance at my child care program?

Families at your program will be able to record their child's attendance through brightwheel CCMS by:

- Using their smart phones to scan a "quick response" (QR) code.
- Using the brightwheel app on your program's computer or tablet.
- Creating and using personalized information to access the CCMS.
- Entering in the arrival and departure times of the child in care.
- Reviewing all attendance entered for their child for accuracy.

Note: The brightwheel CCMS will capture the electronic signature of the individual submitting the information to meet Ohio's attendance documentation requirements.

- You and your program's staff can also use the brightwheel CCMS to track the in and out attendance in addition to the movement of children between classrooms, outdoor play spaces, activities, field trips, etc.

Will brightwheel's electronically recorded attendance meet the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Licensing rule attendance requirements?

Current OAC rules do not permit child care programs to use TAP attendance to meet attendance requirements, however, DCY has determined the following compliance criteria regarding electronic attendance recorded and maintained through CCMS programs, including the brightwheel CCMS program.

- The program will need to track the in and out time for each child in attendance.
- Electronic attendance information must contain all details listed in rule.
- Programs using electronic attendance should be able to print them out or email an electronic copy - and - store these accessible electronic records for one year.
- If an electronic attendance record is taken on field trips, the provider will need to have a plan in place if the device's battery would die.
- The child care program will need to have constant access to the maintained electronic attendance records and be able to produce them for DCY or county agency staff during an inspection visit.

As long as the CCMS program maintained attendance meets the criteria to comply with the rule stipulations, the provider may use it for attendance compliance.

Can recording attendance in the brightwheel CCMS replace recording publicly funded child care (PFCC) attendance in Ohio's Time Attendance and Payment (TAP) automated payment system?

Payment for PFCC services will still need to be completed through TAP - however, DCY is currently working with brightwheel on system enhancements to transfer children's brightwheel recorded attendance into TAP.

Does the brightwheel CCMS curriculum meet the state of Ohio's requirements?



The brightwheel curriculum currently meets Ohio's current Step Up To Quality 5-star system requirements through June 30, 2024. Information on curriculum requirements related to Ohio's revised quality rating system will be provided as soon as it is available.

Although the brightwheel curriculum is not included with your premium subscription, their curriculum can be purchased separately and added to your DCY subscription. You can ask about purchase options when you speak with your brightwheel representative.

Does Brightwheel have an assessment tool that meets Ohio's current Step Up To Quality 5-star system requirements?

The assessment tool is currently pending review. An update will be provided once the review is complete.

What if I'm already a brightwheel customer?

If you are already using the brightwheel CCMS, please click [here](#) and a brightwheel Product Specialist will reach out to confirm your eligibility and transfer your subscription!

What ongoing support does brightwheel offer?

24-hour support is available to brightwheel subscribers through their website ohio@mybrightwheel.com. You may also reach out to your program's free brightwheel Onboarding Coach that will be assigned to assist you.





DCY Guidance Letter 24-006
DIVISION OF TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

TO: Early Care and Education Programs (Family Child Care Home, In-Home Aides, Center-Based, including approved Day Camps, and School-Based Programs)

FROM: Diane Fox, Division Director

DATE: March 11, 2024

SUBJECT: Written Emergency/Disaster Plans

Below you will find sample forms for early care and education providers to assist programs in fulfilling new licensing requirements for the Written Emergency Disaster Plans that was introduced in December 2023.

The guidance in these sample forms aligns with the rule requirements in the child care center manual procedure letters [44](#) and [45](#); family child care manual procedure letters [37](#) and [38](#); in-home aide manual procedure letters [16](#) and [17](#); day camp manual procedure letter [11](#) of the Ohio Administrative Code.

The following forms are sample forms available to early care and education providers to use if you choose.

- JFS 01114 Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan for Childcare Center
- JFS 01114-I Instructions for Completing the JFS 01114, Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan for Child Care Center
- JFS 01251 Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan for Family Child Care Home Providers
- JFS 01251-I Instructions for Completing the JFS 01251, Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan for Family Child Care Home Providers

You may download sample forms at odjfs.state.oh.us/forms/. As a reminder, the effective date for this rule was March 1, 2024. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Child Care Policy Help Desk at childcarepolicy@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov or 1-877-302-2347, option 4.

Infant Toddler Infrastructure Grants Questions & Answers

County Availability/Funding

Will there be additional funding?

There will not be additional funding during SFY 24. A new opportunity will become available in SFY 25. The requirements of this funding have not yet been determined.

Why was I denied for incorrect county, my program is in one of the Ohio Equity Initiative Communities?

We were unable to determine your program due to an invalid program number listed on the application.

Why did you let the applications get to be so many if there was not enough money to fund those that applied?

The Department of Children and Youth wanted to allow time for programs to apply for the grant. We did not anticipate receiving over 2,900 applications. We were able to fund 71 child care centers, 129 Type A Homes, and 537 Type B homes. We were able to accomplish this by reserving the original \$15 million dollar investment for child care centers and leveraging funding from a Family Child Care Recruitment effort to fund the eligible family child care applications.

Why was there a short application period?

The Infant Toddler Infrastructure Grant application was open for 4 weeks. Due to the overwhelming response we decided to close the application as we knew there was not enough funding to award all qualifying applications.

Why were funds not distributed more evenly?

Funds for child care centers were distributed among the 10 counties based on kindergarten poverty data. Note, the entire \$15 million was spent on centers due to ARPA funding being utilized to award family child care homes.

County Name	KG HEADCOUNT ECONOMIC DISADV %	\$15M; KG ECONOMIC DISADV HEADCOUNT	Programs Expected to be Funded	Actual Centers Funded
Butler	5.60%	\$842,616.22	3	5
Cuyahoga	19.20%	\$2,884,931.90	11	14
Franklin	23.90%	\$3,588,006.58	14	17
Hamilton	12.60%	\$1,897,049.35	7	10
Lorain	4.10%	\$620,780.96	2	2
Lucas	9.50%	\$1,423,323.71	5	7
Mahoning	3.60%	\$544,927.61	2	2
Montgomery	8.20%	\$1,232,974.74	4	6
Stark	5.40%	\$810,056.53	3	4
Summit	7.70%	\$1,155,332.40	4	4

Total		\$15,000,000.00	55	71
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When can I submit for the 2nd payment?

- Programs can submit for the 2nd payment once they have met the requirements of serving the new infants and toddlers.
- The new infants and toddlers must have started in the program after the application closing on January 5, 2024.
- Prior enrollment must be maintained, with the addition of the required new infant and toddler.

Multiple Applications

I submitted more than one application which was approved?

- Programs that submitted more than one application and they were both approved, the submission with the better benefit to the program was selected. This means the application with the higher budget.
- If the budgets were the same, the first application was awarded the grant. Any additional applications that were eligible were marked as a duplicate.
- Application submissions that were denied, a denial notice was sent as well as the award notice.

Why was I denied for being over budget when the CC Helpdesk told me the grant was per classroom I was opening?

Each application was limited to the total eligible amount, but multiple applications may have been submitted per program. Due to the number of applications, no programs were awarded funding above the limit for one classroom.

Selection Criteria

How were programs chosen?

Once the budgets were calculated for each county, approved applications were selected up to that amount in the order they were received until the funding was exhausted for the county. The remaining funding, after the awards were distributed to individual counties, was awarded starting with the county with the highest kindergarten poverty rate. Once this funding was exhausted, the remaining eligible child care centers and preschool programs were pending. This logic was only used for centers, as all approved family child care applications were awarded funding.

What were the requirements to meet?

- The requirements were outlined in FCCMPL 35 and CCMPL 43.
- Programs had to be licensed and in good standing (not in the revocation process),
- Have an active provider agreement to offer or deliver PFCC,
- Operate in an Ohio Equity Initiative community within Butler, Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Lorain, Lucas, Mahoning, Montgomery, Stark and Summit counties, and
- Serve or intend to serve infants and toddlers during the life of the grant without displacing a child from other age groups.
- For FCC child care at least 1 new infant/toddler with 1 being PFCC eligible and,
- Centers 4 new infant/toddler with one being PFCC eligible.
- These requirements had to be met when the data was pulled from the OCLQS system.

Once I become star rated can I apply?

Being star rated is not a requirement for this grant. We are aware that there are some local initiatives related to star rating.

Were private businesses and competitors awarded the Infant Toddler Infrastructure grant?

The Infant Toddler Infrastructure Grant was only available to open licensed child care and early education programs.

Was funding gone on the first day?

On the first day of the infant and toddler infrastructure grant application being available over 900 applications were received. Due to the applications being from various counties, this does not mean that the only people awarded were received on day 1, but we did award based on the order received if requirements were met.

Correcting/Updating application/Appeal

Can I reapply or correct my application?

- The grant application period ended on January 5, 2024
- Programs have been awarded the funds and there is currently no additional funding
- There will be an additional opportunity to apply for infant and toddler infrastructure grants in state fiscal year 2024.

May I get a copy of my application?

We are not providing copies of submitted applications. We hope to resolve this concern with future applications.

How do I find out what I entered as my budget to know how to spend the funds awarded?

Appropriate use of funding is identified in FCCMPL 25 and CCMPL 43. Funds may be moved among the categories and programs are not required to follow the original budget. Changes should be reported in the final report.

No PFCC Agreement/Licensed

My application was denied for not having a PFCC agreement. I do not understand why.

- The programs agreement had to be in place at the time the application was received/reviewed.

I am licensed I don't understand why I was denied.

- Invalid program numbers entered on the application were not found in the Ohio Child Care Licensing and Quality System (OCLQS) and could not be reviewed.

No Signature

Can I sign my application now?

- Applications cannot be signed now. The application period ended January 5th
- Many users were not presented with the opportunity to sign their application because they answered a question that made them ineligible. At this time, the applicant was taken directly to

the end where one received the thank you for applying message which was the acknowledgment the application was submitted

- Typing “Yes “, “I will” or “Agree” is not an electronic signature.
- Anything other than the applicants first and last name was not an accepted electronic signature

Email notifications

I did not receive confirmation that the application was received.

- At the end of the application applicants received a message saying thank you for submitting your application.

I did not receive an email with the outcome of my application.

If an incorrect email address was entered or a street address listed instead of an email address the automated system could not send a notification. In these scenarios, you may contact

Childcareprograms@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov and we will share the outcome of your application(s).



Child Care Manual Procedure Letter No. 176

TO: All Child Care Manual Holders

FROM: Kara Wente, DCY Director
Matt Damschroder, ODJFS Director

SUBJECT: 2024 Early Care and Education Access Grants

Background

An analysis completed by the Bipartisan Policy Center found that an estimated 76,660 Ohio children are unable to access potentially needed early care and education due to a gap in availability of early care and education slots throughout the state. The Ohio Department of Children and Youth (DCY) and Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) have allocated \$85 million dollars of discretionary funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) for five competitive grant opportunities to improve access to early care and education for Ohio children.

Programs must be compliant with all applicable Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) and Ohio Revised Code (ORC) requirements which include Child Care and Development Block Grant Funds health and safety requirements and the completion of comprehensive background checks.

What is a competitive grant?

Competitive grants are an opportunity for application. Competitive grants are not entitlements and not every application will be approved for funding. Each early care and education access grant application will be scored; with the highest scores receiving funding.

Licensed early care and education programs can increase access to services by starting new programs, expanding current capacity or making repairs to their existing programs. Programs may also use access grant funds to focus on building capacity and evidence-based supports for children with special needs and evidence-based training for staff and families to best serve children with special needs.

What are the five competitive early care and education access grants and which program types are eligible to apply?

The five early care and education access grant opportunities are: 1) New Center Start-Up Grant; 2) Program Expansion Grant; 3) Program Repairs Grant; 4) Family Child Care Type B to Type A Grant; and 5) Increase Capacity for Children with Special Needs. While programs may apply



for one or all access grant opportunities that applies to their program type, only one grant opportunity may be awarded per license number.

Grant Type	New Center	Program Expansion	Program Repairs	Family Child Care Type B to Type A	Increase Capacity for Children with Special Needs
Center	X	X	X		X
FCC Type A	X	X	X		
FCC Type B	X	X	X	X	
School/Preschool	X	X	X		X
School-Age	X	X	X		

Eligible provider types are listed with each access grant outlined below. Generally, DCY licensed early care and education centers, schools/preschools and family child care (FCC) type A and type B home providers are eligible to apply. Child day camps and in-home aides (IHA) are not eligible for participation in any of these access grants.

Are there any restrictions on expenses for these access grants?

Yes, expenses for construction or major renovations (building a program or constructing a new room) are not permitted. 45 CFR 98.2 defines “major renovation” to mean “(1) structural changes to the foundation, roof, floor, exterior or load-bearing walls of a facility, or the extension of a facility to increase its floor area; or (2) extensive alteration of a facility such as to significantly change its function and purpose, even if such renovation does not include any structural change.” In other words, funds may be spent on renovations such as painting, carpeting, and other activities that neither add to the permanent value of the property nor significantly alter the function or purpose of the facility.

