



OKLAHOMA
Human Services

Vol.16

CHILD CARE SERVICES

November 2022

The Stars Program



QRIS (Quality Rating Improvement System) officially relaunched on June 1st. We have had over 2,350 programs apply! As a reminder to be eligible for the Lakeshore and financial incentives you must complete the **Stars Request for Certification** prior to **November 30, 2022**.

We are encouraging **EVERY** provider in Oklahoma to apply! By participating in QRIS, providers embark on a path of continuous quality improvement that benefits both the children they serve and their business practices. Even providers that have met the standards of the lowest STAR levels have achieved a level of quality that is beyond the minimum license requirements to operate. Every child deserves a quality early childhood education experience!



Need Help?!



- Learn more: <https://bit.ly/QRISIncentives>
- Call the hotline: (405) 521-6177 (M-F, 9-4)
- Send an e-mail: QRIS@okdhs.org

The Stabilization Grant

WHAT: Cycle 6 Stabilization Grant

WHEN: **Closed** October 31, 2022

WHY: Quality & Stabilization Support

WHO: **ALL PROVIDERS!**



Additional Information

Cycle 6 offered a double payment amount + an additional 5% to help pay for 5 year fingerprint rechecks. Not only will this provide continued stabilization support, it will promote quality programming for Oklahoma children.

As our finance department works to process the payments, be sure to check your emails (and spam folder) for communication from the Oklahoma Human Services Child Care Services Team. You may also check the status of your application here: <http://okdhs.org/childcaregrants>

The Workforce checks will be mailed directly to the child care employee in envelopes like this



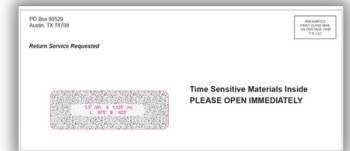
The Workforce Support Grant

WHAT: Cycle 2 Bonus Payment for Child Care Staff

WHEN: **Closed** October 31, 2022

WHY: Child Care Staff Retention & Recruitment Support

WHO: Child care employees working in a permitted or licensed program



Additional Information

This grant will be open for four cycles so programs are able to include all staff working in their facility. **Please remember that staff only qualify for one \$1,000 bonus.**

All staff **MUST** have a registry ID to receive the bonus payment. OKDHS will be working with the CECPD to make sure payments go directly to the child care staff. All the required qualifications and information will be listed on the OKDHS grants website.

CECPD will email easy-to-follow instructions to each Child Care Center and FCCH that qualifies for the Workforce Support Grant incentive to collect additional information on your staff. Please follow the instructions that will be included in the email. This is a 2-step process, programs must also complete the workforce grant application.

Exceptional Needs Grants



WHAT: Exceptional Needs Grants

WHEN: Launched August 10, 2022 - open through July 2024 (or when funds deplete)

WHY: Promote the economic and social well-being of special needs children and families

WHO: For providers who currently serve or are looking to expand and serve exceptional needs children.

Additional Information

The exceptional needs grant is specifically designed for providers who are looking to expand their services to be able to serve exceptional needs children, as well as for providers who currently serve this population who are looking to expand their programs.

It will consist of a single facility application and an open window to submit proposals for approval. Once approved and purchases are made, they will be able to upload receipts to their approved plans in order to seek reimbursement.

Exceptional Needs Grants Application Video: <https://youtu.be/DEjowjU-hU>

Child Care Desert Grants



WHAT: Desert Grants

WHEN: Launched August 10, 2022 - open through July 2023 (or when funds deplete)

WHY: Increase accessibility to quality child care in identified child care desert counties.

WHO: New programs and existing programs in identified desert counties.

Additional Information

There are two options:

- 1) New programs wishing to start a CCC or FCCH/LFCCH in desert areas or
- 2) Existing programs currently serving children that would like to expand their capacity in the identified counties.

An example of this would be a FCCH provider that meets LFCCH qualifications or a child care center that has the space to increase their capacity. Per federal guidelines, funding may not be used for purchase of land, structures or major renovations.

- To learn more about the specifications such as what is consider 'major renovations' please visit: <https://bit.ly/ChildCareDesertFAQs>

Proposed New 5-Star Rate

Below are the proposed rates for the relaunched QRIS effective January 1, 2023. The amounts listed below do not include the ongoing \$5/day add-on which is funded with Covid-19 relief funds.

One-Star

Child care centers

Child's age	Daily rates		Blended rates	
	Full	Part	Traditional	Extended
0 - 12 months	\$20.00	\$14.50	NA	NA
13 - 24 months	\$20.00	\$14.50	NA	NA
25 - 48 months	\$17.20	\$11.50	NA	NA
49 - 72 months	\$17.00	\$11.50	\$12.60	\$13.80
73 months - 13 years	\$13.80	\$9.50	\$9.80	\$11.20

Child care homes

Child's age	Daily rates		Blended rates	
	Full	Part	Traditional	Extended
0 - 24 months	\$20.00	\$13.70	NA	NA
25-48 months	\$17.20	\$11.20	NA	NA
49-72 months	\$16.20	\$11.20	\$12.60	\$13.70
73 months - 13 years	\$13.00	\$8.00	\$9.70	\$10.80

Three-Star

Child care centers

Child's age	Daily rates		Blended rates	
	Full	Part	Traditional	Extended
0 - 12 months	\$38.00	\$23.40	NA	NA
13 - 24 months	\$33.60	\$20.20	NA	NA
25 - 48 months	\$31.50	\$18.90	NA	NA
49 - 72 months	\$22.80	\$15.00	\$17.30	\$18.70
73 months - 13 years	\$18.80	\$12.80	\$14.60	\$16.00

