



National Child Care Information Center

A Service of the Child Care Bureau

NCCIC

Quick Facts: Quality Rating Systems

Statewide Implementation:

- 14 States have implemented a statewide Quality Rating System (QRS)
- More than 25 States are exploring or designing a statewide QRS

Common Elements of QRS:

- Standards
- Accountability measures
- Program and practitioner outreach and support
- Financing incentives specifically linked to compliance with quality standards
- Parent/consumer education efforts

Categories of Quality Standards:

- Administrative policies and procedures
- Health and safety
- Learning environment/curriculum
- Licensing status/compliance
- Parent/family involvement
- Personnel/staffing
- Professional development/qualifications/training
- Program evaluation
- Program standards
- Ratios/group size
- Special needs
- Staff compensation

Environment Rating Scales:

- 12 of the 14 Statewide QRS are using an environment rating scale (ERS)
- Variations in using ERS with QRS:
 - Frequency of assessment
 - Percent/number of classrooms observed
 - How scores are used
 - Averaged
 - Required score for a particular quality level

Tiered Reimbursement:

- 30 States pay a higher child care subsidy reimbursement rate to child care programs that meet quality standards above licensing. Most give higher payments to nationally accredited programs.

Evaluation:

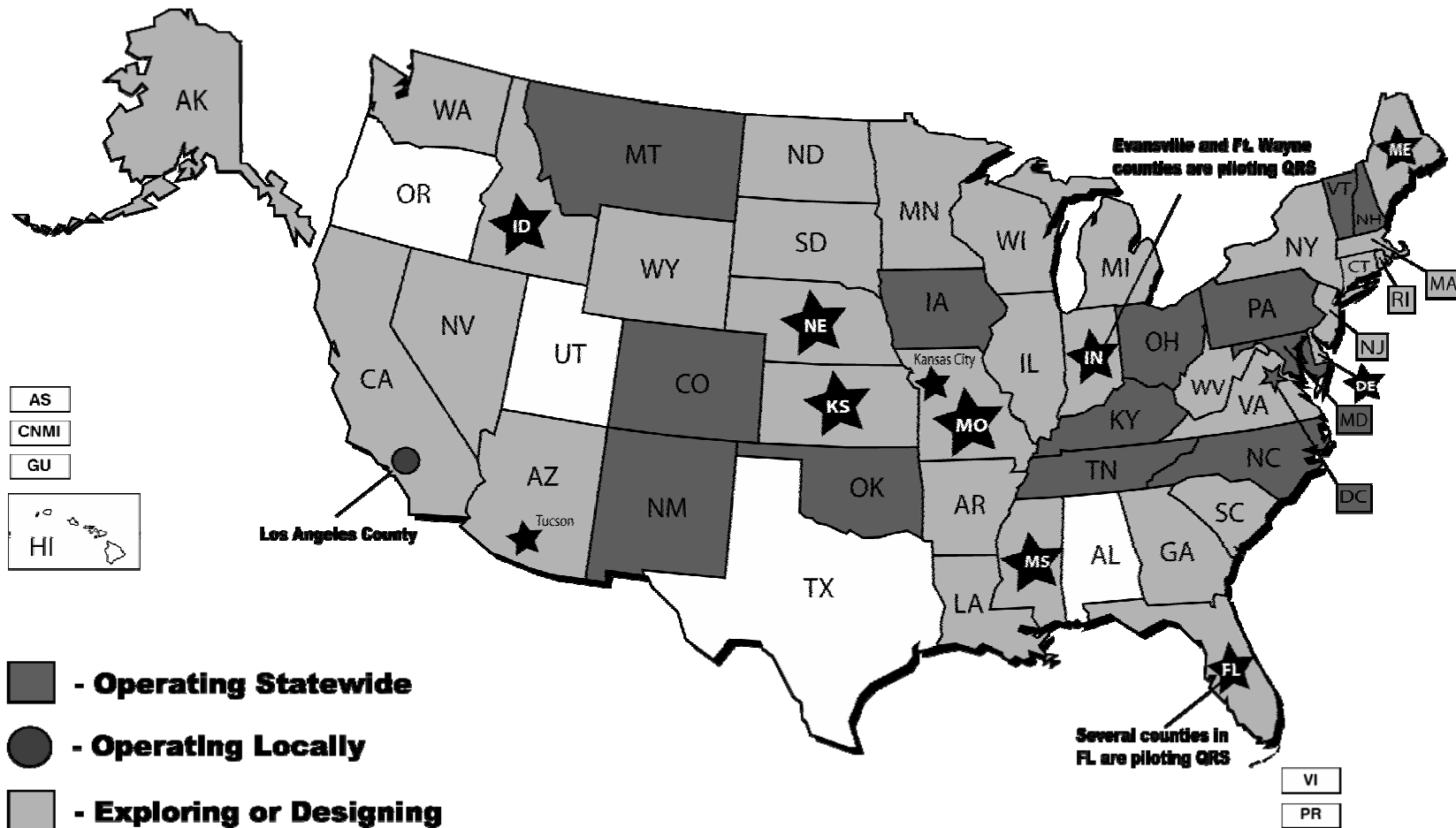
- In 4 States (North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee), evaluations of QRS have shown positive impacts on quality

Further information is available on NCCIC's Web site at <http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/poptopics/index.html#qrs>.

July 2007

The National Child Care Information Center, a service of the Child Care Bureau, does not endorse any organization, publication, or resource. For more information, please contact NCCIC: 10530 Rosehaven Street, Suite 400, Fairfax, Virginia 22030; Ph: 800-616-2242; Fax: 800-716-2242; TTY: 800-516-2242; E-mail: info@nccic.org; Web site: <http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov>.

States and Communities Operating, Piloting, or Exploring or Designing a Quality Rating System



- **Operating Statewide**
- **Operating Locally**
- **Exploring or Designing**
- **Piloting**

Source: Data compiled by the National Child Care Information Center as of July 2007.