



## Financial Incentives in QRIS

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## Introduction

Most of the existing statewide quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS) provide financial incentives of some kind to participants. Although there is variation in state QRIS incentive packages, typically the goals are twofold: to encourage participation in QRIS and reward achievement of reaching a rating or quality level. Most States offer a combination or menu of incentives that are awarded directly to the program or the individual staff.

When developing an incentive package, it is important for States to consider any expense a program will incur in order to achieve higher levels of quality. For example, if there are expectations that program staff meet higher education expectations as they move up the rating scale, some consideration should be given to scholarship opportunities available to participants. Typically, incentive packages address both the cost of implementing and the cost of maintaining a quality program.

It is important for States to also consider how incentive packages can encourage participation by programs that serve high-need children and families. By offering tiered reimbursement, in which QRIS participants receive higher subsidy payments based on rating level, programs benefit by receiving an increased rate and high-need children and families can benefit by having access to high-quality programs. States may also offer grants or awards to programs that serve children who are English or dual language learners or have special needs.

The following is an overview of the financial incentives offered in states' QRIS. Unless otherwise noted, all State examples in this document are from the QRIS Compendium, which is available at <http://qriscompendium.org/>.

## Common Financial Incentives in QRIS

This section is focused on the various types of financial incentives that States may offer QRIS participants.

### Tiered Subsidy Reimbursement

Tiered subsidy reimbursement is a commonly used QRIS financial incentive. It works by providing programs that have higher quality ratings with higher child care subsidy reimbursement rates or bonuses. The rate differential typically ranges from 5 percent to 20 percent higher than the base rate but can be much higher in some States, especially for infant and toddler care. In some cases, States offer a set add-on amount to the base rate, as opposed to a percentage.

### Quality Grants, Bonuses, and Awards

Quality grants, bonuses, or merit awards are incentives awarded directly to a child care center, center staff, family child care setting or home based on participation in QRIS or attainment of a specific QRIS level. Quality grants, bonuses, or merit awards are typically not linked to the child care subsidy reimbursement system. However, in some cases States will require that the program be willing to accept children who receive subsidies or make larger awards available to programs based on the percentage of low-income families they serve. The strategy is often focused on programs serving all children, not just children from low-income families. States may consider offering grants to programs that specifically serve high need children, including but not limited to children with special needs, those from rural communities, those who need care during nontraditional hours, English or dual language learners, and infants and toddlers.

The amount of an improvement grant varies from State to State. In some States, the improvement grant is by application, varies with program need, and may be time limited. States may require the improvement grant to align with the program quality improvement plan and may limit how the grant can be used. Many States articulate how improvement grants can be used in their QRIS program or policy guides.

Further discussion of incentives can be found in *Financial Incentives in Quality Rating and Improvement Systems: Approaches and Effects* (2012) by Anne Mitchell and published by Alliance for Early Childhood Finance, which is available at <http://www.qrisnetwork.org/sites/all/files/resources/gscobb/2012-05-24%2015:13/Approaches%20to%20Financial%20Incentives%20in%20QRIS.pdf>.

## Scholarships

Scholarships and financial support to help staff pay for college courses and related expenses are another type of financial incentive that States use to encourage participation and retention in QRIS. Many States have elected to replicate the Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.) Early Childhood Project scholarship initiative, and some link this benefit to QRIS participation. In addition, scholarship opportunities are often linked to the State professional development system.

## Tax Credits

A handful of States have begun to tap state general fund dollars to support QRIS incentives by using the tax system.

Financing and administering QRIS incentives via the tax system is a new, and unique, approach that has both strengths and weaknesses. Tax-based financial incentives are often used to promote economic development and may help garner support for QRIS from a broader group of policymakers and business leaders. A tax-based approach can also be a more stable source of funding because, in most States, an annual appropriation is not required. However, to be effective tax credits require a deeper level of engagement and understanding among child care providers and consumers. And, to benefit lower-income providers and consumers that most need help, the credits must be refundable.

Additional information about linking tax benefits to QRIS can be found in *Tax Credits for Early Care and Education: Funding Strategy in a New Economy* (2011) by Susan Blank and Louise Stoney and published by Opportunities Exchange. The report is available at [http://www.earlychildhoodfinance.org/downloads/2011/OpEx\\_IssueBrief\\_Tax\\_Final1.pdf](http://www.earlychildhoodfinance.org/downloads/2011/OpEx_IssueBrief_Tax_Final1.pdf).

## Other Type of QRIS Incentives

States may offer unique incentives that may or may not involve a cash reward. Examples include the following:

- ◆ Partial payment of licensing fees;
- ◆ Access to consultation services;
- ◆ Transcript payments;
- ◆ Accreditation support;
- ◆ Access to free trainings and other professional development opportunities;
- ◆ Access to low-interest loans;
- ◆ Enrollment incentives or stipends not based on rating but on participation;
- ◆ Bonuses for portfolio submission;
- ◆ Individual wage incentives or supports that are tied to QRIS participation and the state professional development system; and
- ◆ Access to program materials and supplies.

## Resources to Support Financing a QRIS

The following resources can assist with State efforts to understand to cost of quality at both the system and facility levels.

### Provider Cost of Quality Calculator

The Provider Cost of Quality Calculator (PCQC) is a web-based tool that can help policymakers calculate the cost of quality based on site level provider data. The PCQC is a valuable resource for States that are developing their QRIS or those that have an existing system in place as it helps identify gaps at different quality levels which can inform the design or redesign of incentives packages. More information about the PCQC can be found at <https://www.ecequalitycalculator.com/Login.aspx>.

### Cost Estimation Model

The Cost Estimation Model (CEM) can help States project the cost to implement a QRIS under a variety of scenarios. Based on a cost modeling tool developed by Anne Mitchell of the Alliance for Early Childhood Finance, the CEM can help administrators determine to cost of implementing all elements of a QRIS as well as explore the various financial implications of various phase-in and scale-up options. More information about the CEM can be found at <https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/story/qr-is-cost-estimation-model-and-resource-guide>.

