

Quality First and Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Strategies – Guiding Document

First Things First SFY 2014 Quality First and Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Policy Implementation:

All programs must have a 3, 4 or 5 star rating to be eligible for Pre-K Scholarships. To receive a star rating, programs must be enrolled in Quality First. There are multiple ways to fund Quality First for Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship recipients.

- Full Participation Quality First with Quality First Scholarships – these programs will receive the full QF package of services and both Quality First Child Care Scholarships and Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships.
- Full Participation Quality First without Quality First Scholarships – these programs will receive the full QF package of services and only Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships.
- Rating Only – these programs will receive 6 months of coaching during the year that this is funded and Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships. ***In FY2014 and beyond, these programs must already be rated at a 3 star or higher to continue funding in this manner.***

If a program achieves a star rating below 3 stars in FY 2013, the following options that can be considered:

Programs Already Enrolled in Full Participation Quality First:

- Program can remain in Full Participation Quality First and receive the base number of Quality First Scholarships
- Program can remain in Full Participation Quality First and receive double the cap of Quality First Scholarships
- Program can remain in Full Participation quality First and receive over double the cap of Quality First Scholarships with submission and approval of a waiver*

Programs Enrolled in Rating Only Quality First:

- Not funding the program at all to continue in either Quality First or Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships.
- Funding the program in Full Participation Quality First with the base number of Quality First Scholarships
- Funding the program in Full Participation Quality First with double the cap of Quality First Scholarships
- Funding the program in Full Participation Quality First with over double the cap of Quality First Scholarships with submission and approval of a waiver*

The Quality First Scholarship waiver will be provided by the Regional Director to programs that were receiving Pre-K Scholarships who do not meet the 3 – 5 star levels. The program will complete the waiver, which includes information about why the program is requesting over double the cap and what other funding sources might be available for blending and braiding funding (i.e. Title I, DES Subsidy, IDEA, Parent Fees, Community Ed., CTE, Philanthropic, etc.).

Central Maricopa Funding;

SFY 2013 Funding:

- \$826,799 invested in Quality First (\$728,799 Full Participation / \$98,000 Rating Only)
- \$1,694,846 invested in Quality First Scholarships
- \$930,000 invested in Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships
- 36 Quality First Full Participation (Full Participation) Centers / 5 Quality First Full Participation Homes
- 13 Quality First Rating Only Sites (Rating Only) – 10 School Based, 3 Private Community Partners
- 281 Quality First Scholarships
- 239 Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships
 - Distributed among 18 Sites
 - 5 Quality First Full Participation Sites (and also receive QF scholarships)
 - 13 Rating Only Sites (10 school and 3 private)

Current status of Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Sites:

- All data is preliminary and not all ratings have been determined yet. Information is speculative based on available information.

- 9 Rating Only Sites will be eligible for Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships
- 3 Rating Only Sites will not be eligible for Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships
 - One site is in a very high need/ lower income zip code*
 - Receiving 31 part-time (PT) Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships
 - 2 sites will not be eligible in SFY15 – These sites will combine into one and move to another location in the region**
 - Receiving 22 part-time (PT)
- 1 Rating Only Site (School site) has not had their assessment scheduled yet.

- 1 Full Participation Quality First Site not eligible for Pre-K scholarships***
- 1 Full Participation Quality First Site has deferred their assessment due to special circumstances therefore is not eligible for Pre-K scholarships

Approved SFY 2014 Funding:

- \$694,070 invested in Quality First (Rating Only is only funded every two years)
- \$2,498,979 invested in Quality First Scholarships
- \$1,012,704 invested in Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships
- 36 Quality First Full Participation (FP) Centers / 5 Quality First Full Participation Homes
- 0 Quality First Rating Only Sites (Rating Only is only funded every 2 years)
- 356 Quality First Scholarships
- 280 Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships

DECISION POINT

****Preliminary recommendations for your considerations:**

- **Move the 1 Rating Only site (*) into Quality First Full Participation**
 - Provide this site with additional waivers, (as needed to make a full class) for up to double the cap for Quality First Scholarships.
- **Move the 1 Rating Only site (**) that is moving and becoming one site into Quality First Full Participation**
 - Provide this site with additional waivers, (as needed to equal the number of scholarships received this year) up to double the cap for Quality First Scholarships.
- **1 Full Participation Quality First Site not eligible for Pre-K scholarships*****
 - Allow this site to apply for waivers, (as needed to equal the number of scholarships received this year) up to double the cap for Quality First Scholarships.

Proposed SFY 2014 Funding Plan Changes if all recommendations and suggestions are approved:

- **Fill the open 3 Quality First Full Participation slots with:**
 - Two Rating Only sites noted above (*, **)
 - One remaining slot filled with a QF applicant that serves the region's priority of teen parents enrolled in high school teen parent program.
- **Fund up to 25 part-time waivers (This allows these 3 sites to not lose any scholarship slots)**
- **Reduce Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships to 255 PT slots**