

FY2012 Model Revisions (*Starting July 1, 2011*)

Selection and Enrollment

1. *Quality First Information Sessions*

Quality First Information Sessions are designed to provide information on the components, benefits and supports provided through Quality First and will be scheduled (onsite and webinar) in regions where there is funding for additional Quality First expansion of vacancies.

2. *Consent for Program Assessment*

The Consent for Program Assessment is a requirement and intended to acknowledge a program's approval to participate in program assessment and receive a Star Rating.

3. *Empower Pack*

Empower Pack is a program administered by Department of Health Services that supports programs by providing strategies and resources for incorporating physical activity, nutrition and anti-tobacco education into everyday learning activities.

- ★ Quality First programs are **required** to apply for Empower Pack participation through the Department of Health Services at <http://www.theempowerpack.org/>

4. *Program Entry*

New programs entering Quality First will receive a program assessment and initial star rating prior to signing an enrollment agreement or accessing Quality First incentives.

Quality First Star Ratings

- ★ All programs enrolled in Quality First will receive a Star Rating determined by the assessment scores a program achieves on the Environmental Rating Scale (ERS), Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) and the Quality First Point Scale.
- ★ Programs enrolled prior to July 1, 2011 will receive their first Star Rating at their 3rd assessment. Program enrolled after July 1, 2011 will receive a Star Rating upon program entry.
- ★ Star Ratings will determine the Financial Incentive Package a program will receive.

Financial Incentive Package

The amount of the financial incentive package is determined by the licensed capacity of children birth through age five.

1. *Enhancement Grant*

- ★ Programs with assessment scores at the 1 and 2 Star Rating levels will receive Enhancement Grants which can be used to purchase materials, resources or supplement professional development opportunities for staff.
- ★ All purchases from Enhancement Grants must be linked to the Quality Improvement Plan.

2. *Quality Bonus*

- ★ Programs with assessment scores at the 3, 4 and 5 Star Rating levels will receive a Quality Bonus which is a cash incentive to be used to supplement costs associated with improvement of quality, maintenance of quality and program operations.
- ★ Financial reporting is required to document how the Quality Bonus was utilized.

3. Assistance with Payment of Licensure Fees

- ★ All programs enrolled in Quality First that are regulated by the Department of Health Services (DHS) will receive assistance with payment of licensure fees.
- ★ Fifty percent of a program's licensing fees will be deducted from the enhancement grant over a 3 year period. $\frac{1}{3}$ will be deducted every year.
- ★ By the end of three years, 50% of the licensing fee will have been paid to DHS for the Quality First program.
- ★ After a program's licensure fees are deducted, the remaining balance of a program's Enhancement Grant and Quality Bonus is the amount that is accessible to the program.

FY2013 Model Revisions (*Starting July 1, 2012*)

Publicizing Star Rating

- ★ Starting July 1, 2012, publication of star ratings will begin.
- ★ Programs enrolled **before July 1, 2011**, will receive a Star Rating at their third program assessment.
- ★ Programs enrolled **after July 1, 2012** will receive a Star Rating at their second program assessment.
- ★ More Information will be forthcoming on details around the publication of star ratings and the FTF education campaigns on high quality programs and the Quality First Rating System that will be provided for the community.

Coaching Intensity linked to Star Ratings

- ★ 1 and 2 star programs may receive higher coaching intensity.
- ★ 3, 4 and 5 star programs may receive lower coaching intensity.

Financial Incentive Package

- ★ Child Care Scholarships will be added to the Quality First financial package for **every** program enrolled in Quality First.
- ★ There will be a shifting of incentive funding which will result in lower amounts of Enhancement Grants and Quality Bonus accessible to programs.

Quality First Consultation Model

Beginning in FY 13, the Quality First consultation model will focus on professional development, awareness and technical assistance which will help to increase the knowledge of coaches and providers in support of all children. The Quality First consultation model will include:

- ★ A Train the Trainer model to build the capacity of Quality First coaches in the areas of health, mental health, inclusion and instructional support.
- ★ A reduced caseload of providers for each coach so coaches have the opportunity to provide the awareness level support to providers.
- ★ A help-line so that coaches and providers may call expert consultants for additional assistance to address urgent or more challenging issues.