

Quality Initiatives Overview

What is a Quality Initiative?

A Quality Initiative (QI) is an opportunity for early care and learning programs to participate in professional development around a specific early care and learning topic. All Quality Initiatives through **thread** include training, goal setting with the development of a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP), consultation to support the implementation of the QIP along with a grant award of \$1,000.00 to support goal implementation.

Early care and education programs licensed by the State of Alaska or Municipality of Anchorage who are not currently participating in Learn & Grow are eligible to apply.

What is the Focus of the Quality Initiatives?

Early care and education programs who are eligible may select one of the following topics as the focus of their QI participation:

- New provider
 - This QI assists programs who have been licensed for less than a year to become familiar with basic best practices. The focus of this initiative is on programmatic operations, business practices and/or setting up classroom environments.
- Accreditation
 - This QI supports programs interested in learning more about the process involved to become nationally accredited. Family Child Care programs are accreditation through the National Association of Family Child Care (NAFCC). Child care centers programs are accreditation through the National Association for Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

Upon completion of Quality Initiative requirements (listed below), programs may receive a financial stipend of \$1,000.00 to defray the costs of training and/or implementing goals based on the QIP. Financial stipends are distributed as funding allows with only one award per program per fiscal year (July 1st – June 30th). It is mandatory that all participants complete the following requirements for the Program Quality Initiative they apply for:

| Requirements | New Provider & Accreditation |
|---|---|
| Submit QI Application | Application can be submitted to thread any time before March 31, 2017, or while funding is available. |
| Join the SEED Registry | The program administrator must have a current SEED Registry. Additionally, all staff who will be involved in the QI must also have a current SEED Registry. Join the SEED Registry at: http://threadalaska.org/index.cfm/Early-Educators/Alaska-SEED-Registry |
| Complete Training Related to QI Selection | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Provider – Attend at least 4 hours of training on any topic from thread and/or the Child Care Aware Training Academy during the current fiscal year • Accreditation – Complete 6 hours of introductory training on accreditation through three self-studies which are available from thread during the current fiscal year |
| Develop a QIP with thread consultant | A thread consultant will contact participating programs to discuss the QI, how consultation can support the program and to develop goals for the QIP. |
| Consultation | Up to 5 hours of technical assistance to support QIP implementation may be performed onsite, by phone, and/or through email. |
| Financial Stipend | Programs who successfully complete the QI requirements will receive a \$1,000.00 grant award. These funds are issued to the early care program and will be mailed out within 90 days after QI completion. |

Quality Initiatives Application

Applicant Information

Name (primary contact): _____

Early Care and Education Program: _____

* Please use the legal business name as listed on the current business license issued by the State of Alaska

Program Mailing Address (street, city, zip): _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Are you an active member of the SEED Registry or have you applied in the last month? Yes No

Which QI are you applying for (please only select ONE)?

New Provider Accreditation

Which age group(s) does your program provide care for?

Infant/Toddler Preschool School-Age Mixed Ages

Please discuss the strengths of your program:

Please describe at least two areas for your program to grow/develop:

Please describe the things you are hoping to gain through participation:

Please describe how receiving consultation will benefit your program?

Statement of Agreement

By signing below I agree with the following statements:

- The early care and education program is licensed by the State of Alaska or Municipality of Anchorage
- The early care and education program is not currently participating in Learn & Grow
- I agree to complete the requirements associated with the QI by May 31, 2017
- I acknowledge grant funds are issued to the early care and education program and not the administrator

Signature

Date