New Center Start-Up Grant

Estimated Number of Grants: 150

Maximum Amount Program Can Request: \$500,000 per program

Timeframe: The current program must apply to DCY for their new center license by August 31, 2024. Proof of license application is required as part of reconciliation. If new center license application is not made by August 31, 2024, funding must be returned.

Eligible Providers: Centers, Schools/Preschools, School-Age and FCC Providers (if they intend to open a new early care and education center)



Eligible providers who qualify may use these funds related to opening a new center by paying:

- Mortgage or rent expenses- including rent, mortgage, utilities, insurance.
- Salary or benefits expenses- Paying personnel costs; including onboarding new staff, maintaining/increasing wages or benefits such as health, dental, vision, paid sick leave or family leave, retirement contributions.
- Classroom supplies expenses- including consumable materials and equipment for classroom use.

Program Expansion Grant

Estimated Number of Grants: 50 (Centers, Schools/Preschools, School-Age) and 25 (FCC)

Maximum Amount Program Can Request: \$50,000 per Center and \$5,000 per FCC provider

Eligible Providers: Centers, Schools/Preschools, School-Age and FCC Providers

Eligible providers who qualify may use access grant funds for:

- Expanding the number of children served or serving new age groups or serving more children with special needs. Examples of program expansion include but are not limited to: adding more children to the program capacity; adding or expanding care groups like infant/toddler, school-age, or care for children with special needs; or expanding hours of operation to include non-traditional hours (weekdays 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. or between 12:00 a.m. Saturday to 6:00 a.m. Monday).
- Salary or benefits expenses- Paying personnel costs; including adding new staff or work shifts, maintaining/increasing wages or benefits such as health, dental, vision, paid sick leave or family leave, retirement contributions.
- Classroom supplies expenses- including consumable materials and equipment for classroom use.

Program Repairs Grant

Estimated Number of Grants: 50 (Centers, Schools/Preschools, School-Age) and 25 (FCC)

Maximum Amount Program Can Request: \$100,000 per Center and \$5,000 per FCC provider

Eligible Providers: Centers, Schools/Preschools, School-Age and FCC Providers

Eligible providers who qualify may use access grant funds for making repairs to their facilities: Conducting facility maintenance, renovations, including those that make early care and education programs inclusive and accessible for children and families with disabilities. For example: lead abatement, mold remediation, ADA compliance, parking lot, playground, roof or plumbing repairs.



Type B to Type A Grant

Estimated Number of Grants: 10

Maximum Amount Program Can Request: \$25,000 per FCC provider

Timeframe: The type B provider must apply to DCY for their new type A license by August 31, 2024. Proof of licensing application is required as part of reconciliation. If new type A license application is not made by August 31, 2024, funding must be returned.

Eligible Provider: Type B Family Child Care Home Providers

Eligible providers who qualify may use access grant funds to convert to a type A program by paying for items listed below. *(Note: FCC providers applying for this grant will not be awarded FCC Expansion or FCC Repairs Access Grants.)*

- Mortgage or rent expenses- Paying ongoing costs including rent, mortgage, utilities, insurance.
- Salary or benefits expenses - Paying personnel costs; including adding new staff or work shifts, maintaining/increasing wages or benefits such as health, dental, vision, paid sick leave or family leave, retirement contributions.
- Classroom supplies expenses- including consumable materials and equipment for classroom use.

Increase Capacity for Children with Special Needs Grant

Estimated Number of Grants: 20

Maximum Amount Program Can Request: \$100,000 per program

Eligible Providers: Centers and Schools/Preschools

Eligible providers who qualify may use access grant funds to focus on:

- Capacity building and providing evidence-based support for children with special needs.
- Evidence-based training for staff and families to best serve children with special needs.

Who is eligible to apply for competitive early care and education access grants?

Below are the applicant qualifications and access grant award criteria. Applicants from all Ohio counties may apply. There is no county requirement associated with this access grant opportunity. Applicants may use the checklist below to determine whether they qualify and to prepare for the online application process:



Check Box	Applicant Qualifications and Access Grant Criteria
	Licensed by DCY and in "Continuous" license status as verified in in the Ohio Child Licensing and Quality System (OCLQS).
	In "Open" program status as verified in OCLQS and serving children. A temporarily closed program can apply for these access grants to reopen the temporarily closed program.
	License is in good standing as of the date of application. Programs not in good standing include: 1) Programs in enforcement during the qualification period. 2) Programs who have had their Provider Agreement for Publicly Funded Child Care terminated, within the five years prior to this application, due to misuse of funds. If a program is in good standing at the time of application but is later determined not in good standing prior to the funds being awarded, the funds may not be awarded.
	In agreement with access grant terms by certifying that the early care and education program will, for the duration of the grant, use funds only for the purposes indicated for each of the access grant types.

Who is not eligible to apply for competitive early care and education access grants?

The following are not eligible for early care and education access grants at this time:

- Child day camps and IHA.
- In "Provisional" license status as verified in OCLQS.
- Out-of-state providers.
- Programs that have not properly reconciled previous ARPA stabilization grant funds.
- 2023 Infant and Toddler Start-Up Grant recipients are not eligible to receive the Program Expansion Grant.

How do programs apply for the competitive early care and education access grants?

The early care and education access grant application will be found in the Ohio Professional Registry (OPR). Guidance and requirements are available on the Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association’s (OCCRRA) website at www.occrra.org. Eligible providers must submit an application through the OPR, via a program’s organization dashboard at <https://registry.occrra.org/>.

All applications submitted during the application period are eligible for review in this competitive grant process. Points will be assigned to each application based on established criteria including, but not limited to, children per slot with both parents in the workforce, evening care, weekend care, infant care, toddler care, highly rated, anticipated children served, and Inclusive Child Care Program (ICCP) designations obtained as of April 5, 2024. There are no



additional points awarded for submitting earlier in the process. **The goal is to have a complete and well-thought-out application.**

Programs that apply must select at least one, some, or all of the access grants; however, funds cannot be used toward an expense previously paid for with any ARPA stabilization grant funding. When considering the amount to apply for, programs should determine the amount of expenses they will have in the grant expense period.

The table below is a summary of the early care and education access grant timeline.

Application Period	Award Notification	Expense Period	Reconciliation Due
April 12, 2024 at 2 p.m. through April 26, 2024 at 5 p.m.	May 3, 2024	July 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024	August 31, 2024

What is the process for awarding these competitive grants?

Early care and education access grant awards will be based on allocations determined by the budget in each grant category starting with the applicant with the highest points, until funding is exhausted. If the remaining funding is not enough for the next request, OCCRRA may reach out and offer a partial award or combine the remaining funds to complete a full award.

How will awarded programs receive payment?

Grant notification can be viewed by a status change in the organization dashboard of the OPR. These statuses will be available on May 3, 2024. Payments will be processed approximately four weeks after the award notification date.

What are the grant expense reconciliation requirements?

Programs are required to complete a reconciliation for each early care and education access grant. Reconciliations must be submitted no later than August 31, 2024.

Reconciliations will be located in the program’s organization dashboard in the OPR. Programs should retain receipts, invoices and documentation for expenses used toward these grants. Reconciliation guidance will be located at www.occrra.org. Should a program receive but not be able to spend all of the funds provided, funds should be returned to OCCRRA.

Questions

Please contact OCCRRA with questions regarding the application and process at support@occrra.org or 614-396-5959.



**Child Care Center Manual Procedure Letter No. 46
Family Child Care Manual Procedure Letter No. 39**

TO: All Child Care Center Manual Holders
All Family Child Care Manual Holders

FROM: Kara B. Wentz, DCY Director
Matt Damschroder, ODJFS Director

SUBJECT: 2024 Child Care Choice Program

Background:

In Ohio, the average cost of child care for a family with two children in child care is just over \$22,600. The cost of child care makes working families face the difficult decision of whether they should go to work or stay home with their children. Additionally, approximately 13% of Ohio's children under the age of 6 live in families where someone quit, changed, or refused a job because of problems with child care.

Ohio's Publicly Funded Child Care (PFCC) program serves families earning up to 145% of the federal poverty level. In an effort to better support Ohio's families, the Ohio Department of Children and Youth is launching the Child Care Choice Program which allocates \$140 million to this new voucher program (\$40 million in American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) supplemental discretionary funds and \$100 million from Child Care Development Fund).

What is the Child Care Choice Program and who is eligible?

The Child Care Choice Program provides financial support to families working or going to school whose income is at 146-200% of the federal poverty level based on family size. The Child Care Choice voucher payments will assist with the cost of tuition for any child whose family meets the eligibility requirements of the Child Care Choice Program.

To apply for the Child Care Choice Program, families will apply for PFCC by completing a JFS 07200, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Cash Assistance, Medical and/or Child Care Assistance Application.

There are two ways an application may be completed:

- [Paper Application](#), this application may be submitted by fax, email, mailing or by dropping off at your local county job and family services agency.
- [Ohio Benefits Self-Service Portal](#) (SSP), using the SSP families will be able to complete an e-application to apply for child care assistance. Families will

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also be able to upload required verification and submit the application to your local county job and family services.

Families who applied for PFCC on or after April 1, 2024 who are found ineligible on or after April 29, 2024, and whose income is at 146-200% of the federal poverty level will automatically be considered for this voucher without having to submit a new PFCC application. These vouchers are available until funding is exhausted. See chart below for income eligibility.

Family Size	Monthly Income must be above (145% FPL)	Monthly Income must be below (200% FPL)
2	\$2,383.00	\$3,287.00
3	\$3,004.00	\$4,144.00
4	\$3,625.00	\$5,000.00
5	\$4,247.00	\$5,857.00
6	\$4,868.00	\$6,714.00
7	\$5,489.00	\$7,571.00
8	\$6,110.00	\$8,427.00

Families will need to meet all other PFCC program requirements (except income) to be eligible. This flyer, [Who can get child care payment assistance?](#) provides information on PFCC program requirements. Eligibility determinations made for this voucher are not subject to state hearing rights and cannot be appealed. Families inquiring about how their eligibility was determined for this voucher may contact their local county department of job and family services.

Families who are eligible to receive PFCC do not qualify for the Child Care Choice Program. Additionally, individuals not complying with a PFCC repayment agreement or who have committed child care caretaker fraud are not eligible for the Child Care Choice Program.

What are the reporting requirements for families?

Within 10 calendar days of a change, families approved for the Child Care Choice Program will report to their local county department of job and family services if any of the following occur:

1. Decreases in the family’s gross monthly income.
2. Change of a child’s program.
3. Changes in household members.
4. Address changes, including relocation out of state.

Will parents/guardians have a cost associated with the voucher?

Families may be required to pay a portion of the child care cost and any other related child care fees, if applicable, directly to the child care program. The amount of the cost is determined by the family and the program. If the voucher does not cover the full cost of care, the program is encouraged to charge the family no more than 9% of the family's monthly gross income for their portion of the remaining tuition. In addition, the total cost of tuition (state paid voucher plus

family's cost) may not exceed the provider's private rate. *For example, a family of 3 with a gross monthly income of \$3005.00 per month, should pay no more than a total payment of \$270.45 per month.*

What are the child care program qualifications?

1. Families will select a licensed child care center, schools/preschools program or licensed family child care home to enroll their child(ren). Vouchers will not be paid to in-home aide providers or child day camps.
2. Programs have an active PFCC provider agreement.
3. Programs in “Open” status as verified in the Ohio Child Licensing and Quality System (OCLQS) and serving children. A temporarily closed program will not be eligible.

How will the voucher payments be disbursed?

The child will need to have an active full-time authorization to the program for voucher payments to be disbursed. Programs will be paid an initial enrollment payment upon authorization and 12 monthly payments as long as the child is enrolled and attending the program. No more than three enrollment payments will be paid per child within the eligibility year.

Vouchers will be paid to one program per child each month through the Time, Attendance and Payment (TAP) system. If the family chooses to have a child enrolled in multiple programs, they will need to self-pay the additional programs. Monthly voucher payments are determined by the child’s age as outlined below.

Centers/ School-Based Programs/ Type A Family Child Care Homes

Age	Total Voucher	Initial Enrollment Payment	Monthly Payments
Infant (birth to less than 18 months old)	\$10,400	\$800	\$800
Toddler (at least 18 months old to less than 3 years old)	\$9,750	\$750	\$750
Preschool (at least 3 or 4 years old and not enrolled in or eligible to be enrolled in kindergarten)	\$9,100	\$700	\$700

<p>School Age</p> <p>(enrolled in or eligible to be enrolled in kindergarten or above and less than 15 years old or, in the case of a child who is receiving special needs child care, is less than eighteen years old.)</p>	\$4,550	\$350	\$350
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Type B Family Child Care Homes

Age	Total Voucher	Initial Enrollment Payment	Monthly Payments
<p>Infant</p> <p>(birth to less than 18 months old)</p>	\$7,150	\$550	\$550
<p>Toddler</p> <p>(at least 18 months old to less than 3 years old)</p>	\$6,175	\$475	\$475
<p>Preschool</p> <p>(at least 3 or 4 years old and not enrolled in or eligible to be enrolled in kindergarten)</p>	\$5,200	\$400	\$400
<p>School Age</p> <p>(enrolled in or eligible to be enrolled in kindergarten or above and less than 15 years old or, in</p>	\$3,575	\$275	\$275

the case of a child who is receiving special needs child care, is less than eighteen years old.)			
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To search for child care programs in Ohio:

[Find Quality Rated Early Care and Education | Ohio Child Care Search](#)

Questions:

Family and Customer Support Center

1-877-302-2347, option 4

childcarepolicy@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov



Child Care Clearance Memo

TO: All Clearance Reviewers

FROM: Kara B. Wentz, DCY Director
Matt Damschroder, ODJFS Director

SUBJECT: Five Year Review and New Rating Model for the Step Up To Quality Rating and Improvement System

Background

The Ohio Department of Children and Youth (DCY) and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) are proposing amendments to the Step Up To Quality (SUTQ) rules contained in Chapter 5101:2-17 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) for the five-year review.

