

FY19 Quality Initiative Overview & Application

What is a Quality Initiative? A Quality Initiative (QI) is an opportunity for early care and education programs to participate in professional development around a specific early care and learning topic. All Quality Initiatives through **thread** involve developing goals which support continuous quality improvement, participation in educational opportunities, technical assistance from a **thread** consultant, and grant funds to support goal implementation.

Early care and education programs licensed by the State of Alaska, Child Care Program Office or the Municipality of Anchorage, Child and Adult Care Licensing are eligible to apply. QI applications are submitted on a first-come-first-served basis while funding is available. Please check with the appropriate regional **thread** office to learn more about QI's.

What is the focus of the Quality Initiative? Early care and education programs who are eligible may select one of the following topics as the focus of their QI participation for the fiscal year (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019):

- **Accreditation** – This QI involves programs which are curious about the requirements and process involved to voluntarily become nationally accredited through either the National Association of Family Child Care (NAFCC) or the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Familiarization of the accreditation requirements allows programs the opportunity to reflect on the quality of their services and how these compare to national practices.
- **Environment Rating Scale (ERS)** – This QI supports programs which are seeking to improve the overall quality of their facility by making changes which impact the environment. Training on the use of the ERS assessment tool will introduce the importance of how the arrangement of the space and furnishings, personal care routines, language and literacy, learning activities, interactions, and program structure influence not only the safety and health of children but their development as well.
- **New Provider** – This QI assists programs which have been licensed for less than one year to self-identify strategies to strengthen their business practices, interactions with families, care of children, and/or health and safety practices. Newly licensed child care programs can become familiar with the various services available through **thread** and the System for Early Education Development (SEED) to support them in the early childhood profession.

What are the requirements to participate?

Requirements	
Submit QI Application	QI applications can be submitted to the appropriate regional thread office on a first-come-first-serve basis while funding is available. The QI application includes a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) to develop goals based on self-identified areas of improvement in relation to the QI focus.
SEED Registry	The program administrator, along with any additional educators involved in the QI, must be current in the SEED Registry. To join or renew the SEED Registry go to www.seedalaska.org .
Complete Education	Educational opportunities associated with the specific QI must be completed between July 1, 2018 and May 31, 2019: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accreditation – Complete thread's self-study which consists of three modules for a total of 6 hours. These modules can be taken separately but must be taken in order. • Environment Rating Scale – Complete thread's training "Introduction to the Environment Rating Scales (ERS)" for a total of 8 hours • New Provider – Complete any 4 hours of training through thread and participate in at least 2 hours of technical assistance from a thread consultant For more information about thread professional development opportunities and to register, go to www.threadalaska.org .
Consultation	Up to 5 hours of technical assistance to support goal implementation will be provided onsite, by phone, and/or through email from a thread consultant.
Grant Funds	Early care and education programs who successfully complete the QI requirements will receive grant funds in the amount of \$2,000.00. These funds are distributed to the early care program and will be mailed out within 90 days of the completion of all QI requirements. Participation to receive funds is on a first-come-first-serve basis while funding is available for the fiscal year (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019).
Evaluation	Upon completion of the QI, Early care and education programs must complete an evaluation to assess the services they received from thread through their participation in the QI. On this form the early care and education program will identify how the grant funds were used and how participation was beneficial to their program.

FY19 Quality Initiative Application – Page 1 of 2

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: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____ Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Is the program administrator, along with any additional educators involved in the QI, current in the SEED Registry?

Yes No

What type of early care and education program best describes your facility (select one)?

Child Care Center Family Child Care (FCC) Group Home

Which of the following age ranges do you serve (select all that apply)?

Infant/Toddler (under 36 months) Preschoolers (3 – 5 years) School Agers (5 – 12 years)

QI Selection (select one):

Accreditation Environment Rating Scale New Provider

Please describe at least two areas for your program to grow/develop in relation to the QI topic selected:

1.

2.

Please describe how participation in the QI 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, Child Care Program Office or the Municipality of Anchorage, Child and Adult Care Licensing
- I understand QI applications are submitted on a first-come-first-served basis while funding is available
- I agree to complete the requirements associated with the QI within the current fiscal year (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019) with the education requirement completed no later than May 31, 2019
- I acknowledge grant funds are issued to the early care and education program and not an individual

Signature

Date

Southcentral Alaska
3350 Commercial Drive, Suite 203
Anchorage, AK 99501
Tel: 907.265.3100
Toll Free: 800.278.3723
Fax: 907.265.3191

Southeast Alaska
3200 Hospital Drive, Suite 204
Juneau, AK 99801
Tel: 907.789.1235
Toll Free: 888.785.1235
Fax: 907.789.1238

Northern/Interior Alaska
1908 Old Pioneer Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709
Tel: 907.479.2214
Toll Free: 866.878.2273
Fax: 907.479.2486

FY19 Quality Initiative Application – Page 2 of 2

Early Care and Education Program: _____

Goal 1:

Steps to meet the goal	Person(s) Responsible	Hours Needed	Date to Complete
1.			
2.			
3.			

Program resources and people that may help me accomplish these steps:

Goal 2:

Steps to meet the goal	Person(s) Responsible	Hours Needed	Date to Complete
1.			
2.			
3.			

Program resources and people that may help me accomplish these steps:

Goal 3:

Steps to meet the goal	Person(s) Responsible	Hours Needed	Date to Complete
1.			
2.			
3.			

Program resources and people that may help me accomplish these steps: