

## Guidelines & Applications Child Care Program Quality Improvement

**West Central Child Care Connection**  
510 Maine Street, Suite 610/Quincy, IL 62301  
(217) 222-2550 or Toll Free 1-800-782-7318



July 1, 2019– June 30, 2020

Illinois is committed to assisting child care providers in providing quality education and care for young children (birth through 12 years). One way to do that is with the Quality Improvement (QI) Funds. In Illinois the quality recognition program is ExceleRate Illinois. All licensed child care programs are considered a part of ExceleRate IL. There are three (3) Circles above Licensing that programs can opt to work towards/advance to /or maintain. The QI Funds have been developed and are offered through the child care resource and referral agencies, to assist and support programs that are choosing to achieve a circle above licensing. The QI Funds are in place to assist programs with the ExceleRate process depending on where your program is at in the process. Please read the overview and the guidelines to determine which area(s) best meets your needs. Requests may be made in multiple areas.



The QI Funds are based on available funding. The QI Funds program is administered by West Central child Care Connection. Funds are provided by the Illinois Department of Human Services.

QI Funds can assist child care programs with:

- Achieving a Bronze, Silver or Gold Circle of Quality
- Achieving National Accreditation
- Advancing to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Circle of Quality
- Maintaining a Silver or Gold Circle of Quality

Specifics on each component are noted in this Quality Improvement Funds Grant Pack.

- Section A Quality Improvement Funds Overview Chart
- Section B General Information + Quality Improvement Funds Application (required for all who apply)
- Section C ExceleRate™ IL Cohort Specific Information + ExceleRate™ IL Cohort Application
- Section D ExceleRate™ IL Training Stipend Specific Information + ExceleRate™ IL Training Stipend Application
- Section E Accreditation Specific Information + Accreditation Application

***Please read the entire document before completing any application.***

**Section A: Overview**

<b>Basic Eligibility for all Quality Improvement Funds</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Program must be listed on the local Child Care Resource &amp; Referral (CCR&amp;R) provider database</li> <li>2. Must currently be providing child care services in one of the following Illinois counties: Adams, Brown, Calhoun, Cass, Greene, Hancock, Jersey, Pike or Schuyler</li> <li>3. Programs must currently be caring for children whose care is paid for by the IDHS Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)</li> <li>4. Have no unpaid financial obligation to CCR&amp;R agency or IDHS Bureau of Subsidy Management or Bureau of Quality Initiatives</li> </ol>		
<b>Priority Programs</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Programs currently caring for children whose care is paid for by the IDHS CCAP, with greater priority given to those with 50% or more of their enrollment consisting of IDHS CCAP funded children</li> <li>2. Programs that are full year (at least 47 weeks)/full day (at least 8 hours)</li> <li>3. Programs that are currently caring for infants and toddlers</li> <li>4. For <b>ExceleRate IL Cohort – first time applicant programs are a priority for cohort participation</b></li> </ol>		
<b>Abbreviations:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>FCC = family child care</b></li> <li>• <b>LFCC = Licensed family child care</b></li> <li>• <b>FGH= family group home</b></li> <li>• <b>CC = child care</b></li> </ul>		
<b>Component</b>	<b>ExceleRate™ IL Cohort</b>	<b>ExceleRate™ IL Training Stipend</b>	<b>Accreditation Assistance</b>
<b>Provider Type</b>	Licensed CC Centers & LFCC	Licensed CC Centers & LFCC	Licensed CC Centers & LFCC
<b>Circle of Quality</b>	ExceleRate™ Illinois Silver, Gold	ExceleRate™ Illinois Bronze, Silver, Gold	ExceleRate™ Illinois Silver, Gold
<b>Specific Requirements and Expectations</b>  <i>For the definition of “working towards/ maintaining” see B8</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Centers</b> must be working towards/maintaining ExceleRate™ IL under the child care path. <b>LFCC/FGH</b> must be working towards/ maintaining ExceleRate™ IL under the LFCC path.</li> <li>2. Attend and participate in the cohort meetings</li> <li>3. Self-assessment: If maintaining an ExceleRate Circle, must have completed within the last 6 months. If working towards ExceleRate application, must be willing to complete as part of cohort participation.</li> <li>4. Consultant agreement: Must have a current, signed Consultant Agreement in place with the CCR&amp;R Quality and/or Infant Toddler Specialist OR willing to sign Agreement during the cohort session one.</li> <li>5. Develop a Continuous Quality Improvement Plan (CQIP)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Centers</b> must be working towards/maintaining ExceleRate™ IL under the child care path. <b>LFCC/FGH</b> must be working towards/ maintaining ExceleRate™ IL under the LFCC path.</li> <li>2. Training must be required for an ExceleRate™ IL Circle of Quality and must be ExceleRate™ approved.</li> <li>3. Staff member must be a current member of the Gateways Registry.</li> <li>4. A stipend is only available for the minimum staff required to take the training for ExceleRate™ IL</li> <li>5. Training participants must be currently employed at the child care program</li> </ol>	<b>Programs</b> must be applying for or maintaining an ExceleRate™ IL Silver or Gold Circle of Quality.
<b>Funding</b>	Funding is determined based on the Continuous Quality Improvement Plan (CQIP) and provider type; in addition, for child care centers program capacity.	\$10 / contact training hour	80% of the cost of accreditation, as funding allows
<b>Funding Range for the Fiscal Year (July - June). <i>The allowable funding applies for any combination of QI Funds.</i></b>			
<b>Provider Type</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Funding Range</b>	
Licensed Family Child Care		Up to \$1200	
Licensed Family Group Home		Up to \$1500	
Child Care Center	50 or less	Up to \$3000	
	51-100	Up to \$6000	
	101 or more	Up to \$9000	

## Section B: Frequently Asked Questions

The use of the term “child care program” / “program” in this document includes child care centers and family child care

### B1. WHO CAN APPLY?

- Please refer to the chart in Section A: Overview “Basic Eligibility and Provider Type”

### B2. ARE THERE ANY PRIORITY PROGRAMS?

- Yes, refer to the chart in Section A: Overview “Priority Programs”

### B3. WHAT ARE THE THREE AREAS OF THE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT FUNDS?

- ExceleRate™ IL Cohort – see Section C for details
- ExceleRate™ IL Training Stipend – see Section D for details
- Accreditation Assistance – see Section E for details

### B4. CAN A PROGRAM APPLY FOR MORE THAN ONE AREA?

- Yes

### B5. CAN A PROGRAM BE WORKING ON MORE THAN ONE CIRCLE OF QUALITY?

- Not for the purposes of the Quality Improvement Funds. A program must declare **one** Circle of Quality.

### B6. WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

- Child Care programs complete and submit the application, the appropriate supplemental application and all required supporting documentation - Refer to a specific section for required supporting documentation
- As applications are received, a team of CCR&R staff will review for completeness and eligibility. Programs will be notified in writing of their approval/denial.
- Incomplete applications will be returned to the child care program

### B7. CAN AN AGENCY SUBMIT ONE APPLICATION FOR ALL SITES IF THEY HAVE MORE THAN ONE SITE?

- No. Each site (physical location) is considered a different program. Each program must submit an application with requests specific to that program. One license = one site = one program = one application

### B8. WHAT IS MEANT BY “WORKING TOWARDS OR MAINTAINING” EXCELERATE™ ILLINOIS

- A program must have at a minimum completed the *Orientation to ExceleRate™ IL training* or currently hold an ExceleRate™ IL Circle of Quality (Bronze, Silver, Gold).
- For those maintaining an ExceleRate Circle, must have completed self-assessment within the last 6 months (from time of application). For those working towards ExceleRate application, must be willing to complete as part of cohort participation.
- Must have a current, signed Consultant Agreement in place with the CCR&R Quality and/or Infant Toddler Specialist **OR for those participating in the Cohort, must be** willing to sign a Consultant Agreement during the first cohort session.

### B9. WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION/SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION?

- See each section for application submission deadlines (C12, D15, E4)
- All supporting documentation must be received at West Central Child Care Connection by May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020

### B10. WHAT SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION(S) DO I COMPLETE?

- That depends - ALL applicants must complete the QI Funds application (pages 5-7). In addition, they must complete one or more of the corresponding Supplemental Applications (found in this pack). C = ExceleRate™ IL Cohort; D = ExceleRate™ IL Training Stipend; E = Accreditation Assistance
- If Supplemental applications are submitted at different times, a QI Funds application must be completed each time.

### B11. WHAT ARE THE GRANT FUNDING AMOUNTS?

- Please refer to the Overview Chart in Section A
- Please note the allowable funding range is for **any combination of Quality Improvement Funds components**

**B12. HOW IS PAYMENT MADE?**

- Please see the specific section for payment information

**B13. DO THE FUNDS NEED TO BE REPAID?**

- This is a grant program, which means funds do not generally need to be paid back. However, the grant funds come from the State of Illinois, and certain policies and procedures must be followed.
- If a program goes out of business within two years of the grant award, funds received under the ***cohort component*** will need to be repaid at a pro-rated amount. In some cases, West Central Child Care Connection may be able to recoup materials and equipment purchased with grant funds.
- In the event of over or improper payment or reimbursement, appropriate arrangements will need to be made with West Central Child Care Connection regarding return of funds.
- If payment is made for an accreditation process and the program withdraws or does not complete the process, the child care program will need to work with West Central Child Care Connection regarding the return of funds.

**B14. DO GRANT FUNDS NEED TO BE REPORTED AS INCOME?**

- Grant funds may need to be reported as income. If awarded grant funds, a completed W-9 will be required. Items purchased with grant money may be eligible to claim as business deductions. Please consult an accountant or tax preparer for further information.

**B15. WHERE ARE APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED?**

**West Central Child Care Connection**  
**ATTN: Robin Ayers**  
**510 Maine, Suite 610/Quincy, IL 62301**  
**Fax (217) 222-3133 or Email: robin@wcccc.com**

**B16. WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?**

- Only completed applications will be considered.
- Applicants must use the provided application for July 2019– June 2020.
- Faxed/electronic applications will be accepted
- Funding is limited and not guaranteed.
- Partial funding may be awarded.
- Payment cannot be made until a complete application and all required documents are received.

**B17. IS THERE AN INFORMATION SESSION FOR THE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT FUNDS?**

- No, there is not an information session for the QI Funds

**B18. FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ASK FURTHER QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:**

**Robin Ayers**  
**(217) 222-2550 or 1-800-782-7318**  
**Email: robin@wcccc.com**

***The QI Funds application form (pages 5 -7) must be completed by anyone applying. In addition, a supplemental application(s) must be attached. Supplemental applications follow each section.***

**Quality Improvement Funds Application Form**

All applicants are required to complete this application **and one or more** supplemental application(s).



**West Central Child Care Connection**  
**510 Maine/Suite 610**  
**Quincy, IL 62301**



July 1, 2019– June 30, 2020

- ➔ The current year application form must be used. This application may not be reformatted.
- ➔ Please type or print using black or blue ink.
- ➔ Complete **all fields**; use “NA” if not applicable – **do not leave any field blank**. ***Incomplete applications will be returned.***
- ➔ Please refer to the Quality Improvement Guidelines & Applications.

<b>STEP 1: Child Care Program Information</b>						
1A	Program Name					
	Program (work site) Address:					
	City:		State:	Zip Code:	County:	
	Mailing address (if different):					
	Phone #: ( )			Fax #: ( )		
	Director/Administrator Name:			Email:		
	Is the program listed on the CCR&R referral database? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No					
	Is the program full year (at least 47 weeks)/full day (at least 8 hours)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No					
1B	Program must check a provider type, list DCFS license # and expiration date, enter program capacity and if applicable, accreditation entity					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Center	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Child Care	<input type="checkbox"/> Group FCC	<input type="checkbox"/> Head Start	<input type="checkbox"/> School Age Program	
	DCFS License #: _____		Expiration date: _____			
If applicable, program is accredited by: <input type="checkbox"/> NAEYC <input type="checkbox"/> NAC <input type="checkbox"/> NAFCC <input type="checkbox"/> NECPA <input type="checkbox"/> Advance-Ed <input type="checkbox"/> AMS <input type="checkbox"/> COA						
1C	Age Groups:					
	Currently providing care for: (Check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Infants 6 wks–14 months	<input type="checkbox"/> Toddlers 15–23 months	<input type="checkbox"/> Twos 24–35 months	<input type="checkbox"/> Preschool 3–5 years	<input type="checkbox"/> School Age K–12 years
	Capacity					
	Current Enrollment					
<b>CC Centers:</b> enter the # of classrooms for age group:	___ classrooms	___ classrooms	___ classrooms	___ classrooms	___ classrooms	
1D	<b>Indicate date attended/completed (mm/dd/yyyy):</b>					
	<b>CHILD CARE CENTERS</b> ExceleRate™ IL Orientation _____ *, **An Introduction to Environment Rating Scales _____			<b>FAMILY CHILD CARE</b> ExceleRate™ IL Orientation for LFCC: _____ * An Introduction to ERS OR Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale _____		
	*Does not apply to programs that are currently accredited or working towards accreditation					
	** * An Introduction to ERS inclusive of ECERS-3 (training offered after July 2017). ECERS-3 Update training previously offered is accepted.					