## State QRIS Financial Incentives

### Arizona – Quality First

QRIS website: <http://qualityfirstaz.com/providers/apply-to-quality-first/>

**Table 1. Financial Incentives**

Incentive	General Information
Quality First Incentive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Available yearly</li> <li>◆ Allowable uses include the following:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Materials and equipment;</li> <li>■ Consultation and specialized services;</li> <li>■ Facility improvements; and</li> <li>■ Transcript payments.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Licensing Fee Assistance	◆ 50% of licensing fees paid every 3 years

**Table 2: Quality First Incentives**

Facility Type	1 and 2 Stars	3 Stars	4 Stars	5 Stars
Large Center	\$8,400	\$9,400	\$10,400	\$11,400
Medium Center	\$5,250	\$5,875	\$6,500	\$7,125
Small Center	\$3,675	\$4,125	\$4,575	\$5,025
Group Home	\$2,100	\$2,350	\$2,600	\$2,850
Family Home	\$1,050	\$1,175	\$1,300	\$1,425

Source: <http://qriscompendium.org/>

## Arkansas – Better Beginnings

QRIS website: <http://arbetterbeginnings.com/>

**Table 1. Financial Incentives**

Incentive	General Information
Improvement Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ \$750–\$3,500 awarded based on licensed capacity and rating level</li> <li>◆ Better Beginnings grant broken into an incentive and professional development grant                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Awarded annually</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Tiered Reimbursement	◆ Rates vary and are based on the age type, care type, and geographic area

Source: <http://qriscompendium.org/>

## California – Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge QRIS

QRIS website: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/rt/>

California uses a locally based approach for QRIS implementation with 17 regional consortia implementing across the State. There are three common tiers (tiers 1, 3, and 4), and consortia can make adaptations to tiers 2 and 5. Financial incentives vary between the consortia.

## Colorado – Colorado Shines

QRIS website: <http://coloradoshines.force.com/ColoradoShines>

Colorado contracts with local early childhood councils to administer QRIS funding and supports. Once a participant completes the initial Colorado Shines Application on the Colorado Shines website, a table generates in the Program Profile that lists the funding that a program may be eligible to receive. Funding is linked to the programs quality improvement plan and is available after a program achieves a level 2 rating and again after the program achieves level 3–5.

## Delaware – Delaware Stars for Early Success

QRIS website: <http://www.delawarestars.udel.edu/>

**Table 1. Financial Incentives**

Incentive	General Information
Improvement Grant	◆ Based on the type of care and the number of children enrolled
Tiered Reimbursement	◆ Percentage above market rate based on the rating level
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Free training on the Ages &amp; Stages Questionnaires, materials, and online training</li> <li>◆ Free Teaching Strategies Gold training, support, and online access</li> <li>◆ Subsidized curricula</li> <li>◆ Infant incentive</li> <li>◆ Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.) Early Childhood scholarships</li> <li>◆ Free Aim4Excellence professional development</li> <li>◆ CORE (Compensation, Retention, and Education) Awards                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Available to participants at Level 3–5 who have reached step 4 on the career lattice</li> </ul> </li> <li>◆ Infrastructure funding</li> <li>◆ Capacity grant—for eligible programs                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Resources to enhance quality and supply for children with special needs, children who need care during nontraditional hours, children who are English language learners, and infants and toddlers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Sources: <http://qriscompendium.org/>; <http://www.delawarestars.udel.edu/resources-supports/>

**Table 2. Program Grants**

Program Type	Number of Enrolled Children	Award
Family Child Care	Up to 6	Up to \$750
Large Family Child Care	Up to 12	Up to \$1,000
Small Early Care and Education (ECE) Center	13–60	Up to \$2,500
Medium ECE Center	61–120	Up to \$3,000
Large ECE Center	121–200	Up to \$4,000
Extra Large ECE Center	201–300	Up to \$5,000
Small SA Center	13- 16	Up to \$1,000
Medium SA Center	61- 120	Up to \$1,500
Large SA Center	121+	Up to \$2,000

Source: <http://www.delawarestars.udel.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/DE-Stars-Policy-Guide-9-3-2014.pdf#page=39>

**Table 3. Reimbursement Rates for Children Birth Through Age 5**

Star Level 3	Star Level 4	Star Level 5
80%	93%	102%

Source: <http://www.delawarestars.udel.edu/tiered-reimbursement/>

**Table 4. Reimbursement Rates for School-Age Children 6 and Older**

Star Level 3	Star Level 4	Star Level 5
80%	90%	100%

Source: <http://www.delawarestars.udel.edu/tiered-reimbursement/>

## Florida – Guiding Stars of Duval

QRIS website: [http://www.elcduval.org/quality\\_child\\_care/](http://www.elcduval.org/quality_child_care/)

Retention and professional development incentives are available to centers and employees that are rated through Guiding Stars of Duval program. More information can be found at <http://www.elcduval.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Incentive-Letter-2015-16-Long-Version.pdf>.

## Florida – Quality Counts Miami-Dade County

QRIS website: <https://www.miamiqualitycounts.org/about-us/>

**Table 1. Financial Incentives**

Incentive	General Information
Improvement Grants	◆ \$1,500–\$12,000 per program per year
Education Scholarships	◆ Average \$400 per scholarship
Wage Supplements	◆ \$200–\$3,000 per staff member per year

Source: <http://qriscompendium.org/>

## Florida – Palm Beach/Strong Minds

QRIS website: <http://providers.cscpsc.org/bequality>

**Table 1. Financial Incentives**

Incentive	General Information
ACHIEVE Salary Supplements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Salary supplement for staff employed at participating in-network and Promising Strong Minds programs</li> <li>◆ Awarded based on completion of coursework for active members of Palm Beach County Early Childhood Registry</li> </ul>
Seeking Excellence and Education through Knowledge (SEEK) Scholarships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Available to family child care homes or large family child homes to assist with costs associated with professional development activities</li> </ul>
Tiered Reimbursement Supplements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Available for programs that have achieved in-network status (tier 1 and tier 2).</li> </ul>

Source:

[http://cdn.trustedpartner.com/docs/library/ChildrensServicesCouncilProviders2011/Strong\\_Minds\\_Provider\\_Manual\\_Updated11915.pdf](http://cdn.trustedpartner.com/docs/library/ChildrensServicesCouncilProviders2011/Strong_Minds_Provider_Manual_Updated11915.pdf)