The state of Ohio adopted a statewide Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System (TQRIS) for licensed child care providers in 2006, called Step Up to Quality (SUTQ), which was initially a tiered 3-star rating system for ODJFS licensed child care centers and Type A family child care providers.

A cross-agency collaboration between ODJFS and Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) expanded SUTQ into a tiered 5-star rating system for all early learning programs in 2013. The SUTQ program was also expanded at that time to include preschool and school age programs licensed by the DEW and ODJFS licensed Type B family child care providers.

The progression of SUTQ can be attributed to the continual examination of the results of validation studies and compliance data, legislative exemptions and changes, and input from child care providers, Ohio parents, early care and education stakeholders, and other interested parties.

The most recent review of SUTQ came from a Joint Study Committee on Publicly Funded Child Care and Step Up To Quality initiated by members of the Ohio General Assembly.

An essential task of the committee was to review the existing SUTQ standards to identify areas of improvement and make changes to enhance child outcomes and remove unnecessary administrative barriers for child care and early learning programs. The committee held in-depth discussions with stakeholders involved in Ohio's child care and early learning communities.

Common themes surrounding the discussions were to find ways to increase staff/child interactions and impact kindergarten readiness; provide flexibility in the standards for programs; and to increase accessibility to SUTQ for licensed child care programs.

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A final report was released by the committee on December 14, 2022. Several of the committee's recommendations for SUTQ were enacted in Amended Substitute House Bill 33 of the 135th General Assembly.

New Quality Rating Model for SUTQ

The new model:

- Reduces the number of benchmarks to eliminate administrative burdens and to focus on the benchmarks that should result in better child outcomes
- Replaces the 5-tiered star rating system with a 3-tiered rating system of bronze, silver, and gold
- Maintains the building block approach
 - Must meet bronze requirements AND silver requirements to be rated a silver;
 - Must meet bronze requirements and silver requirements AND gold requirements to be rated a gold
- Enhances early learning by requiring programs at all quality ratings to implement a curriculum
- Eliminates required forms
- Replaces Appendices A-D for child care centers and Appendices E-H for family child care providers into a single Appendix A for both program types
- Creates a new "Staff Child Interactions" Standard
- Removes the "Transitions (T)" Sub-Domain
- Removes the "Communication and Engagement (CE)" Sub-Domain
- Eliminates an additional points system for programs to become four and five star rated; and
- Requires center-based programs to meet specific ratio and group size requirements for the gold rating

Proposed Amended Rules:

Rule 5101:2-17-01 "Step Up To Quality (SUTQ): program standards" outlines the definitions and standards for SUTQ. This rule is being proposed for amendment to make the following changes:

- Adds "definitions" to the rule title
- Clarifies general language throughout the rule
- Adds a new paragraph (A)(1)(d) for administrator
- Replaces "ODJFS and ODE" with "the Ohio department of children and youth (DCY)" to paragraph (A)(2)(a)
- Adds "lead teacher" in paragraph (A)(4)(c) pursuant to rule 3301-37-01 of Administrative Code
- Adds new paragraph (A)(4)(d) pursuant to rule 3301-32-03 of Administrative Code
- Removes "ODJFS" from paragraphs (A)(5)(a) and (A)(5)(b)
- Adds "time the group is in session or entire group operates" for instructional time in paragraph (A)(6)(d)

- Removes the definition of "substitute" to mirror Chapter 12 rules of Administrative Code
- Adds "licensed" in paragraph (A)(8)
- Removes "ODJFS licensed" from paragraph (A)(8)(b)
- Removes "ODE licensed" from paragraph (A)(8)(c)
- Removes "ODE licensed" from paragraph (A)(8)(d)
- Adds "awarded bronze, silver or gold" in paragraph (B)
- Adds "any required" to desk review in paragraph (B)(1)
- Removes "ODJFS licensed child care centers, ODE licensed preschools and ODE licensed school child" in paragraph (B)(2)
- Adds "licensed" in paragraph (B)(2)
- Adds "listed in appendix A to this rule for the rating requested at registration and maintains the standards on an ongoing basis" in paragraph (B)(2)
- Removes appendices A, B, C, and D from paragraph (B)(2)
- Adds "listed in appendix A to this rule" and "maintains the standards on an ongoing basis" in paragraph (B)(3)
- Removes paragraph (B)(3) as this is redundant
- Removes paragraphs (B)(4), (B)(5), (B)(6), and (B)(7) due to the elimination of the additional points system for programs to become four and five star rated

Appendix A to rule 5101:2-17-01 replaces rescinded Appendices A, B, C, and D for child care centers and Appendices E, F, G, and H for family child care homes and outlines the new program standards and requirements for SUTQ.

Rule 5101:2-17-02 "Step Up To Quality (SUTQ): eligibility for registration" outlines the eligibility requirements for SUTQ. This rule is being proposed for amendment to make the following changes:

- Clarifies general language throughout the rule
- Combines paragraphs (A)(1) and (A)(2) into a new stand-alone paragraph for any licensed program pursuant to rule 5101:2-17-01 (A)(8) of Administrative Code
- Replaces "star rating" with "bronze, silver, or gold rating" in paragraph (B)
- Moves paragraph (C)(5) to a new paragraph (B)(1) for a license revocation
- Moves stand-alone paragraph for a suspended license to a new paragraph (B)(2)
- Adds a new paragraph (B)(3) for active enforcement
- Replaces "star rating" with "bronze, silver, or gold rating" in paragraph (C)
- Updates the weblink for the Ohio child licensing and quality system (OCLQS) in paragraph (C)(1)
- Adds "any required" to paragraph (C)(2)
- Removes "star" from rating in paragraph (C)(4)
- Replaces "appendices" with "appendix A" in paragraph (C)(4)
- Updates the weblink for the Ohio professional registry (OPR) in paragraph (C)(4)(a)
- Adds a new paragraph (C)(4)(b) for "Ensure the administrator on-site or family child care provider meets the educational requirements for professional development"

- Restructures paragraph (C)(5) to state "The center or family child care (FCC) provider is not to have an accumulation of twenty-four moderate and/or serious risk non-compliance points within the previous twelve months or for a preschool or school child program a six-point serious risk non-compliance."

Rule 5101:2-17-03 "Step Up To Quality (SUTQ): desk reviews, onsite verification visits and star rating awards" outlines the process for completing the desk reviews, onsite verification visits and the star rating process. This rule is being proposed for amendment to make the following changes:

- Changes rule title to "Step Up To Quality" (SUTQ): desk reviews, on-site verification visits and bronze, silver, or gold rating awards."
- Removes "conducted by the Ohio department of job and family services (ODJFS), the county agency or the Ohio department of education (ODE)" in paragraph (A)
- Adds "bronze, silver or gold rating" to paragraph (B)
- Removes "if the program confirms at a one-star, two-star or three-star rating" from paragraph (B)(1)
- Removes paragraph (B)(2) as it pertains to a four-star rating
- Removes "star" from rating in new paragraph (B)(2)
- Removes paragraph (C) as all quality ratings are continuous from the program's rating effective date
- Adds "electronic" to new paragraph (C)(1)
- Removes "at time of the annual report" from new paragraph (C)(1) as annual reports are no longer required
- Removes "star" from rating in new paragraph (C)(2)
- Adds "program's bronze, silver, or gold rating" in paragraph (D)
- Adds "award of bronze, silver, or gold" to stand-alone paragraph in paragraph (D)
- Adds "desk review" to paragraph (D)(2)
- Adds a new paragraph (D)(3) for a deferral
- Replaces "annual report review" with "on-site verification visit to review all quality standards pursuant to paragraph (F) of this rule" in paragraph (D)(4)(c)
- Adds a new paragraph (E) to explain continuous quality ratings
- Adds a new paragraph (F) to address full on-site verification visits
- Adds "obtain a specialized rating" in paragraph (G)
- Updates the weblink for the Ohio Child licensing and quality system (OCLQS) in paragraph (G)(1)
- Replaces "have a star rating" with "are rated a bronze, silver, or gold" in paragraph (G)(2)(a)
- Replaces "three, four or five star rating" with "are rated a silver or gold" in paragraph (G)(2)(b)
- Replaces "the lowest rating of the three" and "four or five star rated programs" with "a gold or lower" in paragraph (G)(3)
- Replaces "appendices" with "appendix A" in paragraph (G)(3)(a)

- Removes "star" from rating" in paragraph (G)(3)(a)
- Restructures paragraph (G)(3)(b) to clarify curriculum and formal child assessment requirements
- Removes "star" from rating" in paragraph (G)(4)
- Replaces "star" with "bronze, silver, or gold" in paragraph (G)(5)
- Replaces "star" with "bronze, silver, or gold" in paragraph (G)(5)
- Changes "initial" to "ongoing" in paragraph (G)(5)(a)
- Adds "bronze, silver, or gold" to paragraph (H)(1)
- Replaces "currently rated program" with "bronze, silver, or gold rating" in paragraph (H)(1)(a)
- Replaces "rated" with "awarded" in paragraph (H)(1)(a)
- Replaces "rating" with "bronze, silver, or gold rating award" in paragraph (H)(2)
- Replaces "appendices" with "appendix A" in paragraph (H)(2)(a)
- Restructures paragraph (H)(2)(b) to clarify curriculum and formal child assessment requirements
- Removes "star" from rating in paragraph (H)(3)
- Removes "star" from rating" in paragraph (H)(4)
- Changes "initial" to "ongoing" in paragraph (H)(4)(a)
- Removes all references to "star" in paragraph (I)
- Removes all references to "star" in paragraph (J)
- Adds "with a bronze, silver, or gold" to paragraph (J)
- Removes "star" from rating in paragraph (K)
- Changes "ninety days" to "one hundred eighty" days in paragraph (K) for temporary closure to mirror Chapter 12 rules of Administrative Code
- Adds new paragraph (K) that a program is no longer required to request reinstatement of their rating when reactivating their child care license
- Replaces "ODJFS, ODE or the county agency determine" with "licensed" in paragraph (L)
- Replaces "appendices" with appendix (L)
- Replaces "ODJFS, ODE or the county agency" with "licensing entity" in paragraph (L)(2)
- Removes language for displaying marketing materials in paragraph (L)

Rule 5101:2-17-04 "Step Up To Quality (SUTQ): changes, renewals, removals or requests to withdraw a SUTQ rating" outlines the process for updating or changing current ratings. This rule is being proposed for amendment to make the following changes:

- Changes rule title to "Step Up To Quality": changes, removals, or requests to withdraw a bronze, silver, or gold rating."
- Adds "bronze, silver, or gold" to paragraph (A)
- Updates the weblink for the Ohio child licensing and quality system (OCLQS) in paragraph (A)(1)
- Removes paragraphs (B), (C), and (D) as an annual report is no longer required
- Removes paragraph (E) as ratings are continuous
- Removes "star" from rating in paragraph (B)

- Changes "Programs licensed by ODJFS" to "For centers and FCC providers" in paragraph (B)(1)
- Removes "from ODJFS" in paragraph (B)(1)(a)
- Removes "ODJFS" and "county agency" in paragraph (B)(1)(b)
- Removes all "star" references in paragraph (B)(1)
- Replaces "ODE" with "preschool and school age programs" in paragraph (B)(2)
- Removes "star" from rating in paragraph (B)(2)
- Replaces "ODJFS" and "ODE" with "the Ohio department of children and youth (DCY)" in paragraph (B)(3)
- Replaces "appendices" with "appendix A" in paragraph (B)(3)
- Removes "star" from rating in paragraph (C)(1)
- Removes paragraph (C)(2) as ratings are continuous
- Removes "star" from rating in paragraph (D)(2)
- Replaces the paper process for submitting the JFS 01556 "Request to Withdraw from Step Up To Quality" with requesting the withdrawal in OCLQS in paragraph (F)(1)

Rule 5101:2-17-05 "Step Up To Quality (SUTQ)": request for review" outlines the process for requesting a review. This rule is being proposed for amendment to make the following changes:

- Removes all references to "star" in paragraph (A)
- Removes form "JFS 01155 "Request for Review for Licensing and Step Up To Quality" from paragraph (B) as the process is determined by the licensing agency
- Replaces "JFS 01155" with "request for review"
- Removes all references to "star" in paragraph (C)
- Adds "award" to paragraph (C)(3)
- Removes paragraph (D) because this is redundant

Rule 5101:2-17-06 "Step Up To Quality (SUTQ)": county agency responsibilities" outlines the responsibilities for county agencies. This rule is being proposed for amendment to make the following changes:

- Clarifies general rule language throughout the rule
- Removes "Ohio department of job and family services (ODJFS)" from paragraph (A)(3)
- Removes "to ODJFS" from paragraph (A)(4)

Forms:

Sample forms for the new quality rating model will be issued in a future manual procedure letter.