**Quality Improvement Funds Application Form**

1E	ExceleRate™ IL circle program is <b>currently at</b> : <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze <input type="checkbox"/> Silver <input type="checkbox"/> Gold <input type="checkbox"/> NA	ExceleRate™ IL circle program is <input type="checkbox"/> <b>working towards</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>maintaining</b> : <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze <input type="checkbox"/> Silver <input type="checkbox"/> Gold
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1F Does your program currently care for children whose care is paid for by the IDHS Child Care Assistance Program?  Yes  No

**Requirement of the program**

Have the *Program Administrator/Primary FCC provider* complete the following formula to determine the percentage of children in your program receiving IDHS child care financial assistance. To calculate: Total Number of children with IDHS Financial Assistance **DIVIDED** by Current total Enrollment **MULTIPLIED** by 100 **EQUALS** Percentage of Children Receiving IDHS Assistance. (FCC providers: include your own children, under age 13, in enrollment)

$$\frac{\text{\# of IDHS children}}{\text{Current Total Enrollment}} \times 100 = \text{Percentage of IDHS Children} \%$$

**STEP 2: Funding Request**

2A Request is being made for:

<input type="checkbox"/> Cohort Participation <i>Complete Supplemental Application C</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Training Stipend <i>Complete Supplemental Application D</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accreditation Assistance <i>Complete Supplemental Application E</i>
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2B If only partial funds are available will you complete the activity?  Yes  No

Are you receiving additional funding from another source to assist with requested items/training/accreditation? (e.g. SAM Project, United Way, NAEYC, other, etc.)

If yes, list the source(s), the item/activity and amount:

	\$
	\$
	\$

**STEP 3: Payment Information**

3 Requesting payment be made to:

- Cohort – see question C15 for payment method
- Training Stipend – All payments are made directly to the child care program
- Accreditation Assistance    Child care program    Accrediting body

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Check Payable To:

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Address City:                      State:                      Zip Code:

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**(REQUIRED):** Applicant    Social Security Number or    FEIN Number:

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**Quality Improvement Funds Application Form**  
**STEP 4: Application Checklist and Authorization**

- I completed all areas of the current application. If a question was not applicable, I inserted N/A.  
**Incomplete applications will be returned.**
- I completed the appropriate supplemental application(s). **Incomplete applications will be returned.**
- I signed and dated the application and the supplemental application(s).
- I have attached all the required supporting documentation. (Refer to the guidelines and applications #C8, D14, E3)
- The payment information I have submitted is correct.
- I have made a copy of this application for my records.

*I have completed all documentation that was requested in the instructions and requirements. I certify that the above information is true and accurate, that I have not been indicated of child abuse and neglect and that my name or the names of my employees (if applicable) are not listed on the child abuse tracking system. Further, I grant permission for a representative of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services or their agent to release information about my pending or current Child Care Home, Child Care Group Home or Child Care Center license if applicable to my application.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Program Administrator Signature (required)      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Agency Administrator Signature (if applicable)      Date

**FOR CCR&R USE ONLY:**

Date received: \_\_\_\_\_

**Request for:**

Cohort     Training Stipend     Accreditation

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Pending**      date: \_\_\_\_\_ / reason: \_\_\_\_\_

**Denied**      date: \_\_\_\_\_ / reason: \_\_\_\_\_

**Approved**      date: \_\_\_\_\_ / Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Section C: ExceleRate™ Illinois Cohort

A cohort is a group of individuals working towards a common goal. It not only provides an opportunity to learn and work on achieving the goal, but also provides an opportunity to develop relationships with your peers. The Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) agency will offer cohort groups for programs working to improve the quality of care, working towards or maintaining an ExceleRate™ IL Silver or Gold Circle of Quality. Upon completion of the cohort requirements/expectations and the program's self-assessment, as applicable, programs may request funds to help achieve objectives noted on the program's Continuous Quality Improvement Plan (CQIP). **Please note: first time applicant programs are given priority for cohort participation.**

### C1. WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE COHORT?

- A program administrator is required to attend. For agencies with more than one child care program, an administrator from each site is required to attend.
- Program Administrator is defined as: for centers the person responsible for the on-site day to day operation of the child care program (director, assistant director, director/teacher –when 50% or more time is spent in administration role); for licensed family child care it is the primary care provider.
- Teaching staff (teacher/assistant teacher, school age worker/assistant) from a child care program or assistants from a LFCC program that is working towards improving the quality of care, and working towards/maintaining an ExceleRate™ IL Circle of Quality.
- Based on provider applications, the CCR&R may need to limit the number of staff members attending from one program.

### C2. DOES THE SAME PERSON HAVE TO ATTEND ALL THE COHORT MEETINGS?

- Yes

### C3. WHAT ARE THE COHORT TOPICS?

- CCR&Rs will work to address the needs of the applicants. For example, programs working on self-assessment and developing a CQIP, programs working towards national accreditation.