**Table 2. Tiered Reimbursement Supplements**

Type	Tier 1	Tier 2
High Need Area	\$1.74 (6%)	\$2.32 (8%)
Not in High Need Area (Publicly Funded)	\$1.74 (6%)	\$2.32 (8%)
Not in High Need Area (Private Pay)	\$1.16 (4%)	\$1.74 (6%)

Source:

[http://cdn.trustedpartner.com/docs/library/ChildrensServicesCouncilProviders2011/Strong\\_Minds\\_Provider\\_Manual\\_Updated11915.pdf](http://cdn.trustedpartner.com/docs/library/ChildrensServicesCouncilProviders2011/Strong_Minds_Provider_Manual_Updated11915.pdf)

## Georgia – Quality Rated

QRIS website: <https://qualityrated.decal.ga.gov/>

**Table 1. Financial Incentives**

Incentive	General Information
Scholarships, Incentives, and Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Georgia's Early Care and Education Professional Development System offers various supports for teacher preparation, professional learning, and strategies to reduce teacher turnover</li> <li>◆ \$250–\$1,250 salary supplement</li> <li>◆ Up to 80% of tuition and fees at public institutions based on eligibility</li> </ul>
Bonus Packages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Designed to assist a program in continuous quality improvement efforts</li> <li>◆ \$1,000 to help a program pay for materials or equipment during the technical assistance process</li> <li>◆ \$4,000–\$6,000 bonus package for achieving level 1 and 2</li> <li>◆ \$500 for submission of an online portfolio</li> <li>◆ Level 3                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ \$500 to a director; \$250 to a teacher</li> <li>■ 2 conference scholarships</li> <li>■ \$1,000 for continuous quality improvement efforts</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Tiered Reimbursement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Based on rating level</li> </ul>

Sources: [https://qualityrated.decal.ga.gov/Content/Documents/BonusPackage/CCLC/Complete\\_Bonus\\_Package.pdf](https://qualityrated.decal.ga.gov/Content/Documents/BonusPackage/CCLC/Complete_Bonus_Package.pdf); [https://qualityrated.decal.ga.gov/Content/Documents/PM\\_ProgramManual.pdf](https://qualityrated.decal.ga.gov/Content/Documents/PM_ProgramManual.pdf); <http://qriscompendium.org/>

**Table 2. Reimbursement Rates**

Star Level 1	Star Level 2	Star Level 3
3%	5%	10%

Source: <http://qriscompendium.org/>

## Idaho – Steps to Quality

QRIS website: <http://idahostars.org/?q=steps-to-quality>

**Table 1. Financial Incentives**

Incentive	General Information
Quality Awards/Bonuses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ \$200–\$2,000</li> <li>◆ Awarded upon verification of step 1 and step 3</li> <li>◆ Programs are eligible for annual participation awards up to three times</li> </ul>
Improvement Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ \$500–\$2,000</li> <li>◆ All verified programs are eligible for a total of three quality improvement grants</li> </ul>

Source: <http://qriscompendium.org/>

## Illinois – ExceleRate

QRIS website: <http://www.excelerateillinoisproviders.com/>

**Table 1. Financial Incentives**

Incentive	General Information
Quality Awards/Bonuses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ \$1,000–\$6,500 one-time bonus for center-based programs available through the local child care resource and referral agency</li> <li>◆ \$250–\$950 one-time bonus for family child care programs</li> </ul>
Tiered Add-On	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Quality add-on for the Silver and Gold levels</li> <li>◆ Center-based providers at the Bronze level can receive a one-time \$500 reimbursement (in addition to the quality bonus) if 25% of children served have been enrolled in the child care assistance program (CCAP) in the past 12 months</li> </ul>

Sources: <http://qriscompendium.org/>; <http://www.excelerateillinoisproviders.com/benefits/incentives/licensed-family-child-care-incentives>; <http://www.excelerateillinoisproviders.com/benefits/incentives/licensed-center-incentives>

**Table 2. One-Time Bonus and Add-On**

Program Type	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Center	\$500 (see above)	10% CCAP add-on	15% CCAP add-on
Family Child Care Home	\$250 + one-time \$100 CCAP bonus	\$500 + 10% CCAP add-on	\$750 + 15% CCAP add-on
Group Family Child Care Home	\$350 + one-time \$100 CCAP bonus	\$600 + 10% CCAP add-on	\$950 + 10% CCAP add-on

Sources: <http://griscompendium.org/>; <http://www.excelerateillinoisproviders.com/benefits/incentives/licensed-family-child-care-incentives>; <http://www.excelerateillinoisproviders.com/benefits/incentives/licensed-center-incentives>

## Indiana – Paths to Quality

QRIS website: <http://childcareindiana.org/>

**Table 1. Incentives**

Incentive	General Information
Participation Incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Every enrolled program receives a participation incentive</li> <li>◆ Every program that completes levels 2 and 3 is eligible for a one-time, noncash recognition award upon attainment of each level</li> <li>◆ Every level 3 program that would like to achieve level 4, which includes accreditation by an approved nationally accrediting body, is eligible for financial support and technical assistance</li> </ul>
Annual Level Accreditation Maintenance Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Given to accredited programs that maintain level 4 standards</li> <li>◆ Programs also receive a 10% higher reimbursement rate through the Child Care and Development Fund voucher program</li> </ul>

Sources: <http://griscompendium.org/>; <http://childcareindiana.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/ptq-incentives.pdf>

**Table 2. Incentives by Setting**

Level	Home	Center	Ministry
Level 1	\$50 noncash	\$50 noncash	\$50 noncash
Level 2	\$300 noncash	\$1,000 noncash	\$1,000 noncash
Level 3	\$300 noncash	\$1,000 noncash	\$1,000 noncash
Level 4	\$500 cash	\$1,500 cash	\$1,500 cash
Level 5	\$300 cash	\$1,000 cash	\$1,000 cash

Source: <http://griscompendium.org/>; <http://childcareindiana.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/ptq-incentives.pdf>

**Table 3. Tiered Reimbursement**

Level	Percent Above Maximum
Level 1	None
Level 2	10%
Level 3	20%
Level 4 (If Applicable)	30%

Source: <http://qriscompendium.org/>

## Iowa – Paths to Quality

QRIS website: <http://dhs.iowa.gov/iqrs>

**Table 1. Incentives**

Incentive	General Information
Bonuses	◆ Bonuses are available for participating programs based on rating level

Sources: <http://qriscompendium.org/>; <http://dhs.iowa.gov/iqrs/faqs>

**Table 2. Bonus Schedule for Child Development Homes**

Level	Bonus
Level 2	\$400
Level 3	\$600
Level 4	\$800
Level 5	\$1,000

Source: <http://dhs.iowa.gov/iqrs/faqs>

**Table 3. Achievement Bonus Schedule for Licensed Child Care Centers**

Level	Up to 25 Children	25–50 Children	51–100 Children	100+ Children
Level 2	\$400	\$800	\$1,200	\$1,600
Level 3	\$600	\$1,200	\$1,800	\$2,400
Level 4	\$800	\$1,600	\$2,400	\$3,200
Level 5	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$4,000

Source: <http://dhs.iowa.gov/iqrs/faqs>

## Kentucky – STARS for KIDS NOW

QRIS website: <http://chfs.ky.gov/dcbs/dcc/stars/starsproviderinfo.htm>

**Table 1. Incentives**

Incentive	General Information
Initial Achievement Awards	◆ Initial award after a program receives a rating
Achievement Awards – Star Levels 3 and 4	◆ \$850 - \$2500
Annual Enhancement Awards – Star 4	◆ \$500 - \$2500
Quality Incentive Awards	◆ Per child incentive award for star level 2–4 programs that serve children enrolled in the child care assistance program

Source: <http://qriscompendium.org/>

**Table 2. Awards for Type I Licensed Child Care Centers**

Level	Initial Achievement Award	Annual Achievement Award	Annual Enhancement Award
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Less than 50 children: \$200</li> <li>◆ 51–100 children: \$200</li> <li>◆ More than 100 children: \$200</li> </ul>	None	None
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Less than 50 children: \$500</li> <li>◆ 51–100 children: \$750</li> <li>◆ More than 100 children: \$1,000</li> </ul>	None	None
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Less than 50 children: \$1,700</li> <li>◆ 51–100 children: \$2,200</li> <li>◆ More than 100 children: \$2,700</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Less than 50 children: \$850</li> <li>◆ 51–100 children: \$1,100</li> <li>◆ More than 100 children: \$1,350</li> </ul>	None
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Less than 50 children: \$3,000</li> <li>◆ 51–100 children: \$400</li> <li>◆ More than 100 children: \$5,000</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Less than 50 children: \$1,500</li> <li>◆ 51–100 children: \$2,000</li> <li>◆ More than 100 children: \$2,500</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Less than 50 children: \$1,500</li> <li>◆ 51–100 children: \$2,000</li> <li>◆ More than 100 children: \$2,500</li> </ul>

Source: <http://chfs.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/0AC16EDF-6187-40C1-92BA-2397A132C435/0/TypeISTARIncentives1.pdf>

**Table 3. Quality Incentive Awards for Type I Licensed Child Care Centers: Amount Per Month**

Percentage of Children Receiving Subsidies in Center	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
1%–10%	◆ Younger than 3 years: None	◆ Younger than 3 years: None	◆ Younger than 3 years: None
	◆ 3 years and older: \$7	◆ 3 years and older: \$11	◆ 3 years and older: \$14
11%–25%	◆ Younger than 3 years: \$9	◆ Younger than 3 years: \$13	◆ Younger than 3 years: \$16
	◆ 3 years and older: \$8	◆ 3 years and older: \$12	◆ 3 years and older: \$15
26%–50%	◆ Younger than 3 years: \$10	◆ Younger than 3 years: \$14	◆ Younger than 3 years: \$17
	◆ 3 and older: \$9	◆ 3 and older: \$13	◆ 3 and older: \$16
51%–75%	◆ Younger than 3 years: \$11	◆ Younger than 3 years: \$15	◆ Younger than 3 years: \$18
	◆ 3 years and older: \$10	◆ 3 years and older: \$14	◆ 3 years and older: \$17
76%	◆ Younger than 3 years: \$12	◆ Younger than 3 years: \$16	◆ Younger than 3 years: \$19
	◆ 3 years and older: \$11	◆ 3 years and older: \$15	◆ 3 years and older: \$18

Source: <http://chfs.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/0AC16EDF-6187-40C1-92BA-2397A132C435/0/TypeISTARIncentives1.pdf>

**Table 4. Awards for Type II Family Child Care Homes**

Level	Initial Achievement Award	Annual Achievement Award	Annual Enhancement Award
1	\$100	None	None
2	\$250	None	None
3	\$500	\$250	None
4	\$100	\$500	\$500

Source: <http://chfs.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/3378F4E3-7F6F-4D9F-AF44-E24F9EE8373B/0/STARsforKIDSNowAwardsTypeIIandCertified.pdf>

**Table 5. Quality Incentive Awards for Type II Family Child Care Homes: Amount Per Month**

Level	Children Younger Than 3 Years	Children Age 3 and Older
1	None	None
2	\$10	\$9
3	\$14	\$13
4	\$17	\$16

Source: <http://chfs.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/3378F4E3-7F6F-4D9F-AF44-E24F9EE8373B/0/STARStoKIDSNowAwardsTypeIIandCertified.pdf>

## Maine – Quality for ME

QRIS website: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/ec/occhs/qualityforme.htm>

**Table 1. Incentives**

Incentive	General Information
Accreditation Fee Assistance	◆ Accreditation is part of the requirement to be placed at step 4
Scholarships	◆ Income eligible
Child Care Investment Tax Credit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Parents of children enrolled at step 4 are eligible to receive a double child care tax credit on their state income taxes</li> <li>◆ Participating programs who pay state taxes and have a quality improvement plan may apply</li> </ul>
Tiered Reimbursement/Quality Bump	◆ Based on rating level

Source: [http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/ec/occhs/qrs\\_application\\_manual.pdf](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/ec/occhs/qrs_application_manual.pdf)

**Table 2. Quality Bump**

Level	Bump
Step 2	5%
Step 3	13%
Step 4	25%

Source: [http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/ec/occhs/qrs\\_application\\_manual.pdf](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/ec/occhs/qrs_application_manual.pdf)