Implementation:

The proposed rules are planned to be effective on **July 7, 2024**.

From **April, 16, 2024** until **July 6, 2024** no registrations will be accepted.

Implementation question and answers:

When is the last day I can submit a registration to meet the current 5-Star rating requirements?	The last day to submit a registration under the current standards and requirements is April 15, 2024 .
I currently have a specialized rating that will expire before April 15, 2024 can I submit a registration in the new rating system?	If you want to have your inspection completed under the current standards you will need to submit a registration by April 15, 2024 .
I currently have a specialized rating that will expire after April 15, 2024 . When can I register if the new registration won't be available until July 7, 2024 .	Programs with specialized ratings expiring between April 15, 2024 and August 3, 2024 will be extended until August 4, 2024 . Programs will need to submit a registration between July 7, 2024 and August 4, 2024 to maintain the specialized rating.
I am currently rated, when can I register for a different rating using the new standards and requirements?	Programs who are currently rated can submit a new registration on July 7, 2024 for the new rating standards.
I am currently rated, what will my new rating be in the new system? For programs currently rated as of July 6, 2024 the rating will automatically transition to the following rating on July 7, 2024 :	
Current Rating	New Rating
1	BRONZE
2	
3	SILVER
4	GOLD
5	

For programs that were rated prior to July 6, 2024 a transition year of **July 7, 2024-June 30, 2025** will be in effect. Beginning July 1, 2025 programs will be reviewed on the new standards.

Questions: Please contact the Child Care Policy Help Desk at childcarepolicy@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov or 1-877-302-2347, option 4, if you have any questions.

*** DRAFT - NOT YET FILED ***

5101:2-17-01 "Step Up To Quality" (SUTQ): program [definitions and standards](#).

(A) What are the ~~step-up-to-quality (SUTQ)~~[SUTQ](#) definitions for the purposes of implementing Chapter 5101:2-17 of the Administrative Code?

(1) "Administrator" means the following:

(a) ~~Ohio department of job and family services (ODJFS) licensed~~ [A](#) child care center administrator as described in rule 5101:2-12-07 of the Administrative Code.

(b) ~~ODJFS licensed~~ [A](#) family child care provider as described in rule 5101:2-13-07 of the Administrative Code.

(c) ~~Ohio department of education (ODE) licensed preschool~~ [A](#) director as defined in rule 3301-37-01 of the Administrative Code.

[\(d\) An administrator as defined in rule 3301-32-01 of the Administrative Code.](#)

~~(d) ODE licensed staff member as described in rule 3301-32-02 of the Administrative Code.~~

(2) "Approved related fields" means the following:

(a) Early childhood education teacher approved related fields include: early childhood education, child development, family studies, human ecology, human development, child and family community studies, elementary education, early intervention (ECE or special education), elementary, middle or secondary education, physical education, elementary intervention, and school counselor, or other degrees as approved by ~~ODJFS and ODE~~ [the Ohio department of children and youth \(DCY\)](#).

(b) Approved related child development fields include psychology, and recreation management if twelve semester or eighteen quarter hours of child development coursework, with a grade of C or better from an accredited institution of higher education, is completed.

(3) "Assistant teacher" means a child care ~~care~~ staff member who works under the supervision of a lead teacher. Assistant teachers may work independently in a lead teacher's absence, but for the majority of time the assistant teacher works directly with the lead teacher in the same space with the same children.

(4) "Child care staff" means:

- (a) ~~ODJFS licensed~~ A child care center staff member as described in rule 5101:2-12-08 of the Administrative Code.
- (b) ~~ODJFS licensed~~ A family child care provider staff member as described in rule 5101:2-13-08 of the Administrative Code.
- (c) ~~ODE licensed~~ A preschool staff member and lead teacher ~~-, head teacher, teacher, and non-teaching employee~~ as defined in rule 3301-37-01 of the Administrative Code.
- (d) A staff member as described in rule 3301-32-03 of the Administrative Code.

(5) "Family child care provider" means:

- (a) ~~ODJFS licensed-type~~ Licensed Type A home provider.
- (b) ~~ODJFS licensed-type~~ Licensed Type B home provider.

(6) "Instructional time" means the time the group spends with the lead teacher each day, excluding nap or rest time.

- (a) The lead teacher shallis to interact with children a minimum of three and one-half hours daily for at least half the days of each week the program operates.
- (b) If a group requires two or more child care staff members to meet ratio, there shallis to be a lead teacher and an assistant teacher present. Co-lead teachers may be used to meet this requirement.
- (c) The assistant or co-lead teacher shallis to meet this requirement the other days of the week.
- (d) If a program or group operates less than three and one-half hours daily, the lead teacher shallis to be present for ~~the~~ entire ~~day~~ time the group is in session or entire time group operates.
- (e) School-age programs ~~shall~~ are to have a lead teacher for the duration of

either a total of three and one-half hours, the complete before school session, or the complete after school session. On non-school days, the program ~~shall~~is to meet the three and one-half hour requirement as stated in paragraph (A)(7) to this rule.

(7) "Lead teacher" means the adult who has primary responsibility for the group of children. The lead teacher ~~shall~~is to meet the three and one-half hour minimum instruction time daily, not including nap or rest, for more than half of the days in operation each week. The lead teacher is responsible for activity planning and implementing the curriculum and child assessment requirements related to the current ~~star~~ rating ~~level~~.

(8) "Program" means any of the following licensed:

- (a) Family child care provider.
- (b) ~~ODJFS-licensed-child~~ Child care center.
- (c) ~~ODE-licensed-preschool~~ Preschool program.
- (d) ~~ODE-licensed-school~~ School child program.

~~(9) "Substitute" means the following:~~

- ~~(a) A child care staff member who replaces an assigned staff member for fewer than ninety days.~~
- ~~(b) What if the substitute is providing care for more than ninety days?~~

~~The substitute shall become the lead teacher or assistant and meet the requirements of the lead or assistant pursuant to this chapter.~~

(B) What are the standards that ~~shall~~are to be met to be ~~star-rated~~awarded bronze, silver or gold?

- (1) The program ~~shall~~is to comply with ~~the~~ any required desk review and the on-site verification visit.
- (2) ~~ODJFS-licensed-child-care-centers, ODE-licensed-preschools and ODE-licensed school-child~~ Licensed programs ~~shall~~are to meet all of the standards listed in appendix A to this rule for the rating requested at registration and maintain the standards on an ongoing basis ~~for the star rating requested at registration~~

~~as listed in appendices A, B, C, and D to this rule.~~

~~(3) Family child care providers shall meet all of the standards for the star rating requested at registration as listed in appendices E, F, G and H to this rule.~~

~~(4) Programs who register for a four or five star rating may be awarded points based on the verification of the three star rating requirements and their ability to earn additional points as outlined in appendices D and H to this rule.~~

~~(5) A program shall obtain at least one point in each of the following domains in order to achieve a four or five star rating:~~

~~(a) Learning and development.~~

~~(b) Administrative and leadership practices.~~

~~(c) Staff qualifications and professional development.~~

~~(d) Family and community partnerships.~~

~~(6) How many points shall be earned to achieve a four star rating?~~

~~(a) ODJFS licensed child care centers and ODE licensed preschool or licensed school child programs shall score thirty-five to fifty-five points. Points are indicated in appendix D to this rule.~~

~~(b) Family child care providers shall score thirty to forty five points. Points are indicated in appendix H to this rule.~~

~~(7) How many points shall be earned to achieve a five star rating?~~

~~(a) ODJFS licensed child care centers, ODE licensed preschools and licensed school child programs shall score fifty-six to seventy-nine points. Points are indicated in appendix D to this rule.~~

~~(b) Family child care providers shall score forty-six to sixty-four points. Points are indicated in appendix H to this rule.~~

Learning and Development			
Standards	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Curriculum and Assessment	<p>CA1 Obtain and implement for all infant, toddler, and preschool aged children a comprehensive research-based curriculum that is aligned with the Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS) and the Science of Reading.</p> <p>School age: Classrooms provide activities that are aligned with the Ohio K-12 Learning Standards.</p>	<p>CA2 Use a comprehensive formal child assessment aligned to the ELDS for all infant, toddler and preschool aged children annually.</p>	<p>CA3 Provide intentional and purposeful activities as determined from child assessments.</p> <p>Utilize assessment results to adjust and refine instruction.</p>
Requirements	<p>Maintain onsite:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • verification that the curriculum is aligned from the verified list. • the availability of curriculum materials for lead teachers/FCC Providers. • documentation of current activity/lesson plans that support children's development and learning and include experiences from the verified curriculum for all hours of instructional time. Activity/lesson plans are required for infant, toddler, and preschool age . School-age activity/lesson plans are required and follow the K-12 standards. 	<p>Maintain onsite:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • verification that the assessment tool is aligned from the verified list. • documentation demonstrating that the tool is completed annually and that results are shared with families. • documentation of the evidence gathered to complete the formal tool. 	<p>Maintain onsite:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • documentation of intentional and purposeful activities and experiences determined from the child assessment results. <p>Lead Teachers/FCC Provider is to explain the child assessment process, including the methods used, how the results are shared with families, and how results are used to plan, adjust or refine instruction.</p>

	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Child Screening Exempt from standard: school-age children or children with a current Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).	CS1 Administer or confirm completion of a comprehensive screening tool within sixty days of enrollment for all children annually Share or confirm results with families within thirty days following the completion of the screening.	CS2 Refer families, with identified needs, within sixty days from the date of the completed screening.	CS3 Follow-up with families within thirty days from date of referral to determine if the family/child's needs are being met for services.
Requirements	Maintain onsite: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> documentation of completed screening tools and documentation that results were shared with families. 	Maintain onsite: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> documentation of the referral process and the referrals made to families. 	Maintain onsite: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> documentation of the follow up process and the follow ups with families to determine if needs were met.
Administration & Leadership Practices			
Standards	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Staff: Child/Adult Interactions	SCI1 Centers: Complete an annual self-assessment for each group of children. Family Child Care: Complete an annual self-assessment using a tool that measures the learning environment for the program.	SCI2 Ohio Classroom Observation Tool (OCOT) standards are met through observation by Department of Children and Youth staff. Centers: Self-assessments for each group of children are used to determine the area of focus and to set a goal for improvement. Family Child Care: The environment assessment is used to determine the	SCI3 Ohio Classroom Observation Tool (OCOT) standards are met through observation by Department of Children and Youth staff.

		area of focus and to set a goal for improvement.	
Requirements	Lead teacher(s)/FCC provider is to maintain documentation of the completion of an assessment for each age group of children. The tool is to be developmentally appropriate to age groups served and completed annually.	Lead teacher(s)/FCC provider is to maintain documentation of the area of focus and a goal for improvement. Documentation is to include teacher's name, group, date completed, name of tool used, goal, action steps and timeframe. Update annually.	
Continuous Improvement	CI1 Develop a Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) completed annually that includes two program goals and action steps.	CI2 Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) includes goals and action steps based on input from staff and families.	CI3 Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) includes at least one goal and action steps related to creating, maintaining or expanding ongoing community partnerships.
Requirement	Submit and maintain onsite the Continuous Improvement Plan.	Maintain onsite documentation of input gathered from staff and families annually.	Maintain onsite documentation of at least one ongoing community partnership activity, function, or meeting annually.
Staff Quality & Professional Development			
Standards	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Staff Education	SE1 Child Care Centers/School Based Programs: On-site Administrator meets licensing requirements.	SE2 On-site Administrator AA*, or CPL 3, SA Administrator Professional Endorsement (if only serving school-age children), or Administrator Credential 2	SE3 On-site Administrator has AA*, CPL 3, or SA Administrator Professional Endorsement (if only serving school-age children)
	FCC Provider: has CDA, CPL 1 or SA Administrator Professional Development Endorsement (if only serving school-age children)	FCC Provider has CDA, or AA*, or CPL 2, Administrator Credential 2	FCC Provider has AA*, CPL 3, or SA Administrator Professional Endorsement (if only serving school-age children)

	Center/School Based Programs: 50% of lead teachers have CDA or CPL2, or one lead teacher has a minimum of AA*, CPL 3, or School Age (SA) Lead Teacher Professional Endorsement (if school-age only group)	Child Care Centers/School Based Programs: 25% of lead teachers have a minimum of AA*, CPL 3, or SA Lead Teacher Professional Endorsement (if school-age only group)	Child Care Centers/School Based Programs: 50% of lead teachers have a minimum of AA*, CPL 3, or SA Lead Teacher Professional Endorsement (if school-age only group)
	FCC Lead teacher: has CDA, CPL 1 or SA Administrator Professional Development Endorsement (if only serving school-age children)	FCC Lead teacher (if not the provider): has CDA or CPL 2 or SA Lead Teacher Professional Endorsement (if school-age only group)	FCC Lead Teacher (if not the provider): has AA*, CPL 3, or SA Lead Teacher Professional Endorsement (if only serving school-age children)
	*In an approved related field	*In an approved related field	*In an approved related field
	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Professional Development	PD1 All administrators, leads, assistants and FCC Provider obtain 10 hours of Ohio Approved training annually. PD Topics must include at least <u>two</u> of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trauma • Developmental Milestones • Critical Conversations • Behavior/Classroom Management • Family Engagement • Curriculum & Assessment • Science of Reading • Inclusion NOTE: <i>Approved college coursework related to the field may be used to meet training requirements.</i>	PD2 Administrators or FCC Provider only: 12 hours annually. Professional's Choice of OA training on the additional 2 hours.	PD3 Administrators or FCC Providers only: 15 hours annually. Professional's Choice of OA training on the additional 5 hours.

