



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - QUALITY COUNTS FAMILY CHILD CARE APPLICATION 2022

Thank you for your interest in the Alameda County Quality Counts program. Below are answers to frequently asked questions, followed by additional resources and information.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

As of May 19th, 2022

Do I need to currently care for a child with special needs to apply for the Early Identification option?

No, you do not need to care for a child with special needs to apply for the Early Identification option. The Early Identification option is beneficial to all providers to learn more about observing each child's development to ensure that children are learning and developing skills as we typically expect. Providers may also learn about a developmental screening tool, the [Ages and Stages Questionnaire*](#), to use with families to formally look at a child's development.

I care for a child with special needs who is 6-years-old, does this child count for prioritization?

No, the Quality Counts program is focused on children birth to 5-years-old. When submitting the QC application, please provide information for only children birth to 5 years old; please do not include information for children older than 5 (non-school age).

Do I need to have a large Family Child Care license?

No, you do not need to have a large Family Child Care license to apply to Alameda Quality Counts. Small Family Child Care providers are welcome to apply. All licensed Family Child Care providers [in good standing*](#) with Community Care licensing and caring for at least one child birth to 5 may apply.

Can I apply if I operate my FCC program out of an apartment?

Yes, you can apply and participate if you operate your FCC program out of an apartment.

Can I apply if I rent my home?

Yes, you can apply and participate if you rent your current residence.

I have families with subsidies, but my zip code is not in the prioritization list – can I still apply?

Yes, you can apply if you do not see your zip listed as a priority zip code. We encourage all eligible licensed FCCs operating in the county to apply.

Do I need to have all of the prioritization criteria to apply?

No, you do not need to have all of the prioritization criteria to apply. We encourage all eligible licensed FCCs operating in the county to apply.

I am licensed but do not have children enrolled yet – can I apply?

No, it is a requirement to have at least one child birth – 5 years old enrolled. Please see *Additional Resources* section below for more information about the [Child Care Initiative Project \(CCIP\)*](#) which provides support, including how to increase enrollment, to new Family Child Care providers.

How many children need to be enrolled to apply?

You need to have at least one child age birth to 5 enrolled to apply.

What support can I receive to complete the online QC Application?

Please visit <https://alamedakids.org/qualitycounts/enrollment.php> to access the following resources to complete the online QC application:

- A How-To Guide with screenshots and instructions; available in English, Spanish and Chinese
- Recordings with instructions for completing the online QC application; available in English, Spanish and Mandarin
- Register for an application support session with your questions about completing the QC application:
 - May 24th @ 6:30PM (English): <https://bit.ly/FCCAppSupport>
 - May 25th @ 6:30PM (Spanish): <https://bit.ly/FCCAppSupportSPANISH>
 - May 26th @ 6:30PM (Cantonese and Mandarin): <https://bit.ly/FCCAppSupportCHINESE>

When will I get notified about my application status?

Applicants will be notified of their application status by the end of the business day on July 15th, 2022.

What is the difference between the Early Identification and the Coaching for Continuous Quality Improvement options?

Please see the chart below for the differences between the two quality improvement options.

Program Components	Early Identification	Coaching for Continuous Quality Improvement
Memorandum of Understanding	No	Yes
Professional liability insurance required	No	Yes
Annual Reporting of site, children and staff information	Yes	Yes
Time Commitment and Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 – 4 activities <u>per year</u> • Ongoing support is available as needed, no specified term 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 – 3 activities <u>per month</u> • As funding allows, accepted participants may stay in program as desired
Professional Development (PD) Stipend for completion of 21 hours of PD	Yes	Yes
Quality Improvement Site Incentive	No	Yes
Professional Learning Community	No	Yes
Quality Improvement Plan	Yes, focused on early identification goals and strategies	Yes, may include more than one focus area topics
Topics	Early identification and communication with families;	Environment; Learning Activities for children; Health

	Developmental Screening (Ages and Stages Questionnaire)	and Safety, Early childhood development, interactions with children and families
QC Coach Support	Yes, focused on early identification and development screening	Yes, focused on a variety of topics noted in row above

I'm interested in the Coaching for Continuous Quality Improvement option; what happens if I decide that it is too much of a time commitment after I start?

If an FCC provider begins Coaching for Continuous Quality Improvement and decides that they no longer want to participate, they may notify a QC staff member in writing of their choice to discontinue. If the FCC provider requests to move to Early Identification, this request will be considered; however, there is no guarantee that there will be space in Early Identification.

If I participate in Early Identification for one year, may I then participate in Coaching Continuous Quality Improvement?

There is no guarantee that there will be space to move from Early Identification to Coaching for Continuous Quality Improvement in the future.

Am I able to participate in both options at the same time?

No, please select one option, Early Identification or Coaching for Continuous Quality Improvement. The online QC Application includes the following four options and applicants may choose one of the four options:

- Coaching for Continuous Quality Improvement Only
- Early Identification Only
- Both - 1st choice is Coaching for Continuous Quality Improvement; 2nd choice is Early Identification
- Both - 1st choice is Early Identification; 2nd choice is Coaching for Continuous Quality Improvement

Requests from FCC providers participating in Coaching for Continuous Quality Improvement who request to move to Early Identification will be considered; however, it is NOT guaranteed that a provider may switch from Coaching for Continuous Quality Improvement and is dependent on coach capacity.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- **Questions about Quality Counts?**
 - Email QCapplication@first5alameda.org
 - Visit <https://alamedakids.org/qualitycounts/enrollment.php>
- **Ages and Stages Questionnaire:** <https://agesandstages.com/about-asq/> , a developmental screening tool to use with families to formally look at a child's development.
- **California Early Care and Education Workforce Registry,** <https://caregistry.org/> , which is a statewide website that maintains demographic and verified educational information for members of the early care and education workforce. This system keeps track of your employment history, degrees, professional development hours, child development permits, credentials, and accomplishments.
- **California Early Childhood Online,** <https://www.caearlychildhoodonline.org/> , sponsored by the California Department of Education, provides online training modules on a variety of early childhood care and education topics.
- **Help Me Grow** <https://alamedakids.org/help-me-grow> , supports caregivers (parents, guardians, ECE professionals) who have questions about a child's behaviors and development, as well as developmental screening.
- **Child Care Initiative Project:** Provides support to those interested in becoming a licensed family child care provider, as well as support to new family child care owners.
 - *4Cs of Alameda County* (*Fremont, Castro Valley, Hayward, Newark, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Union City*)
 - Arlene Sandoval, English & Spanish, [\(510\) 736-2793](tel:5107362793) or arlenes@4c-alameda.org
 - Iris Lin, Chinese, [\(510\) 736-2755](tel:5107362755) or irisl@4c-alameda.org
 - *Bananas* (*Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland*)
 - providersupport@bananasbunch.org or [\(510\) 658-7353](tel:5106587353)
 - *Hively* (*Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton, Sunol*)
 - Donnamarie Fuller, dfuller@behively.org or [\(510\) 383-0179](tel:5103830179)
- **In good standing** with Community Care Licensing refers to a licensed child care center or family child care home that currently does not have any of the following:
 - A non-compliance conference (*Note that when this occurred is considered, such as if it has been more than 1 – 2 years since the non-compliance conference*).
 - An administrative action taken or in the process of being taken (includes denied application, denied exemption, temporary suspension order, expedited revocation action, revocation action or exclusion action that is being initiated, in process, or already taken)
 - A probationary License (See Health and Safety Code Sections 1596.773 and 1596.886.)