## Maryland – Maryland EXCELS

QRIS website: <http://www.marylandexcels.org/>

**Table 1. Incentives**

Incentive	General Information
Quality Award Bonus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Accreditation is part of the requirement to be placed at step 4</li> </ul>
Child Care Credential Bonus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Paid to staff participating in the Maryland Child Care Credentialing Program</li> <li>◆ Dependent upon education, experience, training, and professional activities</li> </ul>
Vendor Discounts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Discounts to a variety of vendors and discounted association memberships</li> </ul>
Tiered Reimbursement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Based on rating level and age of children</li> <li>◆ QRIS participation is required to receive Child Care and Development Fund subsidy reimbursement</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Accreditation support fund</li> <li>◆ Curriculum fund</li> <li>◆ Training vouchers and reimbursement</li> <li>◆ Child care career and professional development fund</li> </ul>

Source: <http://qriscompendium.org/>

**Table 2. Tiered Reimbursement**

Level	Percent Greater Than the Maximum Reimbursement Level	Description
Level 1	◆ 0%	◆ Not applicable
Level 2	◆ 0%	◆ Not applicable
Level 3	◆ 10% to 22%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Child care center                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Younger than 2 years: 22%</li> <li>■ 2 years and older: 10%</li> </ul> </li> <li>◆ Family child care home                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Younger than 2 years: 11%</li> <li>■ 2 years and older: 10%</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Level	Percent Greater Than the Maximum Reimbursement Level	Description
Level 4 (If Applicable)	◆ 19% to 37%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Child care center                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Younger than 2 years: 37%</li> <li>■ 2 years and older: 19%</li> </ul> </li> <li>◆ Family child care home                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Younger than 2 years: 22%</li> <li>■ 2 years and older: 21%</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Level 5 (If Applicable)	◆ 26% to 44%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Child care center                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Younger than 2 years: 44%</li> <li>■ 2 years and older: 26%</li> </ul> </li> <li>◆ Family child care home                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Younger than 2 years: 29%</li> <li>■ 2 years and older: 28%</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Source: <http://qriscompendium.org/>

## Massachusetts – Massachusetts QRIS

QRIS website: <http://www.mass.gov/edu/birth-grade-12/early-education-and-care/qris/qris.html>

Table 1. Incentives

Incentive	General Information
Improvement Award	◆ \$3,000–\$10,500
Infant Toddler Tiered Reimbursement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Higher reimbursement rates based on rating level, region, age of child, and provider type</li> <li>◆ For infants and toddlers only</li> </ul>

Source: <http://qriscompendium.org/>

## Michigan – Great Start to Quality

QRIS website: <http://www.greatstarttoquality.org/>

**Table 1. Incentives**

Incentive	General Information
Participation Bonus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Programs that receive a published rating are able to apply for a \$500 participation bonus if they meet specified criteria; available through August 2017 or until funds are depleted</li> </ul>
Tiered Reimbursement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Based on rating level</li> <li>◆ Hourly increase               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Level 2: 25¢ more per hour</li> <li>■ Level 3: 50¢ more per hour</li> <li>■ Level 4 (if applicable): 75¢ more per hour</li> <li>■ Level 5 (if applicable): \$1.00 more per hour</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Source: <http://qriscompendium.org/>

## Minnesota – Parent Aware

QRIS website: <http://parentaware.org/>

**Table 1. Incentives**

Incentive	General Information
Improvement Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Programs participating in Building Quality receive \$500</li> <li>◆ Programs that get a one to three star rating receive \$1,000 for quality improvements</li> </ul>
Scholarships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.)—average \$1,900 per year</li> <li>◆ Early Learning Scholarships               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Scholarships for families to use in a Parent Aware program</li> <li>■ \$3,000 for programs with a signed participation agreement and up to \$5,000 to a three or four star-rated program</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Tiered Reimbursement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Standard reimbursement rates vary by county, program type, and age of child</li> <li>◆ 3 star programs receive up to 15% more than base</li> <li>◆ 4 star programs receive up to 20% more than base</li> </ul>

Source: <http://qriscompendium.org/>

## Mississippi – Quality Stars

QRIS website: <http://parentaware.org/>

**Table 1. Incentives**

Incentive	General Information
Improvement Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Programs participating in Building Quality receive \$500</li> <li>◆ Programs that get a one to three star rating receive \$1,000 for quality improvements</li> </ul>
Scholarships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.)—average \$1,900 per year</li> <li>◆ Early Learning Scholarships                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Scholarships for families to use in a Parent Aware program</li> <li>■ \$3,000 for programs with a signed participation agreement and up to \$5,000 to three- or four star -rated program</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Tiered Reimbursement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Standard reimbursement rates vary by county, program type, and age of child</li> <li>◆ 3 star programs receive up to 15% more than the maximum reimbursement rate</li> <li>◆ 4 star programs receive up to 20% more than the maximum reimbursement rate</li> </ul>

Source: <http://qriscompendium.org/>

## Montana – Best Beginnings STARS to Quality

QRIS website: <http://dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/ChildCare/STARS.aspx>

**Table 1. Incentives**

Incentive	General Information
Quality Award/Bonus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ \$625–\$5,000</li> <li>◆ Quarterly incentives; a certain percentage at each level must be directed to practitioners</li> </ul>
Tiered Reimbursement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Based on rating level</li> </ul>

Source: <http://qriscompendium.org/>

**Table 2. STARS Quarterly Incentives**

Facility Type	STAR 1	STAR 2	STAR 3	STAR 4	STAR 5
General	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ 20% of total budget must go toward personnel and staff costs</li> <li>◆ 5% increased reimbursement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ 30% of total budget must go toward personnel and staff costs</li> <li>◆ 10% increased reimbursement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ 40% of total budget must go toward personnel and staff costs</li> <li>◆ 15% increased reimbursement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ 50% of total budget must go toward personnel and staff costs</li> <li>◆ 20% increased reimbursement</li> </ul>
Family	STAR kit, resources, help, and support	\$625	\$938	\$1,250	\$1,563
Group	STAR kit, resources, help, and support	\$875	\$1,375	\$1,875	\$2,250
Small Center	STAR kit, resources, help, and support	\$1,250	\$1,875	\$2,500	\$3,125
Medium Center	STAR kit, resources, help, and support	\$1,625	\$2,500	\$3,375	\$4,250
Large Center	STAR kit, resources, help, and support	\$2,063	\$3,125	\$4,063	\$5,000

