

Quality Improvement Grants and Technical Assistance – Summary of Practices in Other States with RTTT Funding

Washington ◇ Washington encourages programs to increase their quality and to make a positive impact on child outcomes by investing in Quality Improvement Awards (QI) for facilities that reach higher Early Achievers quality rating levels. Quality Improvement grants are flexible, but coaches help programs prioritize areas of need, such as classroom educational materials, teacher training, wage supplements, release time, curriculum materials, or parent trainings/supports. QI Awards are distributed *annually* to participating programs and range from \$2,000 to \$2,750 for family child care providers and \$5,000 to \$9,000 for child care centers. QI funds are distributed to providers between 30 to 60 days from the date that a facility's rating is issued.

The Washington Department of Early Learning (DEL) has created many resources to accompany the Early Achievers Toolkit quality standards for the state's QRIS. TA specialists provide further consultation on the quality standards at the first onsite visit to programs and continuously support the exploration of how programs meet the quality standards through the self-assessment process and the preparation of a file of supporting materials for rating. Free TA is available for all providers upon enrollment and is designed to support providers through the completion of the Level 2 requirements. Programs that rate at Levels 3 through 5 in Early Achievers will be provided with coaching through the Child Care Aware of Washington (CCA-WA). Coaching is intended to help programs continue to improve their quality over time.

Minnesota ◇ In Minnesota's Parent Aware system, all child care programs receive TA through the rating process, which lasts 6 months. Child care programs serving higher percentages of children with high needs have the option of participating in a yearlong coaching relationship focused on a strengths-based approach to building quality in areas reflecting Parent Aware standards and indicators. Additionally, these programs can receive as much as \$1,500 in quality improvement funding (ACF, 2013). The Center for Inclusive Child Care in Minnesota also expanded the availability of coaching, consultation, and technical assistance to early care and education providers who have children with special needs in their care.

Colorado ◇ Colorado increased the budget for coaching in RTT-ELC. The state plans to create a formal structure to support coaching, develop coaching resources tied to the *Core Competencies for Early Childhood Teachers and Directors*, and create a coaching endorsement or credential.

Oregon ◇ Oregon is redesigning its QRIS, expanding it from three tiers to five. A number of incentives and supports will be utilized to promote participation and advancement to higher-quality tiers, including specialized technical assistance, coaching, and vouchers for educational materials.

Wisconsin ◇ Wisconsin recently completed the Center on the Social-Emotional Foundations of Early Learning (CSEFEL) Pyramid Model Demonstration Project to increase training and improve practice in the domain of social and emotional development. ELC funds will allow Pyramid Model training coordinators to provide targeted training and coaching in high need areas.

Sources

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