



# Infant/Toddler Contracted Slot Pilot Program

## Overview

The Infant/Toddler Contracted Slots Pilot Program is a collaboration between the State of Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) Child Care and Development Program (CCDP), Silver State Stars Quality Rating & Improvement System (QRIS), The Children’s Cabinet, and Las Vegas Urban League Early Childhood Connection. The purpose of this Pilot Program is to increase the number of licensed child care slots available in Nevada for children under the age of three years, increase the quality of care provided to infant/toddlers, and provide subsidy reimbursement at a rate that approaches the actual cost to provide infant and toddler care.

## How to Participate

Licensed providers who are interested in participating in this Pilot Program must complete an application. All interested providers must be registered with the Las Vegas Urban League or The Children’s Cabinet and meet the Eligibility Criteria listed below.

If a provider needs financial assistance to meet Eligibility Criteria, they can apply for an Infant/Toddler Quality Improvement Grant by indicating the need for a grant on the Infant/Toddler Contracted Slots Pilot Program Application. Providers will be given up to 60 calendar days the date their application was submitted to meet all the Eligibility Criteria.

Once all Eligibility Criteria is met, the provider must email [ccdp@dwss.nv.gov](mailto:ccdp@dwss.nv.gov) to continue moving forward in the program. At that time, an onsite validation visit will be scheduled. If the provider is currently participating in QRIS, the provider’s QRIS coach will verify the Contracted Slots Pilot Program requirements are being met. If the provider is not currently participating in QRIS, a CCDP Program Specialist will complete the onsite validation visit.

Once the Eligibility Criteria is validated, the Infant/Toddler Contracted Slots Pilot Program Approval Committee will review the child care provider’s capacity and availability to determine the number of slots that will be allocated. Approved providers will be required to sign an amendment to their Child Care Subsidy Service Agreement from Las Vegas Urban League or The Children’s Cabinet prior to being awarded the slots.

After the amendment is executed, child care providers will receive an approval notification to begin to fill the infant/toddler slots. The approved slot rate is \$20,000 per child for a one-year period, which will be paid monthly, beginning the month after verification of attendance. Providers must use their contracted slots for newly enrolled infants and/or toddlers who are eligible for the Nevada Child Care Subsidy Program. If a child who is enrolled in a contracted slot leaves the provider’s program, the provider can fill the slot with another newly enrolled Subsidy-eligible child (removal from the provider’s waitlist is acceptable).

## Eligibility Criteria

Any provider seeking to participate in this pilot must:

- Complete the Infant/Toddler Contracted Slots Pilot Program Application.
- Be in good standing with State/Washoe County Licensing, The Children’s Cabinet/Las Vegas Urban League, The Child Care & Development Program, and QRIS (if applicable).
- Be registered with the Las Vegas Urban League or The Children’s Cabinet to receive reimbursement for providing care for children enrolled in the Child Care Subsidy Program.
- Be a currently licensed child care provider without substantiated complaints, findings, or citations with the State of Nevada Child Care Licensing or Washoe County Child Care Licensing within the last 12 months.
- Be able to increase infant and/or toddler capacity in your home/facility without major renovations (e.g., structural changes to foundation, roof, floor, exterior or load-bearing walls of a facility, or the extension of a facility to increase its floor area, etc. (45 CFR 98.2)).

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- Prioritize infants and toddlers who are eligible for the Nevada Child Care Subsidy Program to fill the awarded slot(s). Slots can be filled by infants and toddlers who are currently on the provider’s waiting list, but not by children who are already enrolled in the provider’s program through a Subsidy Certificate.
- onsite validation visit(s)
- Agree to an in-person observation for non-QRIS participants

In order to apply for the Infant/Toddler Contracted Slots pilot, providers must meet the following criteria:

- The program has earned the QRIS Infant/Toddler Specialization Badge
- OR--
- The provider meets (or can meet within 60 calendar days) and agrees to maintain the following criteria:
  - o Achieve a 2.5 Infant and Toddler Environment Rating Scale (ITERS) or Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale (FCCERS) score (assessment scores obtain within the 24 months will be accepted if rating was performed by QRIS) --OR-- Agree to an in-person observation for non-QRIS participating sites.
  - o Ratios/Group Sizes: 1:4 for Infants with max 8 group size | 1:6 for toddlers with max 10 group size
  - o Outdoor Space: Providers must have appropriate toddler play space that is used daily that has at least three (3) different materials for toddler use.
  - o Screenings: Providers must provide a developmental screening that includes Social/Emotional Development. Referral information for the appropriate agency must also be provided to parents when children fall below cut-off scores.
  - o Safe Sleep: A safe sleep policy must be included in parent and staff handbooks and the policy must be posted near infant sleep areas. Infant and toddler teachers must remain up to date on SIDS policies and safe sleep trainings.
  - o Professional Development: All infant/toddler staff must have completed at least 8 hours of training specific to infant/ toddler care within the last 12 months of application date.
  - o Nutritional Services: Infant classroom(s) must provide a space for breastfeeding mothers and have adequate storage for breastmilk. Toddler classrooms must have a food service policy that includes USDA Menu Guidelines for parents who provide lunch for their child. Providers who supply food to children must follow the USDA Menu Guidelines. \* CACFP participation is strongly encouraged, but not a requirement.
  - o Curriculum Standards: Each classroom must have developmentally appropriate curriculum that is visibly posted and followed.
- Unoccupied Slot: In the event that a child leaves the contracted slot, provider agrees to fill the slot, following established program rules outlined above, within 60 calendar days from last occupancy.

### Pilot Program Timeline

October 1- December 31, 2022	Eligibility open to providers operating in the following zip codes: <b>Clark County:</b> 89030, 89101, 89102, 89103, 89104, 89106, 89107, 89108, 89110, 89115, 89119, 89121, 89122, 89169 <b>Washoe and Carson:</b> 89431, 89501, 89502, 89509, 89512, 89706 <b>Rural and Surrounding Areas:</b> 89048, 89447  Providers operating in these zip codes received a direct invitation to apply.
October 10, 2022	Applications will be reviewed and approved weekly.
November 1, 2022	Contracted slot reimbursement start date.
January 2, 2023	Eligibility open to providers outside the above “Promise Zones.”