Source: <http://dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/ChildCare/STARS/incentives>

## Nebraska – Step Up to Quality

QRIS website: <http://dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/ChildCare/STARS.aspx>

**Table 1. Incentives**

Incentive	General Information
Quality Award/Bonus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Based on setting</li> <li>◆ Child care center: One-time \$500 quality incentive bonus at level 2</li> <li>◆ Family child care: One-time \$250 quality incentive bonus at level 2</li> </ul>
Tiered Reimbursement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Level 5: 5% based on market rate</li> </ul>

Source: <http://qriscompendium.org/>

**Table 2. Quality Incentive Bonus**

Facility Type	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Family Child Care	\$400	\$500	\$600
Child Care Center	\$750	\$1000	\$1250

Sources: <https://www.education.ne.gov/StepUptoQuality/providers-educators/benefits.html>

## Nevada – Silver State Stars QRIS

QRIS website: <http://dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/ChildCare/STARS.aspx>

**Table 1. Incentives**

Incentive	General Information
Improvement Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ \$4,000–\$8,500 one-time initial grant</li> <li>◆ Varies based on licensed capacity</li> </ul>
Quality Award/Bonus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Advancement renewal bonus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Level 3: \$250</li> <li>■ Level 4: \$500</li> <li>■ Level 5: \$1000</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Tiered Reimbursement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Level 3–5                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Level 3: 6%</li> <li>■ Level 4: 9%</li> <li>■ Level 5: 12%</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ At level 4 and 5, centers are eligible for accreditation fees</li> </ul>

Sources: <http://qriscompendium.org/>;  
[http://www.nvsilverstatestars.org/\\_public/themes/default/files/center%20model%208.2016.pdf](http://www.nvsilverstatestars.org/_public/themes/default/files/center%20model%208.2016.pdf)

- ◆ Nevada is planning to require subsidy providers to be involved with Nevada’s QRIS beginning October 1, 2016. Reimbursement rates will be linked to the star rating, with one star centers receiving the current 2004 reimbursement rate. Five star centers will receive 75 percent, and 2, 3, and 4 star centers will receive a percentage in between. It is expected that the process of rating and coaching centers will take 3 years to complete.

## New Hampshire – Licensed Plus

QRIS website: <http://dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/ChildCare/STARS.aspx>

**Table 1. Incentives**

Incentive	General Information
Quality Award/Bonus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ 5% greater than the child care subsidy payment per month for license plus programs</li> <li>◆ 10% greater than the child care subsidy payment per month for nationally accredited programs</li> </ul>

Source: <http://qriscompendium.org/>

## New Mexico – FOCUS

QRIS website: <https://www.newmexicokids.org/focus/>

**Table 1. Incentives**

Incentive	General Information
Training Reimbursement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Reimbursement for attending required FOCUS trainings</li> <li>◆ Approximately \$3,000 per program depending on size of program and staffing</li> </ul>
Planning Time Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Substitutes for planning time for FOCUS participants (2 hours per week per classroom)</li> <li>◆ Approximately \$2,500 per month per program, depending on the number of classrooms</li> </ul>
Scholarships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.) scholarships for FOCUS participating programs</li> <li>◆ Approximately \$2,500 per teacher per full time enrollment</li> </ul>
Tiered Reimbursement (Participants who are still part of AIM HIGH receive different rates)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Rate differentials per month per child</li> <li>◆ FOCUS levels 2–5               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Level 2: \$88</li> <li>■ Level 3: \$100</li> <li>■ Level 4: \$180</li> <li>■ Level 5: \$250</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Sources: <http://qriscompendium.org/>; [https://www.newmexicokids.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/FOCUS\\_Planning\\_Grants\\_about.pdf](https://www.newmexicokids.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/FOCUS_Planning_Grants_about.pdf)

## New York – QUALITYstarsNY

QRIS website: <http://www.qualitystarsny.org/discover-landing.php>

**Table 1. Incentives**

Incentive	General Information
Improvement Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Varies</li> <li>◆ Average annual funding for grants as of 2015 is \$1,681 per site each year</li> </ul>
Scholarships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ QUALITY Scholars Grants fund credit-bearing coursework, higher education degrees, early childhood credentials, and other types of professional development like peer learning communities</li> </ul>

Source: <http://qriscompendium.org/>

## North Carolina – Star Rated License

QRIS website: <http://ncchildcare.nc.gov/general/home.asp>

**Table 1. Incentives**

Incentive	General Information
Tiered Reimbursement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Rates vary by level and region</li> </ul>

Source: <http://qriscompendium.org/>

## North Dakota – Bright and Early North Dakota

QRIS website: <http://www.brightnd.org/>

**Table 1. Incentives**

Incentive	General Information
Quality Award/Bonus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ \$100 for each full-time child age birth through kindergarten</li> <li>◆ \$50 per each part-time child age birth through kindergarten</li> </ul>
Improvement Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ \$100 for each full-time child age birth through kindergarten</li> <li>◆ \$37.50 for each part-time child age birth through kindergarten</li> </ul>

Source: <http://qriscompendium.org/>

## Ohio – Step Up to Quality

QRIS website: <http://www.brightnd.org/>

**Table 1. Incentives**

Incentive	General Information
Quality Award/Bonus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Varies \$1,000–\$6,500</li> <li>◆ Based on a formula that includes program size, rating, and percentage of publicly funded children served at the program</li> </ul>

Source: <http://qriscompendium.org/>

**Table 2. Payment Matrix for Centers**

	1 Star +Publicly Funded Enrollment Per Child \$50	2 Star +Publicly Funded Enrollment Per Child \$100	3 Star +Publicly Funded Enrollment Per Child \$200	4 Star +Publicly Funded Enrollment Per Child \$400	5 Star +Publicly Funded Enrollment Per Child \$450
Small (Up to 50 Children)	Base: \$1,000	Base: \$1,500	Base: \$2,000	Base: \$3,000	Base: \$3,500
Medium (60–99 Children)	Base: \$2,000	Base: \$2,500	Base: \$3,000	Base: \$4,000	Base: \$4,500
Large (100–159 Children)	Base: \$3,000	Base: \$3,500	Base: \$4,000	Base: \$5,000	Base: \$5,500
Very Large (160 or More)	Base: \$4,000	Base: \$4,500	Base: \$5,000	Base: \$6,000	Base: \$6,500

