



Infant/Toddler Contracted Slot Pilot Program

Overview

The Infant/Toddler Contracted Slots Pilot Program (I/T Slot) 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 I/T Slot 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 listed below. In addition to the Infant / Toddler Contracted Slot, if a provider needs financial assistance to meet the Eligibility Criteria listed below, they can apply for an Infant/Toddler Quality Improvement Grant (Grant) by indicating the need for a grant on the Infant/Toddler Contracted Slots Pilot Program Application. Additionally, the Grant must be emailed to ccdp@dwss.nv.gov titled, ‘I/T Slot Grant Application’ on the subject line.

After your application is received, an onsite validation visit will be scheduled. If the provider is currently participating in QRIS, the provider’s QRIS coach will verify the I/T Slot requirements are met. If the provider is not currently participating in QRIS and is currently waitlisted, an assessor can work with the provider to obtain the quality eligibility criteria listed below for a provisional approval. The provider will have sixty (60) calendar days from the date the application was received to ensure they meet all the eligibility criteria. Until the eligibility criteria can be validated, the application will remain pending and Infant/Toddler Contracted Slot(s) will not be awarded.

If the Provider is waitlisted with QRIS and meets the Eligibility Criteria, the Quality Eligibility Criteria with the exception of an ITERS/FCCERS score from QRIS, the provider may be provisionally approved. During the provisional approval period, the provider will have nine (9) months to obtain a QRIS Rating. Provisional approval is limited to those providers/sites who are actively working to obtain their ITERS/FCCERS score with QRIS. Should a provider fail to obtain the ITERS/FCCERS score within nine (9) months, or does not meet the required minimum score of 2.5 or higher at time of assessment, the infant(s) and/or toddler(s) in the I/T Slot will be transitioned from a Provisionally Approved slot to a standard subsidy certificate, and will be reimbursed at the standard daily reimbursement rate. This change will be effective within sixty (60) calendar days from the date of the assessment.

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 allowing infant/toddler slots to be filled. The approved slot rate is for \$20,000 for a one-year period, which will be prorated monthly (\$1,667), beginning the month after verification of attendance. Providers must use their contracted slots for newly enrolled infants and/or toddlers with their business, 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 subsidy eligible child (removal from the provider’s waitlist is acceptable).

Quality Eligibility Criteria

In order to ensure quality Infant/Toddler Contracted Slots pilot slots, providers must meet the following criteria:

- The program has earned the QRIS Infant/Toddler Specialization Badge
- OR--
- The provider meets and agrees to maintain the following criteria throughout the program:
 - 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)
 - ❖ Waitlisted sites with QRIS will have nine (9) months to complete these criteria under a provisional approval. All other criteria listed below must be met to prior to securing a provisional approval.
 - Ratios/Group Sizes: 1:4 for Infants with max 8 group size | 1:6 for toddlers with max 10 group size
 - 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.
- 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.

Eligibility Criteria

Any provider seeking to participate in the I/T Slot pilot must also:

- 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)).

- 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.
 - Agree to onsite validation visit(s) from a QRIS coach.
—OR—
 - Agree to onsite validation visit(s) from an assessor for waitlisted QRIS sites (applies to non-QRIS participating sites).
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