### C4. WHAT ASSESSMENT TOOLS AND NATIONAL ACCREDITATIONS MAY BE COVERED IN AN EXCELERATE™ IL COHORT?

- The Environment Rating Scales, the Program Administration Scale for centers, the Business Administration scale for family child care or national accreditations

### C5. WHO WILL BE LEADING THE COHORT?

- Various CCR&R system staff, depending on the cohort topic

### C6. HOW WILL COHORTS BE ASSIGNED?

- A team of CCR&R staff will review applications and based on the needs will assign the cohort groups

### C7. WHAT ARE THE EXPECTATIONS?

- Attend and participate in all cohort meetings - at a minimum eight (8) contact hours.
- For those maintaining an ExceleRate Circle, must have completed self-assessment within the last 6 months. For those working towards ExceleRate application, must be willing to complete as part of cohort participation.
- Must have a current, signed Consultant Agreement in place with the CCR&R Quality and/or Infant Toddler Specialist OR willing to sign Agreement during the first cohort session.
- Develop a Continuous Quality Improvement Plan (CQIP).
- As applicable, develop a written request/budget for needs based on the self-assessment/CQIP results.

### C8. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

In addition to a completed application and Supplemental Application C, the following documentation is required:

- A copy of the ExceleRate™ IL certificate/award, if applicable
- W-9 form (included in this packet)

### C9. WHAT CAN FUNDS BE USED FOR?

- Materials and equipment to meet the ExceleRate™ IL Circle of Quality standards that are documented as needs through the self-assessment/CQIP



**C10. WHAT CAN'T FUNDS BE USED FOR?**

- General operating expenses
- Staff salaries/wages, benefits, bonuses
- Televisions, VCR, DVR, Video gaming systems
- Vehicles, vehicle repair
- Pools and pool equipment
- Trampolines
- Service agreements (e.g., cell phone, internet)
- On-going per child costs associated w/assessment tools
- Cosmetic improvements to the facility, decks
- Staff training
- Consumable items (e.g., paint, paper, food)
- Used equipment
- Screen devices for children under 2
- Motorized riding toys
- Items from a 3<sup>rd</sup> party purchase
- Items that restrict child mobility
- Developmentally inappropriate items
- Non-age appropriate items
- Consultants, Mentors, Coaches

**C11. WHAT ARE THE DATES FOR THE COHORT MEETINGS?**

- **Family Child Care Cohort** **Saturday, Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> 8:30 am-4:30 pm**
- **Center Cohort** **Thursday, Nov 7<sup>th</sup> 8:30 am-4:30 pm**

**C12. WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING MY APPLICATION?**

- Applications for cohort **MUST BE RECEIVED BY Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**C13. MAY I PARTICIPATE IN MORE THAN ONE COHORT PER FISCAL YEAR?**

- No

**C14. WHAT ARE THE GRANT AMOUNTS?**

- Please see the Overview Chart in Section A for funding ranges
- Please note that the funding range is a combination of all three Quality Improvement Fund areas

**C15. HOW ARE FUNDS PAID?**

- Pay vendor directly for approved provider expenditures or
- Reimburse provider upon receipt of expenditure documentation

**Supplemental Application C: ExceleRate™ Illinois Cohort Application**

Program Name

Program (work site) Address:

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Administrator:

Have you participated in an ExceleRate IL QI Cohort before?  YES  NO If yes, What year(s)?

What ExceleRate™ IL Circle of Quality are you  working towards  maintaining?  Silver  Gold

If **maintaining** ExceleRate Circle, have you completed a recent self-assessment of your program?  YES  NO

If **working towards** an ExceleRate Silver/Gold Circle, have you completed a recent self-assessment of your program OR are you willing to complete as part of cohort?  YES  NO

Is your program currently working with a CCR&R Specialist?  
*Please note: it is an expectation (C7) of the cohort process that programs will work with a CCR&R specialist and have a current, signed Consultant Agreement in place at the start of cohort participation.*  YES  NO

Is your program:  working towards  maintaining accreditation?  YES  NO

If yes, which accreditation:  NAEYC  NAC  NAFCC  NECPA  Advance-Ed  AMS  COA

**To assist CCR&R staff in planning the cohort, please answer the following questions:**

1. Which assessment tool do you plan to use, or did you use? If completed already, indicate the date(s):

\_\_\_\_\_

2. List topics that would be helpful to discuss during a co-hort. CCR&Rs will work to address the needs of the applicants.  
**Please note: these are suggested topics and not necessarily part of the co-hort** (for example: conducting/assisting staff with a self- assessment, as a team developing a continuous quality improvement plan, encouraging staff involvement with ExceleRate IL, selecting a curriculum, etc.).

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. List three things you hope to gain/learn by participating in the cohort:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#C8 In addition to a completed QI Funds Application and Supplemental Application C, attach

- If applicable, a copy of your program’s ExceleRate™ Illinois certificate/award
- W-9 form (Included in this packet)

**As the program administrator, I agree to complete all the requirements of this program as stated in the Quality Improvement Funds guidelines.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Program Administrator’s Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **date**

## Section D: ExceleRate™ Illinois Training Stipends

Licensed child care programs working towards/maintaining an ExceleRate™ IL Circle of Quality may apply for an ExceleRate™ IL training stipend. The stipend applies only to the required training within the ExceleRate™ IL Circle of Quality that the program is working towards/maintaining and is available only to the minimum staff required to attend the training.