Source: <http://www.earlychildhoodohio.org/files/sutq/QAA%20Matrix%20-%20Centers.pdf>

**Table 3. Payment Matrix for Family Child Care**

	1 Star +Publicly Funded Enrollment Per Child \$25	2 Star +Publicly Funded Enrollment Per Child \$50	3 Star +Publicly Funded Enrollment Per Child \$75	4 Star +Publicly Funded Enrollment Per Child \$125	5 Star +Publicly Funded Enrollment Per Child \$150
Award Amount	\$400	\$600	\$800	\$1,100	\$1,400

Source: <http://www.earlychildhoodohio.org/files/sutq/QAA%20Matrix%20-%20FCC.pdf>

## Oklahoma – Reaching for the Stars

QRIS website: <http://www.okdhs.org/services/cc/Pages/starsfaqmain.aspx>

**Table 1. Incentives**

Incentive	General Information
Quality Award/Bonus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ REWARD Oklahoma: \$400–\$1,500 per year</li> <li>◆ 80/20 tuition bonuses are scholarships awarded to providers serving 10% of children receiving subsidies and have a rating of 1 plus or higher</li> </ul>
Tiered Reimbursement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Rates vary based on a child’s age, full or part time status, and area of the state</li> </ul>

Source: <http://qriscompendium.org/>

## Oregon – Oregon QRIS

QRIS website: <http://triwou.org/projects/qris>

**Table 1. Incentives**

Incentive	General Information
Quality Award/Bonus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ \$500–\$2,550; based on size of the program</li> </ul>
Improvement Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ \$1,000–\$2,000; ranges by the size of the program</li> </ul>
Submission Bonus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ \$500 for programs submitting portfolios in Russian or Spanish</li> </ul>
Individual Education Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ \$100–\$500 for staff with specific professional development levels working in rated programs</li> </ul>
Enhanced Funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ \$1,000–\$4,000 for focused family child care networks serving children at high risk</li> </ul>
Tiered Reimbursement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Oregon Legislature passed a tiered reimbursement bill in 2015</li> </ul>

Sources: <http://qriscompendium.org/>; <http://www.oregonqrisresources.org/default.aspx>

## Pennsylvania – Keystone STARS

QRIS website: [http://www.pakeys.org/pages/get.aspx?page=Programs\\_STARS](http://www.pakeys.org/pages/get.aspx?page=Programs_STARS)

**Table 1. Incentives**

Incentive	General Information
Quality Award/Bonus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ \$1,000–\$49,250</li> <li>◆ Range up to 4 Star Level</li> </ul>
Improvement Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ \$2,000–\$5,000</li> <li>◆ Family child care can apply for up to \$2,000</li> <li>◆ Centers and group care may apply for up to \$5,000</li> </ul>
Tiered Reimbursement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Rates vary based on rating level and full-time or part-time status of the child in care                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ STAR 1: 35¢ (full time); 15¢ (part time)</li> <li>■ STAR 2: 95¢ (full time); 45¢ (part time)</li> <li>■ STAR 3: \$2.80 (full time); \$1.05 (part time)</li> <li>■ STAR 4: \$5.00 (full time); \$1.35 (part time)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Source: <http://qriscompendium.org/>

**Table 2. MERIT Awards**

Facility Type	STAR 2 (3 Times With Additional 2 years With Continuous Quality Improvement Plan and Demonstrated Progress)	STAR 3 (Ongoing)	STAR 4 (Ongoing)
Family Home	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,000
Group Home	\$1,575	\$2,470	\$3,255
Center: Up to 6 Full-time Equivalency (FTE)	\$1,500	\$2,400	\$3,250
Center: 7–12 FTE	\$2,365	\$3,655	\$4,835
Center: 13–45 FTE	\$4,725	\$7,495	\$9,855
Center: 46–99 FTE	\$9,450	\$15,050	\$19,500
Center: 100–180 FTE	\$14,175	\$27,880	\$37,800
Center: 181 + FTE	\$23,500	\$37,400	\$49,250

Source: [http://www.pakeys.org/uploadedContent/Docs/STARS/STARS\\_Grant\\_Award\\_Structure\\_15-16.pdf](http://www.pakeys.org/uploadedContent/Docs/STARS/STARS_Grant_Award_Structure_15-16.pdf)

**Table 3. Education and Retention Awards (Prorated for Hours Worked Less Than 35 Hours Per Week)**

Role or Career Lattice Level	STAR 2	STAR 3	STAR 4
Director or Owner/Operator Career Lattice Level 5 or Above	\$3,090	\$3,605	\$4,120
Career Lattice Level 6	\$2,320	\$2,705	\$3,090
Career Lattice Level 5 or Level 4	\$1,545	\$1,805	\$2,060
Career Lattice 3	\$600	\$700	\$800

Source: <http://www.pakeys.org/uploadedContent/Docs/STARS/STARS Grant Award Structure 15-16.pdf>

## Rhode Island – BrightStars

QRIS website: <http://www.brightstars.org/providers/brightstars-quality-rating/>

- ◆ The Rhode Island Association for the Education of Young Children (RIAEYC) offers BrightStars participants program quality improvement bonuses and incentives to participating programs.
- ◆ Participation is required for programs serving children who receive subsidies.