Family & Community Partnerships			
Standards	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Family Partnerships/ Community Resources	FCP1 Program utilizes a tool that identifies the needs of the whole family within 30 days of enrollment and then annually.	FCP2 Program follows up with those families, with identified needs, with referral within 30 days.	FCP3 Program offers two annual educational trainings, workshops or events for families. Follow-up with families on referrals provided, within 30 days from the date of referral, to determine if needs are being met for services.
Requirements	Maintain onsite documentation of the tool that identifies family needs in at least three areas; including developmental or educational needs, health needs, and resource needs (such as food, utility assistance).	Maintain onsite documentation of the referral process and the referrals made to families.	Maintain onsite documentation of the two annual opportunities. Maintain onsite documentation of the follow-up process and the follow ups with families to determine if needs were met.

Ratio requirements for Gold Rating – Centers Only : 50% of classrooms, serving infants through school age, meet lower ratios and group sizes.

Staff/Child Ratios	
Age	Requirement for Gold Rating
Infants	Birth to 12 months 1:4 or 2:10 and 12 to 18 months 1:5 or 2:10
Toddlers	18 to 30 months 1:6 or 2:12 and 30 to 36 months 1:7 or 2:14

Preschool	36 months to <48 months 1:11 or 2:22 and 48 months to < school age 1:13 or 2:26
School Age	Kindergarten to age 14 years 1:16
FCC	Exempt from lower ratio requirement.

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*** DRAFT - NOT YET FILED ***

5101:2-17-02

"Step Up To Quality" (SUTQ): eligibility for registration.

- (A) Who may register to participate in ~~step-up-to-quality (SUTQ)~~, SUTQ, Ohio's tiered quality rating and improvement system?

Any licensed program as referenced in 5101:2-17-01(A)(8).

~~(1) A program licensed by the Ohio department of job and family services (ODJFS).~~

~~(2) A program licensed by the Ohio department of education (ODE).~~

- (B) Which programs are not eligible to register for ~~a star rating~~ a bronze, silver, or gold rating?

(1) A licensed program with a license in the revocation process.

(2) A licensed program with a currently suspended license.

(3) A licensed program with an active enforcement status.

~~A licensed program with a currently suspended license is not eligible to register for a star rating.~~

- (C) What are the requirements for a licensed program to be eligible for a ~~star rating~~ bronze, silver, or gold rating?

The program ~~shall~~is to do all of the following:

- (1) Log onto the Ohio child licensing and quality system (OCLQS) at ~~https://ocls.force.com~~https://ocls.my.site.com; to electronically submit the ~~initial~~ rating registration.

- (2) Comply with the desk review, including documents returned for revision, and with ~~the~~ any required on-site verification visit.

- (3) Have children enrolled and attending the program at time of the on-site verification visit.

- (4) Meet all of the program standards for the registered ~~star~~ rating as listed in ~~the appendices~~appendix A to rule 5101:2-17-01 of the Administrative Code including:

- (a) Ensure that the administrators, lead teachers and assistant teachers complete and have verified their education and professional

development through the Ohio professional registry (OPR) at ~~ocerra.org/opr~~<https://www.occrra.org>.

(b) Ensure the administrator on-site or family child care provider meets the educational requirements for professional development.

~~(b)~~(c) Ensure staff roles, schedules and hire dates are accurate and that the staff are linked to the program prior to the registration and maintained in the OPR.

~~(e)~~(d) Not falsifying any documentation required to meet the standards. Falsified documentation ~~shall~~is to be cited in accordance with Chapters 5101:2-12, 5101:2-13, 3301-32 and 3301-37 of the Administrative Code.

~~(5) Not have an active enforcement case.~~

~~(6)~~(5) The center or family child care program ~~shall~~is not to have an accumulation of twenty-four moderate and/or serious risk non-compliance points within the previous twelve months ~~if licensed by ODJFS~~, or for a preschool or school child program a six-point serious ~~risk~~risk non-compliance ~~if licensed by ODE~~.

(a) Moderate and serious risk non-compliances are listed in appendix A to rule 5101:2-12-03 of the Administrative Code for child care centers and appendix A to rule 5101:2-13-03 of the Administrative Code for family child care providers.

(b) Serious risk non-compliances are listed in rule 3301-37-02 of the Administrative Code for preschools and rule 3301-32-11 of the Administrative Code for school child programs.

(c) The accumulation of points ~~shall~~are not to be within the previous twelve months prior to the registration date and between the registration date and the ~~star~~ rating effective date.

(d) If a licensing inspection has not occurred within twelve months, the most recent licensing inspection ~~shall~~is to be considered.

*** DRAFT - NOT YET FILED ***

5101:2-17-03

"Step Up To Quality" (SUTQ): desk reviews, on-site verification visits and ~~star rating awards~~ bronze, silver, or gold rating awards.

(A) What programs qualify for a desk review ~~conducted by the Ohio department of job and family services (ODJFS), the county agency or the Ohio department of education (ODE)?~~

Programs who are eligible pursuant to rule 5101:2-17-02 of the Administrative Code and have submitted a completed registration.

(B) How ~~are ratings~~ is the bronze, silver, or gold rating awarded?

(1) The program ~~shall~~is not to be awarded a rating higher than was confirmed by the program during the registration process ~~if the program confirms at a one star, two star or three star rating.~~

~~(2) The program may be awarded a higher rating if it's determined that the program meets the criteria and the program confirms at a four star rating.~~

~~(3)~~(2) A program ~~may not~~is not to be awarded a rating, or a lower ~~star~~ rating may be assessed, if at the desk review or on-site verification visit the program does not meet the standards for the rating the program confirmed at registration.

~~(C) How long does a star rating last?~~

~~If the program meets the standards for a star rating and the requirements for maintaining a star rating, the following shall occur:~~

~~(1) One star rated programs shall be rated for a period of one year.~~

~~(2) Two star rated programs shall be rated for a period of one year.~~

~~(a) A two star rated program shall register for a one, three, four, or five star rating between one hundred eighty days and two hundred seventy days after the two star rating effective date.~~

~~(b) If a program fails to register by day two hundred seventy, the rating shall be immediately discontinued.~~

~~(c) A program may only be awarded a two star rating once every four years from the end of the two star rating.~~

~~(3) Three star rated programs shall be rated for a period of two years.~~

~~(4) Four and five star rated programs shall be rated for a period of three years.~~

~~(D)~~(C) How is a deferral issued?

- (1) A deferral may be issued at the conclusion of the electronic or on-site verification visit ~~or at the time of the annual report~~ if the program cannot demonstrate it is meeting the standards.
- (2) If the program cannot meet the deferral requirement within the time frame given, a lesser ~~star~~ rating may be awarded.

~~(E)~~(D) When is a ~~rating~~ program's bronze, silver, or gold rating effective?

The rating ~~shall~~ award of bronze, silver, or gold is to be effective:

- (1) The Sunday following the thirtieth day after the completion of the on-site verification visit.
- (2) If a deferral was issued, the Sunday following the thirtieth day after the end of the deferral period for a desk review.

(3) The Sunday following the thirtieth day after the focused review or the deferral due date.

~~(3)~~(4) The Sunday following approval or license begin date, whichever is later, after:

- (a) The desk review;
- (b) A rating is awarded pursuant to paragraph ~~(F)~~ or (G) of this rule; or
- (c) ~~The annual report review~~ The on-site verification visit to review all quality standards pursuant to paragraph (F) of this rule.

(E) How long does a rating award last?

A program's rating award will be continuous from their effective date except for programs with specialized ratings. Programs wishing to change their rating must submit an ongoing registration.

(F) When does a program receive a full on-site verification visit to review all quality standards?

(1) A bronze rated program will receive a full on-site verification visit every other

year.

(2) A silver or gold rated program will receive a full on-site verification visit every three years.

~~(F)~~(G) What are the requirements to obtain a specialized rating if a program owner, with multiple rated programs, wants to have a new program's rating expedited?

(1) The program ~~shall~~is to request the rating in the Ohio child licensing and quality system (OCLQS) at ~~https://ocls.force.com~~https://ocls.my.site.com during the application process or within the first thirty days of the provisional license period.

(2) The program's owner ~~shall~~is to own multiple licensed programs that include the following:

(a) At least fifty per cent of the owner's programs ~~have a star rating~~ are rated a bronze, silver, or gold; and

(b) Two or more of the programs ~~have a~~ are rated a silver or gold ~~three, four or five star rating.~~

(3) The rating awarded ~~shall~~is equal to the lowest rating ~~of the three, four or five star rated programs~~ if the program meets the following:

(a) All administrator and staff qualifications ~~shall~~are to be met pursuant to ~~the appendices~~ appendix A to rule 5101:2-17-01 of the Administrative Code for the ~~star~~ rating to be awarded.

(b) The program implements a verified written, researched-based, comprehensive curriculum and formal child assessment pursuant to appendix A to rule 5101:2-17-01 of the Administrative Code ~~aligned with the early learning and development standards and/or the Ohio K-12 standards, appropriate to the age group served and which shows alignment to the program's identified assessment process.~~

(4) If the program is unable to meet the requirements of paragraph ~~(F)~~(G)(3) of this rule, a lesser ~~star~~ rating may be awarded.

(5) In order to continue the ~~star~~ bronze, silver, or gold rating, the program ~~shall~~is to:

(a) Submit an ~~initial~~ ongoing registration within one hundred twenty days of

the rating begin date; and

(b) Comply with a desk review including documents returned for revision and the on-site verification visit.

(6) If the new program fails to comply with paragraph ~~(F)~~(G)(5) of this rule, the rating ~~shall~~ is to be discontinued one hundred twenty days after the rating begin date.

~~(G)~~(H) What are the requirements to continue a rating if the program's owner changes?

(1) An initial program applicant may be awarded a bronze, silver, or gold rating when the owner is changing if the following requirements are met:

(a) The ~~currently rated program~~ bronze, silver, or gold rating has been ~~rated~~awarded for the previous thirteen months.

(b) The new program requests the rating in OCLQS during the application process or within the first thirty days of the provisional license period.

(2) The ~~rating~~ bronze, silver, or gold ~~awarded shall~~ rating award is to equal the current rating if the program meets the following:

(a) All administrator and staff qualifications ~~shall~~are to be met pursuant to ~~the appendices~~appendix A to rule 5101:2-17-01 of the Administrative Code for the ~~star~~ rating to be awarded.

(b) The program implements a verified written, researched-based, comprehensive curriculum and formal child assessment pursuant to appendix A as set forth by the verification process ~~aligned with the early learning and development standards and/or the Ohio K-12 standards, appropriate to the age group served and which shows alignment to the program's identified assessment process.~~

(3) If the program is unable to meet all of the requirements of paragraph ~~(G)~~(H)(2) of this rule, a lesser ~~star~~ rating may be awarded.

(4) In order to continue the ~~star~~ rating, the program ~~shall~~is to:

(a) Submit an ~~initial~~ ongoing registration within one hundred twenty days of the rating begin date: and.

(b) Comply with a desk review including documents returned for revision and the on-site verification visit.

(5) If the program fails to comply with paragraph ~~(G)~~(H)(4) of this rule, the rating ~~shall is to~~ be discontinued one hundred twenty days after the rating begin date.

~~(H)~~(I) Will the ~~star~~ rating continue if a program changes its location?

Yes the ~~star~~ rating ~~shall will be continue~~continued.

~~(H)~~(J) If a ~~star~~ rated family child care provider with a bronze, silver, or gold changes from a licensed type A home to a licensed type B home or from a licensed type B home to a licensed type A home, will the ~~star~~ rating continue?

Yes the ~~star~~ rating ~~shall will be continue~~continued.