### D1. WHO MAY APPLY FOR A TRAINING STIPEND?

- The minimum staff required to take training per the ExceleRate™ IL Circle of Quality
- Staff of licensed programs pursuing an ExceleRate™ IL Bronze, Silver, or Gold Circle of Quality
- Staff is defined as
  - for Centers: program administrator and teaching staff. *Program Administrator* is defined as the person responsible for the on-site day to day operation of the child care program. Includes Director, Assistant Director, Director/Teacher (when spending 50% or more time in administration role). *Teaching staff* is defined as Lead Teacher, Teacher, Director/Teacher (when spending 50% or more time in teaching role), teaching assistant
  - for Family Child Care: the primary care provider and FCC assistant

### D2. ARE THERE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS?

- Training must occur during the current fiscal year (7/1/19-6/30/20)
- Training must be required for the Circle of Quality which the program is working towards/maintaining
- Training must be ExceleRate™ approved (face to face and on-line)
- Training participants must be a current member of the Gateways Registry
- Training participants must be currently employed at the program

### D3. WHAT TRAINING IS APPROVED TO RECEIVE AN EXCELERATE™ IL STIPEND?

- Please refer to the training grids at <http://www.excelerateillinoisproviders.com> (select “How it Works” and then the overview for provider type) to confirm the requirements for a Circle of Quality and the minimum required staff. Below is a list of workshop titles (found on the training grid) that are ExceleRate-Approved/Gateways Registry Approved as of July 25, 2017.
  - *ExceleRate IL Orientation for Licensed Child Care Centers*
  - *ExceleRate IL Orientation for Licensed Family Child Care*
  - *An Introduction to the Environment Rating Scales*
  - *An Introduction to the Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale*
  - *CLASS training*
  - *Illinois Early Learning Guidelines*
  - *Illinois Early Learning & Development Standards*
  - *Finding a Curriculum that Works for You*
  - *Off the Shelf and into Practice: Using Your Curriculum Every Day*
  - *Training on a specific Curriculum (e.g., Creative Curriculum)*
  - *Introduction to Developmental Screening tools*
  - *Early Childhood Developmental Screening*
  - *Fundamentals of Child Assessment*
  - *Welcoming Each & Every Child (formerly Special Care)*
  - *Family & Community – Partners in Learning*
  - *An Introduction to Transitions*
  - *Getting Ready for PAS*
  - *Getting Ready for BAS*
  - *Understanding and Planning for Continuous Quality Improvement*
  - *Basics of Linguistically & Culturally Appropriate Practice*
  - *Creating Individual Professional Development Plans*

### D4. DOES THE EXCELERATE™ ILLINOIS TRAINING STIPEND COVER THE TRAINING NEEDED TO OBTAIN/MAINTAIN A CREDENTIAL AND/OR ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOURS?

- No, these training sessions may be eligible for the Individual Professional Development funds.

**D5. WHICH STAFF ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND TRAINING?**

- This varies per training; however, it is either the Center Administrator or the Center Administrator and a percentage of teaching staff. For FCC it is the primary care provider and FCC assistant(s) (when specified on the Circle of Quality Chart). Please refer to the Circle of Quality charts - <http://www.excelerateillinoisproviders.com/>

**D6. DOES THE SAME PERSON HAVE TO ATTEND ALL THE TRAINING?**

- Program administrator – No, but the person(s) must be in a role as described in D1.
- Teaching staff– not necessarily, but the person(s) must be in a role as described in D1.
- For LFCC it is the primary care provider and LFCC assistants (when specified on the Circle of Quality chart).

**D7. IS THERE A STAFF LIMIT?**

- Programs may apply for the stipend based on the **minimum** training requirements listed on the Circle of Quality chart which they are working towards/maintaining.

**D8. WHAT ABOUT ON-LINE TRAINING?**

- If a required ExceleRate™ IL training is offered on-line, the training is eligible for the stipend. Please note the stipend is based on the number of training contact hours.

**D9. HOW DO I KNOW WHEN AND WHERE THE TRAINING SESSIONS ARE?**

- Training sessions will be noted on your local CCR&R training calendar [www.wcccc.com](http://www.wcccc.com)
- Training information may be found at the statewide training calendar [www.ilgateways.com](http://www.ilgateways.com)

**D10. WHAT IF A PROVIDER WANTS TO ATTEND AN EXCELERATE™ APPROVED TRAINING THAT ISN'T REQUIRED FOR THE CIRCLE OF QUALITY THEY ARE WORKING TOWARDS/MAINTAINING?**

- The stipend only applies to training that is required for the Circle of Quality the program is working towards/maintaining

**D11. WHAT IF A PROVIDER WANTS TO ATTEND A TRAINING THAT ISN'T REQUIRED FOR EXCELERATE™ ILLINOIS?**

- The training may be eligible for Individual Professional Development Funds. Check with WC/CCC for information.

**D12. WHAT IS THE AMOUNT OF THE STIPEND?**

- \$10.00 per contact training hour (applies to face to face and on-line courses)
- Travel time is not covered under the stipend.
- For the allowable funding ranges per program per fiscal year please see Section A: Overview Chart. Please note that the allowable funding range is a combination of all three Quality Improvement Fund areas.

**D13. WHAT DOES THE STIPEND COVER?**

The stipend is designed ***to assist with*** staff costs while staff are taking the required ExceleRate™ IL training including:

- staff wages while attending training outside of normal working hours
- substitute wages while staff attend training during working hours

**D14. WHAT SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION IS NEEDED?**

In addition to a completed application and Supplemental Application D, the following documentation is required

- Documentation of training attendance/completion
- Proof of Gateways Registry Membership for each training participant
- W-9 form (included in this packet)

**D15. WHAT ARE THE DEADLINES FOR ME TO SUBMIT MY APPLICATION FOR A TRAINING STIPEND?**

- Training Stipend Applications may be submitted at any time during the funding cycle. However, for this funding period the final due date for applications to be received at the CCR&R is May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020

**D16. HOW IS PAYMENT MADE?**

- Payment is made directly to the child care program ***after*** training is completed and required documentation is submitted.

<b>Supplemental Application D: EXCELERATE™ ILLINOIS Training Stipend For Licensed Child Care Center Staff and Family Child Care Primary Caregiver</b>			
Program Name			
Program (work site) Address:			
City:	State:	Zip Code:	County:
What ExceleRate™ IL Circle of Quality are you working towards? <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze <input type="checkbox"/> Silver <input type="checkbox"/> Gold			

✓ **Training stipend is available for the minimum staff required to take the training for ExceleRate™ IL based on the Circle of Quality the program is working towards/maintaining.**  
 ✓ **Please note: Only one staff member per form, copy as needed.**

STAFF MEMBER:		REGISTRY ID #	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrator <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teacher <input type="checkbox"/> Assistant <input type="checkbox"/> LFCC provider <input type="checkbox"/> LFCC Assistant	
Current Credential: check all that apply – indicate level <input type="checkbox"/> IDC ___; <input type="checkbox"/> ECE___; <input type="checkbox"/> ITC ___; <input type="checkbox"/> FCC___; <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____; <input type="checkbox"/> NA				
TRAINING DATE	TRAINING TITLE / LOCATION	TYPE	CONTACT HOURS	
		<input type="checkbox"/> face to face <input type="checkbox"/> on-line		
		<input type="checkbox"/> face to face <input type="checkbox"/> on-line		
		<input type="checkbox"/> face to face <input type="checkbox"/> on-line		
		<input type="checkbox"/> face to face <input type="checkbox"/> on-line		
		<input type="checkbox"/> face to face <input type="checkbox"/> on-line		
		<input type="checkbox"/> face to face <input type="checkbox"/> on-line		
		<input type="checkbox"/> face to face <input type="checkbox"/> on-line		
		<input type="checkbox"/> face to face <input type="checkbox"/> on-line		
		<input type="checkbox"/> face to face <input type="checkbox"/> on-line		
<b>TOTAL # OF CONTACT HOURS THIS PAGE</b>				
<b>Requests this page:</b> _____ <b>total of contact hours x \$10</b>			\$	

# D14 In addition to a completed QI Application and Supplemental Application D, the following documentation is required

- Documentation of training attendance/completion
- Proof of Gateways Registry Membership for each training participant
- W-9 form (included in this packet) – for the child care program

**As the Program Administrator, I confirm that the above staff member attended the training listed.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Program Administrator's Signature**                      \_\_\_\_\_ **date**

**Section E: Accreditation Assistance**

Accreditation is a voluntary process that provides child care programs the opportunity to examine their services based on recognized standards of high quality. The Accreditation Assistance option is for child care programs that are applying for or maintaining an ExceleRate™ IL Silver or Gold Circle of Quality.

