



## Helping More Children in Low-Income Families Access High-Quality Care

In December 2012, States and Territories reported CCDF quality data for the first time through the annual Quality Performance Report (QPR). These data offer a window into current quality initiatives and their results. However, readers should keep in mind that this first-ever reporting may contain errors, duplications, and other common data quality errors. States and Territories reported a mixture of actual data and estimates. Some could only report on a portion of their programs or providers and definitions and requirements related to these indicators vary across States and Territories. The Office of Child Care looks forward to working with States and Territories on goal setting and continuous quality improvement.

### *Quality Improvement Indicators for FY 2012*

The data in the table below is based on the numbers of States/Territories that were able to report on program level data for the QPR 2012. The data does not reflect the number of States that may be implementing QRIS or other quality initiative but were not able to report on key data points related to program participation.

**States/Territories reported that 44,733 centers and family child care homes received financial support to achieve and sustain quality (n = 35).**

- **States/Territories reported that 22,105 centers received financial incentives to achieve and sustain quality. (n = 41)**
  - 10,780 centers received one time grants, awards or bonuses to achieve or sustain quality. (n = 31)
  - 11,325 centers received on-going or periodic quality stipends. (n = 27)
- **States/Territories reported that 22,628 family child care homes received financial incentives to achieve and sustain quality. (n = 37)**
  - 16,404 family child care homes received one time grants, awards or bonuses to achieve or sustain quality (New York reported that 9,745 family child care homes received grants, awards or bonuses, which is nearly 60 percent of the total). (n = 29)
  - 6,224 family child care homes received on-going or periodic quality stipends. (n = 23)

**36 States/Territories were able to report data on programs that received targeted technical assistance (TA) on multiple topics areas.**

- 29 states/Territories reported a total of 49,081 programs received targeted TA on health and safety
- 30 States/ Territories reported a total of 30,967 programs received targeted TA on infant and toddler care
- 26 States/Territories reported a total of 13,339 programs received targeted TA on school age care
- 23 States/Territories reported a total of 4,280 programs received targeted TA on inclusion
- 13 States/Territories reported a total of 1,143 programs received targeted TA on teaching dual language learners
- 28 States/Territories reported a total of 17,369 programs received targeted TA on understanding developmental screenings and/or observational assessment tools
- 21 States/Territories reported a total of 4,324 programs received targeted TA on mental health
- 25 States/Territories reported a total of 12,871 programs received targeted TA on business practices

**States/Territories reported that more than 60,000 centers and family child care homes participated in a QRIS or other quality improvement initiatives (n = 49). These data combine States/Territories who are at different stages of QRIS development – from fully implementing to piloting.**

- **49 States/Territories reported that 35,323 centers participate in a QRIS or other quality improvement initiative.**
  - 31,955 centers participate in a QRIS (n = 41).
  - 4 States/Territories reported that all centers are participating in QRIS. In these States, centers achieve the first level of the QRIS by meeting mandatory licensing requirements.
  - Among the remaining States/Territories, participation rates of centers range from 1.84 percent to 89 percent, with an average of 31.77 percent.
  - 3,368 centers participate in other quality improvement initiatives (n = 14).
  - States/Territories reported an average of 13.5 percent of centers participating in other quality improvement initiatives.
  - 6 States/Territories reported having both QRIS and other quality improvement initiatives for centers.
  
- **44 States/Territories reported that 24,681 family child care homes participate in a QRIS or other quality improvement initiative.**
  - 23,401 family child care homes participate in a QRIS (n = 38).
  - 4 States/Territories reported that all licensed family child care homes are participating in QRIS. In these States, family child care homes achieve the first level of the QRIS by meeting mandatory licensing requirements. North Carolina reported 99 percent of homes participating in the QRIS.
  - Among the remaining States/Territories, participation rates of family child care homes range from 1.00 percent to 59 percent, with an average of 18.56 percent.
  - 1,280 family child care homes participate in other quality improvement initiatives (n = 12).
  - States/Territories reported an average of 6.34 percent of family child care homes participating in other quality improvement initiatives.
  - 6 States/Territories reported having both QRIS and other quality improvement initiatives for family child care homes.

**Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) Performance Measure:** The CCDF Plans with annual updates from states and territories are the data sources. **For FY 2012, 19 States met all the components of this measure.** This is an increase from the baseline of 17 States that met the measure in FY 2011. ([http://goals.performance.gov/goal\\_detail/HHS/404](http://goals.performance.gov/goal_detail/HHS/404))

### *Progress on State and Territory Goals*

As reported in the QPR, States and Territories made progress in several CCDF goals related to quality improvement systems. States and Territories consistently met goals to increase the overall outreach to parents, providers, and/or stakeholders. These efforts included increasing access to high quality child care, understanding and knowledge of QRIS, education on the importance of quality early childhood environments; and rebranding and marketing the QRIS through statewide public awareness campaigns.

- 19 States/Territories accomplished goals to provide training, professional development, targeted technical assistance, coaching, and/or mentoring services to support providers' increase in quality and upward movement in the QRIS levels
- 17 States/Territories increased provider participation in the QRIS, including a focus on unregulated providers, faith-based providers, and providers serving infants/toddlers
- 5 States/Territories reported progress on goals to develop or enhance their QRIS and data linkages with other systems

- **Georgia's** QRIS, Quality Rated, launched in January 2012. As of July 10, 2013, 1,278 eligible programs (21%) were participating in Quality Rated in 131 of 159 counties, and 234 programs were rated at the 1, 2, or 3 star level. This includes 466 pre-kindergarten programs, 311 Head Start or Early Head Start programs as well as family child care homes, group homes, and child care centers. Private partners have funded approximately \$6.6 million in incentives for participating providers. Private sector contributors, including Cox and Turner Broadcasting System, have partnered to increase media promotion targeted at family awareness. The Department of Early Care and Learning has further supported programs participating in Quality Rated by implementing tiered reimbursement.
- The **Utah** Office of Child Care created the Care About Child Care (CAC) online system in partnership with parents, child care providers, and other early childhood stakeholders. The website has just recently celebrated its one year anniversary. This system helps child care providers showcase the quality in their programs and gives parents information that will allow them to make good choices for their families by matching a family's specific needs to a child care provider's specific strengths. Provider information is organized around seven specific quality indicators, which have been developed using many research-based standards that define quality in child care settings. Quality indicators have been validated as beneficial areas for children in order to properly prepare them for school and social environments. Licensed centers and licensed family child care providers that are in good standing with Utah's Child Care Licensing Program may voluntarily participate. Providers' professional development qualifications are available for parents to view, along with program description and photos that providers choose to submit. The Web site also provides links to child care and child development resources for parents, grandparents, and providers. The system is in the first year of implementation and 25% Family Child Care homes and 28% Child Care Center were participating in CAC as of September 2012.

### *Technical Assistance in Support of State and Territory Goals*

Since October 2011, a total of **150 TA activities** were identified through the TA planning process—including **76 intensive and targeted TA activities**—to support CCDF Grantees in their efforts to improve access to high quality child care. The following are examples of intensive TA activities in two states:

- **New Mexico** is currently piloting their 3rd Generation of TQRIS called FOCUS. Through participation in regional roundtables, peer to peer calls, written resources and two topical learning tables, information has been shared by Child Care Technical Assistance Network (CCTAN) partners to support New Mexico's efforts to implement the following initiatives:
  - FOCUS' standards as currently piloted, are designed to support programs in the process of evaluating their own practices and developing their Continuous Quality Improvement process. The standards address, among other key components, the early childhood professional's skill level, child/adult interactions, and the implementation of an appropriate curriculum and assessment process.
  - One and two STAR TQRIS criteria have been embedded into child care licensing requirements, raising the quality of care for all children.
  - All licensed child care programs receiving child care assistance must meet 2-STAR requirements.
- **Oregon** has been actively involved in the redesign of their QRIS as a part of Gov. Kitzhaber's early learning plan. They solicited TA support throughout the process on issues that included increasing access for high need children, inclusion of Head Start in the QRIS, the use of field tests, and QRIS data systems. They joined seven states as participants in a topical learning table (TLT) on Developing a QRIS and are currently part of a TLT on Continuous Quality Improvement. As a result of their interest in financial incentives and contracting for services, they helped pilot the Provider Cost of Quality Calculator. With a field test underway in four locations, Oregon is well on the way toward an enhanced statewide system in 2014 that will significantly improve the quality of care for its children.