For more information, see Zero to Three Rhode Island BrightStars QRIS Policy Resource, <https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/927-rhode-island-brightstars-gris> and BrightStars Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) <http://www.brightstars.org/educators/frequently-asked-questions>

## South Carolina – ABC Quality

QRIS website: <http://www.abcquality.org/about-abc-quality/>

**Table 1. Incentives**

Incentive	General Information
Quality Award/Bonus	◆ \$5–\$20 per child per week
Professional Development Award	◆ Up to \$1,000 per program for costs to attend state early childhood conferences
Tiered Reimbursement	◆ Rates vary based on setting, rating level, and region

Source: <http://qriscompendium.org/>

**Table 2. Tiered Reimbursement and Quality Bonus**

Level	Base Rate	Quality Bonus
Level A+	20% greater than base rate	\$20 per child per week
Level A	20% greater than base rate	\$15 per child per week
Level B+	7% greater than base rate	\$10 per child per week
Level B	7% greater than base rate	\$5 per child per week
Level C	Base rate only	No quality bonus award

Note: This information is based on center urban rates.  
Source: <http://qriscompendium.org/profile-report>

## Tennessee – Star Quality Child Care Program

QRIS website: <http://tnstarquality.org/html/star-quality.htm>

**Table 1. Incentives**

Incentive	General Information
Tiered Reimbursement	◆ Rates vary based on level and setting

Source: <http://qriscompendium.org/>

**Table 2. Education and Retention Awards (Prorated for Hours Worked Less Than 35 Hours Per Week)**

Level	Rate
Level 1	5% greater than base
Level 2	15% greater than base
Level 3	20% greater than base

Source: [http://tn.gov/assets/entities/humanservices/attachments/ccrates\\_bonus.pdf](http://tn.gov/assets/entities/humanservices/attachments/ccrates_bonus.pdf)

## Texas – Texas Rising Star

QRIS website: <https://texasrisingstar.org/>

**Table 1. Incentives**

Incentive	General Information
Tiered Reimbursement	◆ Texas Rising Star is a voluntary quality based child care rating system for providers participating in the Texas Workforce Commission’s subsidized child care program

Source: <https://texasrisingstar.org/about-trs/>

**Table 2. Education and Retention Awards (Prorated for Hours Worked Less Than 35 Hours Per Week)**

Level	Rate
2 Stars	5% greater than the maximum rate
3 Stars	7% greater than the maximum rate
4 Stars	9% greater than the maximum rate

Source: <https://texasrisingstar.org/about-trs/trs-star-levels/>

## Utah – Care About Childcare

QRIS website: <http://careaboutchildcare.utah.gov/>

**Table 1. Incentives**

Incentive	General Information
Quality Award/Bonus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ First time awards: \$350 to \$1,250</li> <li>◆ Renewing quality criteria: \$250 to \$2,000</li> </ul>

Source: <http://qriscompendium.org/>

## Vermont – Step Ahead Recognition System

QRIS website: <http://dcf.vermont.gov/childcare/providers/stars>

**Table 1. Incentives**

Incentive	General Information
Quality Award/Bonus	◆ Based on rating level
Tiered Reimbursement	◆ Percent of child care cost that the State covers on behalf of families
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Annual bonus for providing nutritious snacks and meals</li> <li>◆ Incentives from vendors, including discounts on materials and reduced rate shipping</li> </ul>

Source: <http://qriscompendium.org/>

**Table 2. Bonuses and Tiered Reimbursement**

Table Header Row	Bonus	Reimbursement
1 Star	\$250	5% percent of child care cost that the State covers on behalf of families
2 Stars	\$500	10% percent of child care cost that the State covers on behalf of families
3 Stars	\$1,000	20% percent of child care cost that the State covers on behalf of families
4 Stars	\$1,150	30% percent of child care cost that the State covers on behalf of families
5 Stars	\$1,550	40% percent of child care cost that the State covers on behalf of families

Source: <http://qriscompendium.org/>

## Washington – Early Achievers

QRIS website: <http://del.wa.gov/care/qris/>

**Table 1. Incentives**

Incentive	General Information
Quality Improvement Award	◆ Based on rating level and setting
Scholarships	◆ Washington Scholars and Opportunity Grants
Tiered Reimbursement	◆ Based on rating level ◆ Providers receiving child care subsidies are required to participate in Early Achievers
Other	◆ Enrollment Incentive/Needs Based Grants ■ \$500 one time incentive for level 2 participants to meet level 3 quality rating

Sources: <http://qriscompendium.org/>;  
[https://del.wa.gov/sites/default/files/public/QRIS/Early\\_achievers\\_operating\\_guidelines.pdf](https://del.wa.gov/sites/default/files/public/QRIS/Early_achievers_operating_guidelines.pdf)

Table 2. Quality Improvement Awards and Tiered Reimbursement

Table Header Row	Award	Reimbursement
Level 2	◆ No quality improvement award	◆ 2% increase to the Working Connections Child Care subsidy base rate who advance to a level 3 or higher within 30 months
Level 3	◆ Child care center: \$5,000 ◆ Family child care: \$750	◆ 4% greater than base rate
Level 4	◆ Child care center: \$7,500 ◆ Family child care: \$2,000	◆ 10% greater than base rate
Level 5	◆ Child care center: \$9,000 ◆ Family child care: \$2,250	◆ 15% greater than base rate

Source: [http://cca.deltraining.com/courses/Introduction\\_To\\_ERS-CLASS\\_English/resources/Early-Achievers-Participant-Operating-Guidelines.pdf](http://cca.deltraining.com/courses/Introduction_To_ERS-CLASS_English/resources/Early-Achievers-Participant-Operating-Guidelines.pdf)

## Wisconsin – YoungStar

QRIS website: <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/>

Table 1. Incentives

Incentive	General Information
Micro-Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Available each year for quality improvement plan support and implementation                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ \$1,000 for licensed group child care or school-age program</li> <li>■ \$500 for licensed family child care program</li> <li>■ \$250 for certified family child care program</li> <li>■ \$200 for a day camp</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Scholarships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ 75% (group) and 90% (family) of tuition provided for credit-based instruction</li> </ul>
Tiered Reimbursement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ 1 STAR programs are not eligible for Wisconsin Share reimbursement</li> <li>◆ 2 STAR programs receive a decreased reimbursement (from base rate)</li> <li>◆ 3 STAR remains at base rate</li> <li>◆ 4 STAR and 5 STAR receive an increase</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ REWARD stipends to increase compensation, promote retention, reduce turnover, improve quality, and encourage continued education</li> </ul>

Sources: <http://qriscompendium.org/>; <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/youngstar/pdf/microgrants.pdf>

**Table 2. Tiered Reimbursement**

Level	Rate
1 STAR	Not eligible
2 STAR	-5%
3 STAR	Base rate
4 STAR	+10%
5 STAR	+15%

Source: <http://qriscompendium.org/>

## Resources

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ECE Shared Services: <http://opportunities-exchange.org/>

QRIS Resource Guide: <https://qrisguide.acf.hhs.gov/index.cfm?do=resourceguide>

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