**E1. WHAT ACCREDITATIONS ARE APPROVED FOR FUNDING?**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| • National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)            | <a href="http://www.naeyc.org">www.naeyc.org</a>                               |
| • National Accreditation Commission for Early Care & Education Programs (NAC) | <a href="http://www.earlylearningleaders.org">www.earlylearningleaders.org</a> |
| • National Association of Family Child Care (NAFCC)                           | <a href="http://www.nafcc.org">www.nafcc.org</a>                               |
| • National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA)                      | <a href="http://www.necpa.net">www.necpa.net</a>                               |
| • AdvancEd Accreditation – Early Learning                                     | <a href="http://www.advanc-ed.org">www.advanc-ed.org</a>                       |
| • American Montessori Society (AMS)   | <a href="http://www.amshq.org">www.amshq.org</a>                               |
| • Council on Accreditation (COA) – Early Childhood                            | <a href="http://www.coanet.org">www.coanet.org</a>                             |

**E2. WHAT CAN FUNDS BE REQUESTED FOR?**

- Fees associated with the accreditation process as outlined in the Supplemental Application E

**E3. WHAT SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION IS NEEDED?**

In addition to a completed application and Supplemental Application E, the following documentation is required

- Proof of payment to the Accrediting Body (if paid by the child care program)
- Copy of page 1 of the application for accreditation
- A written timeline, with dates, that describes how you will reach your goal of accreditation
- W-9 form (included in this packet)

**E4. WHAT IS THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT MY APPLICATION FOR ACCREDITATION ASSISTANCE?**

- Accreditation Applications may be submitted at any time during the funding cycle however, for this funding period the CCR&R must receive Accreditation Assistance applications by May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020

**E5. WHAT ARE THE GRANT AMOUNTS?**

- Please see the Overview Chart in Section A for funding ranges
- Please note that the funding range is a combination of all three Quality Improvement Fund areas

**E6. HOW IS PAYMENT MADE?**

- Programs will be notified in writing if the application has been approved or denied, and if approved, the amount at which the request was funded
- Checks will be made payable to the Accrediting body; however, checks will be mailed to the child care program. It is the responsibility of the child care program to submit payment, application and required documentation to the Accrediting body

<b>Supplemental Application E: Accreditation Assistance Request</b>						
Program Name:					Program Capacity:	
Program (work site) Address:				City:	IL	Zip code: County:
What ExceleRate™ IL Circle of Quality are you working towards/maintaining? <input type="checkbox"/> Silver <input type="checkbox"/> Gold				Please indicate: <input type="checkbox"/> Initial Accreditation <input type="checkbox"/> Renewing Accreditation		
Accreditation /Component:	CCRR Max	Actual Cost of Accreditation Component	Accreditation /Component:	CCRR Max	Actual Cost of Accreditation Component	
<b>National Association of the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)</b>			<b>American Montessori Society (AMS)</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Step 1: Enrolling in self-study	<b>80% of the actual cost</b>	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> Information Packet	<b>80% of the actual cost</b>	\$	
<input type="checkbox"/> Step 2: Becoming an applicant		\$	<input type="checkbox"/> Application Form		\$	
<input type="checkbox"/> Step 3: Becoming a candidate		\$	<input type="checkbox"/> Self-Study Report/Review Fee			
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Report Fee		\$	<b>AdvancEd Accreditation – Early Care (fee only, no travel expenses)</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Intent to Renew		\$	<input type="checkbox"/> Readiness Visit	<b>80% of the actual cost</b>	\$	
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal Material Form Fee		\$	<input type="checkbox"/> Engagement Review	<b>80% of the actual cost</b>	\$	
<b>National Accreditation Commission (NAC) for Early Care &amp; Education Programs</b>			<b>Council on Accreditation (COA) Early Childhood</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Self-Study Enrollment	<b>80 % of the actual cost</b>	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> Application Fee	<b>80% of the actual cost</b>	\$	
<input type="checkbox"/> Verification Fee		\$	<input type="checkbox"/> Accreditation Fee		\$	
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Report Fee		\$	<input type="checkbox"/> Site Visit Costs		\$	
<b>National Association of Family Child Care (NAFCC)</b>			<b>TOTALS:</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Self-study Step	<b>80% of the actual cost</b>	\$	<b>TOTAL ACTUAL COST</b>		\$	
<input type="checkbox"/> Application Step		\$	<b>TOTAL REQUEST - 80% of actual cost</b>		\$	
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Renewal Fee		\$	<b>To calculate 80 %: actual cost _____ x 0.80 =</b>		\$	
<b>National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA)</b>			<p><b>#E3</b> In addition to a completed application and Supplemental Application E, the following documentation is required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proof of payment to the Accrediting Body (if paid by the child care program)</li> <li>• Copy of page 1 of the application for accreditation</li> <li>• A written timeline, with dates, that describes a plan to reach accreditation</li> <li>• W-9 form (included in this packet)</li> </ul>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Enrollment Fee	<b>80% of the actual cost</b>	\$				
<input type="checkbox"/> Verification Fee		\$				
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Report Fee		\$				

*As program administrator, I confirm we are actively working towards/maintaining accreditation.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Program Administrator's Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Date*

Required W-9 form:

<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>