



Infant & Toddler Slots F.A.Q.

Q: What are the Infant/Toddler Slots Pilot Program?

A: The Infant/Toddler 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 an enhanced rate.

Q: How many slots can I apply for:

A: Awarded slots are based on the provider’s ability to increase capacity and the number of available slots that can be distributed, while still maintaining ratio compliance, as follows:

- 1:4 for Infants with max 8 group size
- 1:6 for toddlers with max 10 group size

It is important to note that a provider is not guaranteed to be awarded as many slots as they apply for.

Q: How can I apply?

A: Licensed providers who are interested in participating in I/T Slot program must complete an application. The completed application should be emailed to ccdp@dwss.nv.gov titled, ‘I/T Slot Application’ on the subject line. All interested providers must be registered with the Las Vegas Urban League or The Children’s Cabinet and meet the Eligibility Criteria.

Q: What if I’m interested in Infant/Toddler Slots, but I am not QRIS participating? Can I still apply?

A: Yes! You do not have to be QRIS participating but must be at least waitlisted. If you are waitlisted, an assessor can work with the provider to verify that all of the eligible criteria have been met, with the exception of the ITERS/FCCERS score. Any provider that applies has sixty (60) calendar days from the date the application was received to ensure that they meet all the eligibility criteria. Until the eligibility criteria can be validated, the application will remain in pending status and slots cannot be issued, which may result in a denial in participating in this pilot program.

Q: What is a provisional approval?

A: If a provider is waitlisted at the time of applying or has not been assessed by QRIS, you could potentially be provisionally approved to participate in the Infant/Toddler Slots Pilot Program. In order to obtain this, a provider must be:

- Waitlisted with QRIS.
- Able to take subsidy-eligible infants and/or toddlers.
- In good standing with the Child Care and Development Program, Child Care Licensing (State or Washoe County), The Children’s Cabinet/Las Vegas Urban League, and QRIS.

- Have no substantiated citations within the past twelve (12) months.
- Meet all of the required eligibility criteria with the exception of the needed ITERS/FCCERS score.
- Participate in a validation visit(s) with the QRIS assessor to ensure the eligibility criteria is met.
- Sign a Provisional Approval Addendum.

Providers will be given no more than nine (9) months to obtain a ITERS/FCCERS rating with QRIS. If a provider does not maintain cooperation with QRIS and partners during this timeframe, fails to obtain the rating in the stated timeframe, or obtains a rating less than the required score of 2.5, infants and/or toddlers on the provisional slots will be transitioned to a normal subsidy certificate. This change will occur within sixty (60) days of the assessment. If a waitlisted provider receives their QRIS score that meets or exceeds the required score of 2.5, they will be issued a full standard award letter in lieu of their provisional award letter. The provider will need to sign an updated Infant/Toddler Slot Addendum as well.

Q: How can I apply if I am an active QRIS participant already?

A: Whether you are an active participant in QRIS or waitlisted, both the Quality Improvement Grant and the Infant/Toddler Slot Pilot Program applications are available on the nevadachildcare.org website. If you are participating in QRIS, you can also contact your coach and they can also help you through the application process.

Q: How can I obtain the Infant/Toddler Specialization Badge with QRIS?

A: Don't hesitate to contact your QRIS coach and apply for the QRIS Infant/Toddler Specialization Badge. The process is simple and takes anywhere between three (3) to seven (7) business days to obtain if you meet the eligibility criteria. The QRIS Infant/Toddler Specialization Badge will also qualify your program for the Infant/Toddler Slots Pilot Program from the State of Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS). You are welcome to contact the QRIS administrator, Sara Kharrat, at sara.kharrat@doe.nv.gov if you have questions regarding the QRIS Infant/Toddler Specialization Badge.

Q: Once I am awarded a slot, can I fill the slot with an existing subsidy eligible child attending my program?

A: No. The purpose of Infant/Toddler Slots is to increase capacity. Awarded slots must be filled by subsidy eligible children, not currently attending your program. This can include children on your waiting list (if applicable). For clarification, the new infants and/or toddlers do not need to be new to the subsidy program, just new to the child care home/business.

Q: Can I be reimbursed for a new subsidy slot filled, prior to receiving my award letter from the CCDP?

A: Unfortunately, no. To ensure that quality and licensing standards are being met, there must be a validation visit either performed by your QRIS coach or an Assessor. Until this validation can assess your capacity to grow and ensure quality standards, we are unable to issue an approval. Therefore, payment cannot be paid retroactively to the date that the application was submitted.

Q: What if my slot becomes vacant?

A: Providers will have to report the vacancy to the CCR&R. From there the provider will have up to sixty (60) calendar days to fill the slot with another **new** subsidy eligible child to your home/business. Failure to fill the slot within the required timeframe may result in the slot being rescinded and redistributed to another provider.

Q: Do I still get paid if/when my slot is vacant?

A: No, you only are paid for the months in which there is a subsidy-eligible infant or toddler in the slot and that they have attended at least one day in the month.

Q: What if I am interested in applying for an Infant/Toddler Slot, but I do not meet the minimum requirements?

A: Providers who currently do not meet the minimum requirements, may apply for Infant/Toddler Quality Improvement Grant. The purpose of this grant to assist providers in meeting the minimum requirements. Things covered by the grant, include but are limited to:

- **Outdoor Space:** Providers must have appropriate toddler play space that is used daily that has at least three (3) different materials for toddler use.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Curriculum Standards:** Each classroom must have developmentally appropriate curriculum that is visibly posted and followed.

Please note, that any funds awarded through the Quality Improvement Grant are proportionate to the number of infant and/or toddler slots a provider is awarded. For example, if a provider is awarded three (3) infant slots and one (1) toddler slots but request five (5) infant cribs and ten (10) toddler cots, they would only be awarded the three (3) infant cribs and one (1) toddler cot to accommodate the increase in capacity. Additionally, with the Quality Improvement Grant, there will be no exchange of monies once awarded. Providers will work with their respective CCR&R Agency Case Manager to create shopping carts with registered vendors and the items will be shipped directly to the provider.

Q: Is this money taxable?

A: Yes, all monies awarded through the slot pilot program and the Quality Improvement Grant are taxable.

Q: How long will this program be available?

A: This pilot program is funded by ARPA-Discretionary funds. Funds are available through September 30, 2024. It is important to note that if the Infant/Toddler slots are shown to fill a high need, this program may be extended based on available funding opportunities upon the liquidation of the ARPA funds, but it is not guaranteed.

Q: What is the reimbursement amount?

A: The Provider will be reimbursed at \$20,000 annually for (\$1,667) prorated monthly, for each I/T Slot. The final payment will be \$1,663 to total the \$20,000.

Q: Am I expected to reinvest this money?

A: Reimbursing providers at an enhanced rate. It is encouraged that providers reinvest back into their program: increase teacher wages (livable wages), increase capacity, improve quality, assist in stabilizing the workforce, increase attendance for infant and/or toddlers in the classroom.

Q: Am I required to still charge families a co-payment?

A: Yes. The enhanced rate does not remove family's obligation to pay co-payments, fees, etc. The enhanced reimbursement rate is intended to stabilize the workforce.