~~(H)~~(K) Will the ~~star~~ rating be reinstated if a program was previously rated and the rating was discontinued due to the program being in temporary closure status for more than ~~ninetyone hundred eighty~~ days pursuant to rule 5101:2-12-02 or 5101:2-13-02 of the Administrative Code?

The program is not required to request reinstatement of their rating when reactivating their license. The rating will automatically be reinstated to the previous rating when the license is reactivated. The new rating effective date will be the Sunday following the Ohio department of children and youth (DCY) approval.

~~(1) The rating may be reinstated if the program requests the reinstatement in OCLQS within the first thirty days after reinstatement of the continuous license. If the program has a provider agreement to provide publicly funded child care pursuant to Chapter 5101:2-16 of the Administrative Code and does not request to reinstate its star rating prior to the reopening of the license, the program may have a gap in PFCC services.~~

~~(2) The reinstated rating shall equal the prior rating if the program meets all of the following:~~

~~(a) All administrators and staff qualifications shall be met pursuant to the appendices to rule 5101:2-17-01 of the Administrative Code for the star rating to be awarded~~

~~(b) The program meets the curriculum and assessment requirements pursuant to the appendices to rule 5101:2-17-01 of the Administrative Code for the star rating to be awarded.~~

~~(3) If the program is unable to meet the requirements of paragraph (J)(2) of this rule, a lesser star rating may be awarded.~~

~~(4) Once the reinstated star rating has been awarded, in order to continue the rating, the program shall:~~

~~(a) Submit an ongoing registration within one hundred twenty days of the rating begin date.~~

~~(b) Comply with a desk review and an on-site verification visit.~~

~~(5) What if the program fails to comply with paragraph (J)(4) of this rule?~~

~~The rating shall be discontinued one hundred twenty days after the rating begin date.~~

~~(K)~~(L) What if ~~ODJFS, ODE or the county agency~~ determine the [a licensed](#) program is [determined](#) not [to be](#) meeting any of the standards outlined in ~~the appendices~~ [appendix A](#) to rule 5101:2-17-01 of the Administrative Code?

The program ~~shall~~[is](#) to:

(1) Comply with any desk reviews or on-site verification visits.

(2) Submit any documents requested by ~~ODJFS, ODE or the county agency~~ [the licensing entity](#).

~~(L) What are the requirements for rated programs displaying marketing materials?~~

~~The program shall:~~

~~(1) Use SUTQ marketing materials only for the current rating.~~

~~(2) Meet the branding and logo requirements outlined by ODJFS for marketing materials.~~

*** DRAFT - NOT YET FILED ***

5101:2-17-04

"Step Up To Quality" (SUTQ): changes, **renewals**, removals, or requests to withdraw a **SUTQ bronze, silver, or gold** rating.

(A) ~~What shall~~ How does a program ~~do to~~ request a rating change from bronze, silver, or gold?

The program ~~shall~~ is to:

- (1) Log onto ~~https://oclhs.force.com~~ https://oclhs.my.site.com to complete an ongoing rating registration.
- (2) Electronically submit the registration.

~~(B) What is the process to submit an annual report?~~

- ~~(1) A program shall complete and submit an annual report at https://oclhs.force.com thirty days prior to the anniversary date of the initial star rating.~~
- ~~(2) The annual report shall contain updated information as described in the appendices to rule 5101:2-17-01 of the Administrative Code for a three, four or five star rated program.~~
- ~~(3) An annual report is not required if a change in rating registration is submitted before the deadline for the annual report.~~

~~(C) What if the annual report is not completed and submitted?~~

~~The star rating shall be discontinued on the anniversary date of the star rating.~~

~~(D) What if the rated program does not meet the program standards based on the information provided in the annual report?~~

~~The star rating may be reduced or removed pursuant to paragraph (F)(3) of this rule.~~

~~(E) What is the process to submit a rating renewal?~~

- ~~(1) A program shall request to renew its rating by logging onto https://oclhs.force.com ninety days prior to the star rating expiration date to complete and submit an ongoing registration.~~
- ~~(2) If the program does not submit a rating renewal, the rating shall be discontinued on the rating expiration date.~~

~~(F)~~ (B) When can a **star** rating be reduced or removed?

- (1) ~~Programs licensed by ODJFS~~ For centers and family child care providers:
 - (a) The ~~star~~ rating ~~shall~~ is to be removed if the program receives a letter of intent to revoke a license ~~from ODJFS~~.
 - (b) The ~~star~~ rating may be reduced or removed if ~~ODJFS or the county agency determines~~ if it is determined that the program has an accumulation of twenty-four moderate and/or serious risk non-compliance points or a six-point serious risk non-compliance within the previous twelve months as listed in appendix A to rule 5101:2-12-03 of the Administrative Code for child care centers and appendix A to rule 5101:2-13-03 of the Administrative Code for family child care providers.
 - (2) For preschool and school child programs ~~licensed by ODE~~, the ~~star~~ rating may be reduced or removed if ~~ODE determines~~ it is determined that the program has a six-point serious risk non-compliance as shown in rule 3301-37-02 of the Administrative Code ~~for preschools~~ and rule 3301-32-11 of the Administrative Code ~~for school child programs~~.
 - (3) The ~~star~~ rating may be reduced or removed if ~~ODJFS, ODE~~ the Ohio department of children and youth (DCY) or the county agency determines the program is not meeting any of the standards outlined in ~~the appendices~~ appendix A to rule 5101:2-17-01 of the Administrative Code.
- ~~(G)~~ (C) What are the requirements following a rating reduction pursuant to paragraph ~~(F)(1)~~ (B) or ~~(F)(2)~~ of this rule?
- (1) The program ~~shall~~ is not to be awarded a ~~star~~ rating for six months after the new rating begin date; this includes a reduction to a zero rating.
 - ~~(2) The new rating awarded will expire twelve months after the new rating begin date.~~
 - ~~(3)~~ (2) Paragraph (C) ~~(6)~~ (5) of rule 5101:2-17-02 of the Administrative Code ~~shall~~ is to only apply to inspections completed after the effective date of the reduction of a ~~star~~ rating.
- ~~(H)~~ (D) What are the requirements following a rating removal pursuant to paragraph ~~(F)(1)~~ (B) or ~~(F)(2)~~ of this rule?

- (1) The program ~~shall~~is to not be awarded a ~~star~~ rating for twelve months from the date of removal.
 - (2) Paragraph (C)~~(6)~~(5) of rule 5101:2-17-02 of the Administrative Code ~~shall~~is to only apply to inspections completed after the effective date of the removal of a ~~star~~ rating.
- ~~(A)~~(E) How can a program with an agreement to provide publicly funded child care (PFCC) avoid a gap in PFCC services when its SUTQ exemption pursuant to Chapter 5101:2-16 of the Administrative Code is expiring or no longer exists?
- (1) If a program is currently meeting a time-limited exemption pursuant to Chapter 5101:2-16 of the Administrative Code and does not submit a registration for SUTQ between one hundred eighty days and ninety days prior to the expiration of the exemption, the program may have a gap in PFCC services. Time-limited exemptions are a reduction or removal pursuant to paragraph ~~(F)~~(B) of this rule as well as a program at the end of its provisional license period.
 - (2) If a program no longer meets any of the other exemptions pursuant to Chapter 5101:2-16 of the Administrative Code and does not submit a registration for SUTQ within thirty days of no longer meeting the exemption criteria, the program may have a gap in PFCC services.
- ~~(A)~~(E) How does a program withdraw from SUTQ ~~and when does it become effective?~~
- (1) A program that has submitted a registration for SUTQ or that has a current SUTQ rating may withdraw from SUTQ by requesting a withdrawal at <https://oclqs.my.site.com> completing and submitting the JFS 01556 "Request to Withdraw From Step Up To Quality".
 - ~~(2) The effective date of the program's withdrawal from SUTQ shall be the date requested on the JFS 01556 or thirty days from the date of the signature on the JFS 01556, whichever is later.~~

5101:2-17-05

"Step Up To Quality" (SUTQ): request for review.

(A) What are the reasons a program may request a review of a rating decision?

- (1) Denial of a ~~star~~ rating.
- (2) The award of a lesser ~~star~~ rating.
- (3) The removal or reduction of a ~~star~~ rating pursuant to rule 5101:2-17-04 of the Administrative Code.

(B) How does a program submit a request for review?

A program ~~shall~~ is to complete and submit the ~~JFS 01155 "Request for Review for Licensing and Step Up to Quality" (12/2016)~~ with all applicable ~~documentation~~ follow the process as outlined by the licensing agency.

(C) When may a program submit a ~~JFS 01155~~ request for review?

Within seven business days of the following:

- (1) Notification of the denial of the ~~star~~ rating.
- (2) Notification of the ~~star~~ rating award.
- (3) Date of the letter indicating the removal or reduction of the ~~star~~ rating award.

~~(D) When is a program not permitted to request a review?~~

~~The program may not request a review of a discontinued star rating as a result of the program failing to submit an ongoing registration to renew the star rating or an annual report.~~

5101:2-17-06

"Step Up To Quality" (SUTQ): county agency responsibilities.

(A) What are the responsibilities of the county agency ~~staff~~ for ~~"Step Up To Quality"~~ ~~(SUTQ)~~SUTQ?

The county agency ~~shall~~staff are to:

- (1) Utilize the Ohio child licensing and quality system (OCLQS) to support SUTQ.
- (2) Follow all requirements contained in Chapter 5101:2-17 of the Administrative Code.
- (3) Follow the ~~Ohio department of job and family services (ODJFS)~~ policies and procedures for all SUTQ responsibilities as assigned.
- (4) Recommend rating actions ~~to ODJFS~~ for approval.

(B) May the county agency have additional requirements that exceed the SUTQ standards in Chapter 5101:2-17 of the Administrative Code?

The county agency ~~shall~~ is not to have additional requirements for SUTQ.

(C) May the county agency contract out the SUTQ responsibilities?

The county agency may contract out the SUTQ responsibilities but ~~shall~~ is to ensure that the requirements of this chapter are met.



Child Care Clearance Memo

TO: All Clearance Reviewers

FROM: Kara B. Wentz, DCY Director
Matt Damschroder, ODJFS Director

SUBJECT: 2024 Update to Publicly Funded Child Care Provider Payment Rates to the 50th Percentile

Background:

To ensure all Ohio families have equal access to child care services as defined by the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, the Department of Health and Human Services has stated that Ohio's Publicly Funded Child Care (PFCC) base provider payment rates must be at the 50th percentile of its most recent market rate survey (MRS). To meet this requirement, Ohio will implement a new PFCC payment structure and increase base provider payment rates to the 50th percentile of the 2022 MRS.

Implementation

Rule 5101:2-16-10 "Payment rates and procedures for providers of publicly funded child care services" is being proposed for amendment to reflect these new rates and implement changes to the PFCC payment structure. This rule will be effective in mid-2024.

- Replaced "non-rated" with "base rate" to reflect updated payment structure language.
- Clarified that rates shown in Appendix A of this rule corresponds with the program's quality rating in the provider's county of location.
- Replaced the Step Up to Quality (SUTQ) five-tiered rating system with the bronze, silver, and gold rating system.
- Replaced <http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/childcare.stm> with <https://childcaresearch.ohio.gov>.
- Updated payment rates for in-home aides to align with the licensed Type B Homes base rate.
- Removed pandemic days.
- Updated Appendix A to this rule to reflect new PFCC payment rates.

In-home aide guidance: The payment rates for in-home aides that provide PFCC services will be the lower of either the provider's customary rate or the base rate shown in appendix A to this rule. To enter the customary rate into Ohio Child Licensing and Quality System (OCLQS), providers can go to <https://oclqs.my.site.com/login>. For instructions on how to enter customary rates into OCLQS, providers can access the "How to Update Customary Rates in OCLQS" job aid at

Ohio Department of Children and Youth

Kara Wentz, Director
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Columbus, OH 43215 U.S.A

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Matt Damschroder, Director
30 E. Broad Street
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<https://jfs.ohio.gov/child-care/information-for-providers/licensing-compliance/oclqs-licensing-job-aids>.

Please contact the Child Care Policy Help Desk at 1-877-302-2347, option 4, if you have any questions.

5101:2-16-10

Payment rates and procedures for providers of publicly funded child care services.

(A) How are payment rates established in the publicly funded child care program?

(1) Payment rates are based on a market rate survey completed by the Ohio department of job and family services (ODJFS) to providers in the state of Ohio.

(2) Payment rates shall apply to all providers of publicly funded child care.

(B) What is the payment rate for a provider of publicly funded child care? ~~not participating in step up to quality (SUTQ)?~~

(1) The payment rate for a provider ~~not participating in SUTQ~~ shall be the lower of these two:

(a) The base rate shown in appendix A to this rule ~~for non-rated programs~~ in the provider's county of location.

(b) The provider's customary rate to the public.

(2) The rate determined in paragraph (B)(1) of this rule shall be the base rate used to calculate any applicable additional payment amounts pursuant to paragraphs (D), (F) and (G) of this rule.

(C) What is the payment rate for a provider participating in step up to quality (SUTQ)?

