

Infant & Toddler Slots F.A.Q.



Q: What is Infant/Toddler Slots?

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: Applications will be emailed out to selected providers within designated promise zones from October 2022 - December 31, 2022. Effective January 1, 2023, the program will be available to the entire state. Application review and approval can take up to 30 days.

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. However, non-QRIS participants must agree to an in-person observation within 60 days of application date.

Q: How can I apply if I am a QRIS program?

A: Don't hesitate to contact your QRIS coach and apply for the QRIS Infant/Toddler specialization. The process is simple and takes 3-7 business days if you meet the eligibility criteria. The QRIS Infant/Toddler specialization will qualify your program for the Infant/Toddler slots 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.

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 in your program. This can include children on your waiting list (if applicable).

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 60 calendar days to fill the slot with another new subsidy eligible child. Failure to fill the slot within the required timeframe may result in the slot being rescinded and redistributed to another provider.

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,

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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.

Q: How long will this program be available?

A: This pilot program is funded by ARPA-Discretionary funds. Funds are available through 9/30/2024. 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.

Q: What is the reimbursement amount?

A: Reimbursement is \$20,000 yearly, prorated monthly at \$1,667.

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.