Child care homes

Child's age	Daily rates		Blended rates	
	Full	Part	Traditional	Extended
0 - 24 months	\$28.60	\$18.20	NA	NA
25-48 months	\$26.50	\$16.70	NA	NA
49-72 months	\$22.80	\$15.00	\$17.30	\$18.70
73 months - 13 years	\$18.20	\$11.80	\$13.70	\$15.10

Two-Star

Child care centers

Child's age	Daily rates		Blended rates	
	Full	Part	Traditional	Extended
0 - 12 months	\$22.80	\$15.00	NA	NA
13 - 24 months	\$21.80	\$15.00	NA	NA
25 - 48 months	\$19.60	\$12.80	NA	NA
49 - 72 months	\$18.50	\$12.80	\$14.80	\$15.90
73 months - 13 years	\$16.10	\$10.70	\$12.60	\$13.70

Child care homes

Child's age	Daily rates		Blended rates	
	Full	Part	Traditional	Extended
0 - 24 months	\$20.70	\$13.90	NA	NA
25-48 months	\$18.50	\$12.80	NA	NA
49-72 months	\$18.50	\$12.80	\$14.80	\$15.90
73 months - 13 years	\$13.70	\$9.60	\$11.00	\$12.10

Four-Star

Child care centers

Child's age	Daily rates		Blended rates	
	Full	Part	Traditional	Extended
0 - 12 months	\$44.00	\$26.40	NA	NA
13 - 24 months	\$41.80	\$25.20	NA	NA
25 - 48 months	\$35.90	\$21.90	NA	NA
49 - 72 months	\$25.20	\$16.10	\$19.90	\$21.30
73 months - 13 years	\$20.70	\$12.80	\$15.10	\$16.50

Child care homes

Child's age	Daily rates		Blended rates	
	Full	Part	Traditional	Extended
0 - 24 months	\$39.50	\$25.70	NA	NA
25-48 months	\$36.00	\$22.10	NA	NA
49-72 months	\$26.60	\$17.10	\$19.90	\$21.30
73 months - 13 years	\$20.70	\$12.80	\$15.10	\$16.50

Five-Star

Child care centers

Child's age	Daily rates		Blended rates	
	Full	Part	Traditional	Extended
0 - 12 months	\$50.60	\$30.40	NA	NA
13 - 24 months	\$48.10	\$29.00	NA	NA
25 - 48 months	\$41.30	\$25.20	NA	NA
49 - 72 months	\$29.00	\$18.50	\$22.90	\$24.50
73 months - 13 years	\$23.80	\$14.70	\$17.40	\$19.00

Child care homes

Child's age	Daily rates		Blended rates	
	Full	Part	Traditional	Extended
0 - 24 months	\$45.40	\$29.60	NA	NA
25-48 months	\$41.40	\$25.40	NA	NA
49-72 months	\$30.60	\$19.70	\$22.90	\$24.50
73 months - 13 years	\$23.80	\$14.70	\$17.40	\$19.00

Reminder: All of the Covid-related subsidy initiatives will continue through June 2023 including:

- Free subsidized child care for child care staff
- Coverage of subsidy co-payment for families, paid directly to providers
- Continuation of additional absent day payments
- Continuation of \$5 added to subsidy rate per child per day
- Continuation of full time payment for all school age children even when they only attend part time

NOVEMBER IS Native American Heritage Month

This annual month-long celebration is an opportunity to come together to honor and celebrate the culture, traditions, history, and contributions of American Indians and Alaskan Natives.

Twenty-two ways to celebrate Native American Heritage Month: <https://bit.ly/22WaysToCelebrate>

Oklahoma Native American Tribes:
<https://bit.ly/OKNativeAmericanTribes>



Teaching Young Kids about Gratitude

The upcoming holidays are the perfect time to teach young children a very important life lesson about gratitude that will last well past the season.

Gratitude is a high-level concept that can be tricky for toddlers and preschoolers. They are naturally self-focused in their early ages and stages of development. But as children grow with gratitude, they become more understanding of the needs and feelings of others.

So, how do we teach our children to be grateful? One way is to talk with them about being thankful. Not only for material things, but for acts of kindness from others, too.

<https://www.firstthingsfirst.org/first-things/teaching-young-kids-about-gratitude/>





Subsidy Spotlight

Special Needs Unit Type



Unit Type approved for a child with disabilities is in addition to the rate received for a typical child of the same age. To be authorized at this higher rate, the special needs process must be followed.

You, the provider, will initiate the special needs rate process by accessing the Special Needs Rate Request form, located on the Child Care Subsidy Handbook, Section T: Child Care Handbook (<https://childcarehandbook.oucpm.org/section-t>).

You, the client, and your licensing specialist must then complete the appropriate sections of the form. This form helps determine any extra care the child may require from you, how these care needs will be met, whether you meet certification requirements to receive the rate and what rate is approved.

Revisions made



Recently, revisions were completed on two of our most used publications. Since we are in a place where printing these is not an option, please use the links below.

- **Selecting Quality Child Care (87-91)**
<https://bit.ly/SelectingQualityChildCare>
- **Understanding the Licensing Process: Rights and Responsibilities (06-47).** <https://bit.ly/LicensingProcessRightsResponsibilities>