~~(1) The base payment rate for a provider participating in SUTQ shall be the lower of these two:~~

~~(a) The rate shown in appendix A to this rule for rated programs in the provider's county of location.~~

~~(b) The provider's customary rate to the public. If the customary rate is used, an additional four per cent will be added, not to exceed the rated appendix.~~

~~(2)~~(1) Once the rate is determined in paragraph ~~(C)(1)~~(B)(1) of this rule, an additional per cent shall be added, as follows:

(a) ~~One star rated programs~~Bronze rated programs shall be paid an additional ~~five~~ ten per cent.

- (b) ~~Two-star rated programs~~ Silver rated programs shall be paid an additional ~~eighteen~~ fifteen per cent.
- (c) ~~Three-star rated programs~~ Gold rated programs shall be paid an additional twenty-~~one~~ five per cent.
- ~~(d) Four-star rated programs shall be paid an additional twenty-nine per cent.~~
- ~~(e) Five-star rated programs shall be paid an additional thirty-five per cent.~~

(D) What is the payment rate for accredited providers?

- (1) Providers who are accredited by an ODJFS approved accrediting body as listed at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/ede/childcare.stm> <https://childcaresearch.ohio.gov> shall be paid an additional ten per cent of the applicable payment rate established in paragraph (B)(1) of this rule ~~or paragraph (C)(1) of this rule~~. This rate shall apply for all children receiving publicly funded child care services.
- (2) Providers who are accredited and also participating in SUTQ shall be paid either the per cent additional payment in paragraph ~~(C)(2)~~ (C)(1) of this rule or the per cent additional payment in paragraph (D)(1) of this rule, whichever is higher.

(E) What is the difference between a school-age rate and a summer school-age rate?

- (1) School-age rates shall be in effect during the school year as defined in rule 5101:2-16-01 of the Administrative Code.
- (2) Summer school-age rates shall be in effect outside of the school year as defined in rule 5101:2-16-01 of the Administrative Code.

(F) What is the compensation for child care services provided during non-traditional hours?

- (1) Providers who care for children during non-traditional hours shall be paid an additional five per cent of the applicable payment rate established in paragraph (B)(1) or (C)(1) of this rule.
- (2) This rate shall apply to the child for all hours of care during a week when any non-traditional hours of care are provided.

- (3) The payment shall not exceed the provider's customary charge to the public.
 - (4) Non-traditional hours are the hours between seven p.m. and six a.m. on weekdays, and between twelve a.m. Saturday and six a.m. Monday.
 - (5) Non-traditional hours include any hours of care provided on New Year's day, Martin Luther King Jr. day, Memorial day, Independence day, Labor day, Thanksgiving day and Christmas day.
- (G) How are providers compensated for the care of children with special needs?
- (1) Providers who care for a child that the caretaker and the county agency have identified as having special needs pursuant to rule 5101:2-16-02 of the Administrative Code shall be paid an additional five per cent of the applicable payment rate established in paragraph (B)(1) or (C)(1) of this rule. The payment shall not exceed the provider's customary charge to the public.
 - (2) Providers who make special accommodations for the care of a child with special needs may receive twice the amount of the applicable payment rate established in paragraph (B)(1) or (C)(1) of this rule if approved pursuant to rule 5101:2-16-09 of the Administrative Code.
 - (3) Payment enhancements or additional percentages shall only apply to the hours of care for the child with special needs.
- (H) What time increments are used for the payment of publicly funded child care services?
- (1) Time increments are broken down into weekly categories based on the total number of hours per week that each child is authorized to receive publicly funded child care services, pursuant to rule 5101:2-16-06 of the Administrative Code. The categories of payment are as follows:
 - (a) An hourly payment is for hours of care totaling less than seven hours per week.
 - (b) A part-time payment is for hours of care totaling seven hours to less than twenty-five hours per week.
 - (c) A full-time payment is for hours of care totaling twenty-five hours to sixty

hours per week.

(d) A full-time plus payment is for hours of care totaling more than sixty hours per week.

(e) A week is defined as the seven-day period from twelve a.m. Sunday to fifty-nine minutes after eleven p.m. on Saturday.

(2) Payment shall be calculated using the total number of child care hours per week, that have been approved by the caretaker, if applicable, and submitted by the provider in the automated child care system.

(a) The total number of weekly hours of care received will be matched with the associated category and the provider will receive the payment rate for that category of care, up to the child's category of authorization.

(b) Payment shall not be made for hours that exceed the child's category of authorization.

(I) Are providers compensated for registration fees?

Providers may receive registration fees for children receiving publicly funded child care according to the following criteria:

(1) Annually, a provider with a valid provider agreement as of January first shall receive a twenty-five dollar registration fee for each child who received publicly funded child care from the provider in the previous calendar year. For approved day camps, the camp shall have had a valid provider agreement as of August thirtieth of the previous year.

(2) The child must have received publicly funded child care from the provider for at least one day during January through December of the previous year.

(J) Is a provider compensated when a child is absent from the program?

(1) A child is eligible for a maximum of twenty absent days during each six-month period of January through June and July through December of each state fiscal year.

(2) Absent days are defined in rule 5101:2-16-01 of the Administrative Code.

(3) A provider may be paid for an absent day for which a child is eligible. An absent day shall not be paid prior to actual attendance at the authorized program. The attendance shall be documented by a recorded in time and a recorded out time, and shall have occurred on any day in the previous rolling twelve months.

(4) The value of an absent day is based on the child's authorized hours for care, as follows:

(a) For a full-time or a full-time plus authorization, the value of an absent day is eight hours.

(b) For a part-time or an hourly authorization, the value of an absent day is five hours.

(K) Are providers compensated for staff professional development days?

(1) Providers are eligible for two professional development days per state fiscal year. A fiscal year is defined as July first through June thirtieth.

(2) Professional development days are defined in rule 5101:2-16-01 of the Administrative Code.

(3) Professional development days cannot be used on two consecutive calendar days or in two consecutive calendar months.

(4) Professional development days shall not be used on any holiday listed in paragraph (F)(5) of this rule.

(5) The value of a professional development day is based on a child's authorized hours for care, as follows:

(a) For a full-time or a full-time plus authorization, the value of a professional development day is eight hours.

(b) For a part-time or an hourly authorization, the value of a professional development day is five hours.

(L) What is not included in the payment for publicly funded child care services?

The provider's publicly funded child care payment shall not include:

- (1) A child's copayment amount pursuant to rule 5101:2-16-05 of the Administrative Code.
 - (2) Payment for services provided during the hours that a child is in care in another federal or state funded program (including, but not limited to, head start, early head start, or the early childhood education program).
 - (3) Payment for services provided during the hours that a school-age child would typically be in attendance at a primary or secondary school.
 - (a) Payment will include time that a school-age child is participating in remote learning, including the remote portion of a hybrid school model, while in child care.
 - (b) Payment will not include time that the child is participating in instructional services which supplant or duplicate the academic program of any school.
 - (c) Payment will not include care during the school-day if the parent has the option to send the school-age child to in-person learning, including a hybrid school model, and instead opted for only remote learning.
- (M) What are the requirements regarding fees that a provider may charge to the caretaker?
- (1) A provider shall make a caretaker aware of fees not covered by publicly funded child care payments for which the caretaker may be responsible.
 - (a) A provider shall have a signed agreement with the caretaker for the payment of these fees.
 - (b) Such fees may include:
 - (i) Late fees.
 - (ii) Activity fees.
 - (iii) Transportation fees.

- (iv) Charges for absent days which exceed those eligible for payment from ODJFS.
 - (v) Charges for hours of care that exceed those authorized.
- (2) A provider shall not ask a caretaker to pay the difference between the provider's payment rate and the provider's customary charge to the public when the customary charge is higher.
- (3) A provider shall not ask a caretaker to pay the difference between the registration fee paid for the child by ODJFS and the provider's customary registration fee charge to the public when the customary registration fee is higher.
- (N) What are the payment rates for in-home aides that provide publicly funded child care services?

An in-home aide is the only provider of publicly funded child care services who may provide child care in the child's own home. ~~Payment rates for in-home aides are to be determined according to the following:~~

- (1) An in-home aide shall be paid the lower of these two:~~an hourly rate that is equal to the state minimum wage for forty or fewer hours in a week. An in-home aide pilot program may be operated in participating counties detailed in a child care letter published by ODJFS.~~
- (a) The base rate shown in appendix A to this rule in the provider's county of location.
 - (b) The provider's customary rate to the public.
- ~~(a) An in-home aide in a participating county may be paid an enhanced hourly rate of thirteen dollars for forty or fewer hours in a week when at least one child qualifies for special needs child care as determined pursuant to this chapter or at least one child needs care during non-traditional hours is served.~~
- ~~(b) A rate of one and one-half times the rate in paragraph (N)(1)(a) of this rule will be paid for hours in excess of forty in a week.~~
- ~~(c) This pilot will exist for the time period specified in a child care letter published by ODJFS or until funding is no longer available, whichever is sooner.~~

~~(2) A rate of one and one-half times the state minimum wage shall be paid for hours in excess of forty in a week.~~

~~(3) The total payment shall include child care services provided to all of the authorized child(ren) in the caretaker's home.~~

~~(4)~~(2) An in-home aide shall not claim absent days or professional development days for children receiving publicly funded child care services.

~~(5)~~(3) An in-home aide is not eligible for any payment enhancements or additional percentages to the payment rate.

~~(O) Are providers compensated for pandemic days?~~

~~(1) A pandemic day means a day in which the provider would normally provide child care for currently enrolled children, but were advised to close by the Ohio department of health (ODH) or the local health department or closed in compliance with guidance from ODH and the United States centers for disease control and prevention (CDC) as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.~~

~~(2) Providers are eligible for thirty-five pandemic days per fiscal year. In-home aides are not to claim pandemic days.~~

~~(3) The provider will provide ODJFS written documentation of the advisory to close. Failure to provide the documentation may result in the pandemic days not being paid.~~

~~(4) The value of a pandemic day is based on a child's authorized hours for care, as follows:~~

~~(a) For a full-time or a full-time plus authorization, the value of a pandemic day is eight hours.~~

~~(b) For a part-time or an hourly authorization, the value of a pandemic day is five hours.~~

Category 1 - Base Rate

Weekly Payment Rates for Providers of Publicly Funded Child Care Not Participating in SUTQ

Centers, Day Camps, Type A Homes, ODE Programs			
	Full Time	Part Time	Hourly
Infant	\$173.55	\$116.49	\$8.14
Toddler	\$160.00	\$102.76	\$7.28
Pre-School	\$142.00	\$85.04	\$5.39
School Age	\$100.00	\$65.01	\$5.20
School Age Summer	\$135.00	\$87.39	\$6.10

Licensed Type B Homes, In-Home Aides			
	Full Time	Part Time	Hourly
Infant	\$155.00	\$100.00	\$5.63
Toddler	\$152.45	\$100.00	\$5.22
Pre-School	\$140.98	\$100.00	\$5.67
School Age	\$120.12	\$83.80	\$5.20
School Age Summer	\$134.50	\$96.72	\$6.09

BROWN

HOCKING

PUTNAM

VINTON

CHAMPAIGN

MERCER

ROSS

WILLIAMS

FULTON

MUSKINGUM

SCIOTO

WYANDOT

GALLIA

PAULDING

VAN WERT

BORDER STATE PROVIDERS

Category 1 - Bronze - 10%

Weekly Payment Rates for Providers of Publicly Funded Child Care Participating in SUTQ

Centers, Type A Homes, ODE Programs			
	Full Time	Part Time	Hourly
Infant	\$190.91	\$128.14	\$8.95
Toddler	\$176.00	\$113.04	\$8.01
Pre-School	\$156.20	\$93.54	\$5.93
School Age	\$110.00	\$71.51	\$5.72
School Age Summer	\$148.50	\$96.13	\$6.71

Licensed Type B Homes			
	Full Time	Part Time	Hourly
Infant	\$170.50	\$110.00	\$6.19
Toddler	\$167.70	\$110.00	\$5.74
Pre-School	\$155.08	\$110.00	\$6.24
School Age	\$132.13	\$92.18	\$5.72
School Age Summer	\$147.95	\$106.39	\$6.70

BROWN

HOCKING

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VINTON

CHAMPAIGN

MERCER

ROSS

WILLIAMS

FULTON

MUSKINGUM

SCIOTO

WYANDOT

GALLIA

PAULDING

VAN WERT

Category 1 - Silver - 15%

Weekly Payment Rates for Providers of Publicly Funded Child Care Participating in SUTQ

Centers, Type A Homes, ODE Programs			
	Full Time	Part Time	Hourly
Infant	\$199.58	\$133.96	\$9.36
Toddler	\$184.00	\$118.17	\$8.37
Pre-School	\$163.30	\$97.80	\$6.20
School Age	\$115.00	\$74.76	\$5.98
School Age Summer	\$155.25	\$100.50	\$7.02

