



Summary Notice of Funding Availability

Reporting Form

DHHS Division/Office Issuing This Notice: Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE)

Date of This Notice: October 17, 2025

Program Name: Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Support and Supplement Study

Purpose of the RFA: This Request for Applications (RFA) aims to identify supports needed to increase participation in North Carolina's modernized QRIS Pathways to the Stars among Family Child care Homes, Centers Located in a Residence, and small capacity centers serving 50 or fewer children, with emphasis on rural areas and counties where child care deserts exist. This will be achieved through conducting the Quality Rating and Improvement System Study. The successful applicant will create an implementation plan to conduct outreach and eligibility determination, pre and post surveys with participating providers, coordination of four webinars with participation tracking, and interim and final reporting to support QRIS supplement participation.

Description: The successful applicant will develop a plan to conduct and distribute pre/post surveys to a minimum of 2,500 Family Child Care Homes, CLIARs, eligible centers, and rural facilities to assess current knowledge of the three QRIS pathways, readiness to apply, how they would use the funding to support the requirements of their selected QRIS pathway. Analyzing survey data to identify trends and patterns in participant responses.

Funding Availability: This RFA is for a 6-month funding cycle. One award of up to \$955,931.00 will be made under this RFA to provide services set forth in the Scope of Services. The contract period is expected to be February 2, 2026 – July 31, 2026. DCEE will determine the actual funding amount based on the proposed execution of the project and the utilization of funds as outlined in the successful applicant's proposal, pending funding availability.

Applicant Eligibility: This RFA is open to state agencies and universities, public and private nonprofit organizations with a current 501(c)(3) standing with knowledge of North's Carolina's early childhood education mixed delivery system and expertise in developmentally and culturally appropriate practices for young children birth – 12 years of age.

How to Apply:

EMAIL an electronic PDG of your application to the NC Division of Child Development and Early Education via this email: DCDEE.Contracts.Unit.RFA@dhhs.nc.gov

The signature of an authorized official is required on the application face sheet. An electronic

signature or an electron scanned copy of the signed application face sheet will be accepted. **Only electronic application submissions via email will be accepted**, i.e, do not mail, fax, or deliver copies of the application to DCDEE's physical or mailing address.

Intent to Apply:

Eligible agencies and/or organizations interested in applying for RFA are encouraged to notify DCDEE of their intent to apply via the following link, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BMBRZ3M> no later than **5:00 p.m., December 15, 2025.**

Agencies and/or organizations are **not** required to notify of their intent to respond to this RFA; this information is requested to assist DCDEE in planning. Responses to this notice of intent are not binding and will not impact the review and scoring of your RFA submission. Data from this survey is used by the State PREP Team for planning and research purposes only.

PRE-APPLICATION CONFERENCE: DCDEE will host the Pre-Application Conference for this RFA on **December 1, 2025, at 1:30 pm.** During this time, an overview of the RFA will be presented along with an opportunity for Q&A. Please click the link to join the session.

Join from the webinar link

<https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/j.php?MTID=m78b02141654580c8d6b31a2adce31634>

Join by the webinar number

Webinar number (access code): 2426 619 8876

Webinar password: study (78839 when dialing from a phone or video system)

Panelist password: yduts (93887 when dialing from a phone or video system)

Tap to join from a mobile device (attendees only)

+1-646-992-2010,,24266198876#78839# United States Toll (New York City)

+1-202-860-2110,,24266198876#78839# United States Toll (Washington D.C.)

Some mobile devices may ask attendees to enter a numeric password.

DIRECT ALL INQUIRIES concerning this RFA in writing to: Celeste Pleasant, Contracts Specialist Email address: DCDEE.Contracts.Unit.RFA@dhhs.nc.gov

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:

Applications, subject to the following conditions, must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., **December 22, 2025.**