Licensed Type B Homes			
	Full Time	Part Time	Hourly
Infant	\$178.25	\$115.00	\$6.47
Toddler	\$175.32	\$115.00	\$6.00
Pre-School	\$162.13	\$115.00	\$6.52
School Age	\$138.14	\$96.37	\$5.98
School Age Summer	\$154.68	\$111.23	\$7.00

BROWN

HOCKING

PUTNAM

VINTON

CHAMPAIGN

MERCER

ROSS

WILLIAMS

FULTON

MUSKINGUM

SCIOTO

WYANDOT

GALLIA

PAULDING

VAN WERT

Category 1 - Gold - 25%

Weekly Payment Rates for Providers of Publicly Funded Child Care Participating in SUTQ

Centers, Type A Homes, ODE Programs			
	Full Time	Part Time	Hourly
Infant	\$216.94	\$145.61	\$10.18
Toddler	\$200.00	\$128.45	\$9.10
Pre-School	\$177.50	\$106.30	\$6.74
School Age	\$125.00	\$81.26	\$6.50
School Age Summer	\$168.75	\$109.24	\$7.63

Licensed Type B Homes			
	Full Time	Part Time	Hourly
Infant	\$193.75	\$125.00	\$7.04
Toddler	\$190.56	\$125.00	\$6.53
Pre-School	\$176.23	\$125.00	\$7.09
School Age	\$150.15	\$104.75	\$6.50
School Age Summer	\$168.13	\$120.90	\$7.61

BROWN

HOCKING

PUTNAM

VINTON

CHAMPAIGN

MERCER

ROSS

WILLIAMS

FULTON

MUSKINGUM

SCIOTO

WYANDOT

GALLIA

PAULDING

VAN WERT

Category 2 - Base Rate

Weekly Payment Rates for Providers of Publicly Funded Child Care Not Participating in SUTQ

Centers, Day Camps, Type A Homes, ODE Programs			
	Full Time	Part Time	Hourly
Infant	\$221.87	\$150.00	\$10.21
Toddler	\$200.00	\$130.00	\$11.71
Pre-School	\$175.00	\$105.00	\$7.28
School Age	\$126.00	\$80.00	\$7.00
School Age Summer	\$170.00	\$107.04	\$7.83

Licensed Type B Homes, In-Home Aides			
	Full Time	Part Time	Hourly
Infant	\$170.00	\$120.00	\$6.93
Toddler	\$165.00	\$111.00	\$6.55
Pre-School	\$155.00	\$105.96	\$6.76
School Age	\$139.21	\$95.18	\$6.29
School Age Summer	\$150.00	\$105.46	\$7.00

ADAMS

CRAWFORD

JACKSON

PIKE

WAYNE

ALLEN

DARKE

LAWRENCE

PREBLE

ASHLAND

ERIE

LICKING

RICHLAND

ASHTABULA

FAYETTE

LOGAN

SANDUSKY

CARROLL

GUERNSEY

MADISON

SENECA

CLARK

HARDIN

MEIGS

SHELBY

CLINTON

HENRY

MIAMI

STARK

COLUMBIANA

HIGHLAND

PERRY

TUSCARAWAS

COSHOCTON

HURON

PICKAWAY

WASHINGTON

Category 2 - Bronze - 10%

Weekly Payment Rates for Providers of Publicly Funded Child Care Participating in SUTQ

Centers, Type A Homes, ODE Programs			
	Full Time	Part Time	Hourly
Infant	\$244.06	\$165.00	\$11.23
Toddler	\$220.00	\$143.00	\$12.88
Pre-School	\$192.50	\$115.50	\$8.01
School Age	\$138.60	\$88.00	\$7.70
School Age Summer	\$187.00	\$117.74	\$8.61

Licensed Type B Homes			
	Full Time	Part Time	Hourly
Infant	\$187.00	\$132.00	\$7.62
Toddler	\$181.50	\$122.10	\$7.21
Pre-School	\$170.50	\$116.56	\$7.44
School Age	\$153.13	\$104.70	\$6.92
School Age Summer	\$165.00	\$116.01	\$7.70

ADAMS	CRAWFORD	JACKSON	PIKE	WAYNE
ALLEN	DARKE	LAWRENCE	PREBLE	
ASHLAND	ERIE	LICKING	RICHLAND	
ASHTABULA	FAYETTE	LOGAN	SANDUSKY	
CARROLL	GUERNSEY	MADISON	SENECA	
CLARK	HARDIN	MEIGS	SHELBY	
CLINTON	HENRY	MIAMI	STARK	
COLUMBIANA	HIGHLAND	PERRY	TUSCARAWAS	
COSHOCTON	HURON	PICKAWAY	WASHINGTON	

Category 2 - Silver - 15%

Weekly Payment Rates for Providers of Publicly Funded Child Care Participating in SUTQ

Centers, Type A Homes, ODE Programs			
	Full Time	Part Time	Hourly
Infant	\$255.15	\$172.50	\$11.74
Toddler	\$230.00	\$149.50	\$13.47
Pre-School	\$201.25	\$120.75	\$8.37
School Age	\$144.90	\$92.00	\$8.05
School Age Summer	\$195.50	\$123.10	\$9.00

Licensed Type B Homes			
	Full Time	Part Time	Hourly
Infant	\$195.50	\$138.00	\$7.97
Toddler	\$189.75	\$127.65	\$7.53
Pre-School	\$178.25	\$121.85	\$7.77
School Age	\$160.09	\$109.46	\$7.23
School Age Summer	\$172.50	\$121.28	\$8.05

ADAMS	CRAWFORD	JACKSON	PIKE	WAYNE
ALLEN	DARKE	LAWRENCE	PREBLE	
ASHLAND	ERIE	LICKING	RICHLAND	
ASHTABULA	FAYETTE	LOGAN	SANDUSKY	
CARROLL	GUERNSEY	MADISON	SENECA	
CLARK	HARDIN	MEIGS	SHELBY	
CLINTON	HENRY	MIAMI	STARK	
COLUMBIANA	HIGHLAND	PERRY	TUSCARAWAS	
COSHOCTON	HURON	PICKAWAY	WASHINGTON	

Category 2 - Gold - 25%

Weekly Payment Rates for Providers of Publicly Funded Child Care Participating in SUTQ

Centers, Type A Homes, ODE Programs			
	Full Time	Part Time	Hourly
Infant	\$277.34	\$187.50	\$12.76
Toddler	\$250.00	\$162.50	\$14.64
Pre-School	\$218.75	\$131.25	\$9.10
School Age	\$157.50	\$100.00	\$8.75
School Age Summer	\$212.50	\$133.80	\$9.79

Licensed Type B Homes			
	Full Time	Part Time	Hourly
Infant	\$212.50	\$150.00	\$8.66
Toddler	\$206.25	\$138.75	\$8.19
Pre-School	\$193.75	\$132.45	\$8.45
School Age	\$174.01	\$118.98	\$7.86
School Age Summer	\$187.50	\$131.83	\$8.75

ADAMS

CRAWFORD

JACKSON

PIKE

WAYNE

ALLEN

DARKE

LAWRENCE

PREBLE

ASHLAND

ERIE

LICKING

RICHLAND

ASHTABULA

FAYETTE

LOGAN

SANDUSKY

CARROLL

GUERNSEY

MADISON

SENECA

CLARK

HARDIN

MEIGS

SHELBY

CLINTON

HENRY

MIAMI

STARK

COLUMBIANA

HIGHLAND

PERRY

TUSCARAWAS

COSHOCTON

HURON

PICKAWAY

WASHINGTON

Category 3 - Base Rate

Weekly Payment Rates for Providers of Publicly Funded Child Care Not Participating in SUTQ

Centers, Day Camps, Type A Homes, ODE Programs			
	Full Time	Part Time	Hourly
Infant	\$295.00	\$194.77	\$10.22
Toddler	\$265.00	\$175.00	\$11.82
Pre-School	\$232.00	\$150.70	\$8.94
School Age	\$150.00	\$101.06	\$8.42
School Age Summer	\$208.79	\$150.00	\$9.00

Licensed Type B Homes, In-Home Aides			
	Full Time	Part Time	Hourly
Infant	\$200.00	\$150.00	\$10.00
Toddler	\$190.00	\$140.00	\$10.00
Pre-School	\$175.00	\$125.33	\$10.00
School Age	\$155.00	\$112.50	\$10.00
School Age Summer	\$163.25	\$120.00	\$10.00

ATHENS

FRANKLIN

LAKE

MORROW

AUGLAIZE

GEAUGA

LORAIN

NOBLE

BELMONT

GREENE

LUCAS

OTTAWA

BUTLER

HAMILTON

MAHONING

PORTAGE

CLERMONT

HANCOCK

MARION

SUMMIT

CUYAHOGA

HARRISON

MEDINA

TRUMBULL

DEFIANCE

HOLMES

MONROE

UNION

DELAWARE

JEFFERSON

MONTGOMERY

WARREN

FAIRFIELD

KNOX

MORGAN

WOOD

Category 3 - Bronze - 10%

Weekly Payment Rates for Providers of Publicly Funded Child Care Participating in SUTQ

Centers, Type A Homes, ODE Programs			
	Full Time	Part Time	Hourly
Infant	\$324.50	\$214.25	\$11.24
Toddler	\$291.50	\$192.50	\$13.00
Pre-School	\$255.20	\$165.77	\$9.83
School Age	\$165.00	\$111.17	\$9.26
School Age Summer	\$229.67	\$165.00	\$9.90

Licensed Type B Homes			
	Full Time	Part Time	Hourly
Infant	\$220.00	\$165.00	\$11.00
Toddler	\$209.00	\$154.00	\$11.00
Pre-School	\$192.50	\$137.86	\$11.00
School Age	\$170.50	\$123.75	\$11.00
School Age Summer	\$179.58	\$132.00	\$11.00

ATHENS	FRANKLIN	LAKE	MORROW
AUGLAIZE	GEAUGA	LORAIN	NOBLE
BELMONT	GREENE	LUCAS	OTTAWA
BUTLER	HAMILTON	MAHONING	PORTAGE
CLERMONT	HANCOCK	MARION	SUMMIT
CUYAHOGA	HARRISON	MEDINA	TRUMBULL
DEFIANCE	HOLMES	MONROE	UNION
DELAWARE	JEFFERSON	MONTGOMERY	WARREN
FAIRFIELD	KNOX	MORGAN	WOOD

Category 3 - Silver - 15%

Weekly Payment Rates for Providers of Publicly Funded Child Care Participating in SUTQ

Centers, Type A Homes, ODE Programs			
	Full Time	Part Time	Hourly
Infant	\$339.25	\$223.99	\$11.75
Toddler	\$304.75	\$201.25	\$13.59
Pre-School	\$266.80	\$173.31	\$10.28
School Age	\$172.50	\$116.22	\$9.68
School Age Summer	\$240.11	\$172.50	\$10.35

Licensed Type B Homes			
	Full Time	Part Time	Hourly
Infant	\$230.00	\$172.50	\$11.50
Toddler	\$218.50	\$161.00	\$11.50
Pre-School	\$201.25	\$144.13	\$11.50
School Age	\$178.25	\$129.38	\$11.50
School Age Summer	\$187.74	\$138.00	\$11.50

ATHENS	FRANKLIN	LAKE	MORROW
AUGLAIZE	GEAUGA	LORAIN	NOBLE
BELMONT	GREENE	LUCAS	OTTAWA
BUTLER	HAMILTON	MAHONING	PORTAGE
CLERMONT	HANCOCK	MARION	SUMMIT
CUYAHOGA	HARRISON	MEDINA	TRUMBULL
DEFIANCE	HOLMES	MONROE	UNION
DELAWARE	JEFFERSON	MONTGOMERY	WARREN
FAIRFIELD	KNOX	MORGAN	WOOD

Category 3 - Gold - 25%

Weekly Payment Rates for Providers of Publicly Funded Child Care Participating in SUTQ

Centers, Type A Homes, ODE Programs			
	Full Time	Part Time	Hourly
Infant	\$368.75	\$243.46	\$12.78
Toddler	\$331.25	\$218.75	\$14.78
Pre-School	\$290.00	\$188.38	\$11.18
School Age	\$187.50	\$126.33	\$10.53
School Age Summer	\$260.99	\$187.50	\$11.25

Licensed Type B Homes			
	Full Time	Part Time	Hourly
Infant	\$250.00	\$187.50	\$12.50
Toddler	\$237.50	\$175.00	\$12.50
Pre-School	\$218.75	\$156.66	\$12.50
School Age	\$193.75	\$140.63	\$12.50
School Age Summer	\$204.06	\$150.00	\$12.50

ATHENS	FRANKLIN	LAKE	MORROW
AUGLAIZE	GEAUGA	LORAIN	NOBLE
BELMONT	GREENE	LUCAS	OTTAWA
BUTLER	HAMILTON	MAHONING	PORTAGE
CLERMONT	HANCOCK	MARION	SUMMIT
CUYAHOGA	HARRISON	MEDINA	TRUMBULL
DEFIANCE	HOLMES	MONROE	UNION
DELAWARE	JEFFERSON	MONTGOMERY	WARREN
FAIRFIELD	KNOX	MORGAN	WOOD