FFY 2021 Quality Progress Report (QPR)

November 17, 2021

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(during the webinar)

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Agenda

- Overview of the QPR
- The Sections of the Report
  - Highlighting ARP Act Changes
- Key Dates
- FAQs

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What is the Quality Progress Report (QPR)?

- A description of activities that were funded with quality expenditures

- A mechanism to evaluate progress in improving the quality of child care programs and services

- An **annual report** that describes how quality funds were expended as required by the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014

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What information does the QPR collect?

- Basic **data** on the population of providers in the state or territory

- **Goals** for quality improvement and **definitions**

- Specific information related to each of the **10 authorized uses** of quality funds

- Estimated **spending amounts** from CCDF and non-CCDF sources

- **Progress updates** on program goals since FFY 2020 QPR submission

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How will the QPR be used?

- To ensure **accountability** for the use of CCDF quality funds, including the set-aside for quality infant and toddler care and the stabilization grants funded by the ARP Act

- To track **progress** toward meeting state- and territory-set indicators and benchmarks for improvement of child care quality based on what is described in their CCDF Plans

- To inform federal **technical assistance** efforts and decisions regarding strategic use of quality funds

- To understand efforts in progress towards all child care settings meeting the developmental needs of children

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How does the QPR fit in with other quality data Lead Agencies must submit?

CCDF Plan → **QPR** → **ACF-901** → **ACF-696**

CCDF Plan
- 10 authorized uses of quality funds
- Identify progress measures

QPR
- Data to show progress
- Quantify benefits of CCDF quality improvement funds
- Collect aggregate information on ARP Stabilization Grants

ACF-901
- Collect provider-level information on ARP Stabilization Grants

ACF-696
- Identify how much is spent on quality activities

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What data should Lead Agencies use?

- Data from October 1, **<u>2020</u>** to September 30, **<u>2021</u>**
  - Cumulative totals for the fiscal year (unless otherwise stated)
- Data related to CCDF requirements and/or quality improvement activities
  - Lead Agency data
  - Data collected by other government (e.g., PDG) and non-government agencies (e.g., CCR&R agencies or other TA providers) as appropriate
- Progress Updates: Progress on goals specified in **FFY2019-2021 CCDF State Plan** achieved between October 1, 2020 and September 30, 2021

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Changes to FFY 2021 QPR

- Added a few new items of relevance and removed no longer applicable items

- Additional questions added to all spending sections to identify use of funding from the CRRSA Act and ARP Act
  - Lead Agencies will still report on quality expenditures using CCDF and CARES

- Additional questions added on aggregate ARP Act stabilization grants information (Section 13)

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Alignment between the 10 Uses, the FY2019-2021 Plan, and QPR Sections

The 10 Uses	FY2019-2021 Plan Section	QPR Section
1. Support the training and professional development of the child care workforce	Sections 6 and 7 (6.2 and 7.3)	2
2. Improve the development or implementation of early learning and development guidelines	Section 6 (6.3)	3
3. Develop, implement, or enhance a quality rating and improvement system for child care providers	Section 7 (7.4)	4
4. Improve the supply and quality of child care for infants and toddlers	Section 7 (7.5)	5
5. Establish or expand a statewide system of child care resource and referral services	Section 7 (7.6)	6
6. Support compliance with State or Territory requirements for licensing, inspection, monitoring, training, and health and safety	Section 7 (7.7)	7
7. Evaluate the quality of child care programs in the State or Territory, including how programs positively impact children	Section 7 (7.8)	8
8. Support providers in the voluntary pursuit of accreditation	Section 7 (7.9)	9
9. Support the development or adoption of high-quality program standards related to health, mental health, nutrition, physical activity, and physical development	Section 7 (7.10)	10
10. Other activities to improve the quality of child care services supported by outcome measures that improve provider preparedness, child safety, child well-being, or kindergarten-entry	Section 7 (7.11)	11

The Sections of the QPR: Introduction

- Discusses the purpose of the QPR, the data to be used and collected, how the QPR is organized, and timelines

- Includes a Glossary of Terms relevant for the report

- If a term is not listed in the glossary, the state or territory definition should be used (and described where appropriate)

KEY CHANGE
The terminology "Legally exempt" was updated throughout the document to align with CCDF Plan language that refers to "License-exempt" providers.

REMINDER
The definitions of "Teacher" and "Family Child Care Provider" include assistants/aides. They should be included in any numbers that ask for these terms (e.g., 2.3 and 2.4)

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The Sections of the QPR: Section 1

Overview

- *Goal: To gain an understanding of the availability of child care in the state or territory, please provide the following information on the total number of child care providers.*

  – Total child care provider population

  – Goals for quality improvement

    - Corresponds to needs assessment discussed in Question 7.1.2 of the FFY2019-2021 plan

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12

The Sections of the QPR: Section 2

Supporting the training and professional development of the child care workforce

- *Goal: Ensure the lead agency's professional development systems or framework provides initial and ongoing professional development and education that result in a diverse and stable child care workforce with the competencies and skills to support all domains of child development.*
  - Progression of professional development
  - Supports made available to teachers/providers
  - Total numbers and qualifications of licensed directors, teachers, and providers as well as numbers that serve CCDF children
  - *NEW* Types of professional development

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The Sections of the QPR: Section 2

- 2.3 and 2.4 - Lead Agencies will have the option to report on number of staff with an "other" degree
  - *NEW* Must define "other" degree
  - "Other" must be a category that is different from one already listed in the QPR
- 2.5 – *NEW* question on types of professional development
  - Must define "other" if adding a topic of professional development

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<u>REMINDER</u>
2.1.3 "Participants" refers to teachers/providers

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The Sections of the QPR: Section 3

Improving early learning and development guidelines

- *Goal: To ensure the lead agency has research-based early learning and development guidelines appropriate for children birth to age 12, including children with special needs and dual language learners, that are used to inform practice, professional development, and families.*

  - Changes or updates to guidelines

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The Sections of the QPR: Section 4

Developing, implementing, or enhancing a quality rating improvement system (QRIS) and other transparent system of quality indicators

- *Goal: To ensure the lead agency implements a quality rating and improvement system, or other quality rating system, to promote high-quality early care and education programs.*
  - Definition of high quality care
  - QRIS status and participating provider types
  - Number of programs and children in high quality care and participating in QRIS by provider type
  - Number of programs with grants, stipends, TA, or high subsidy rates connected to QRIS by provider type

KEY CHANGES
No longer asks for *change* in QRIS status – now simply asks for QRIS status (4.1)
NEW Adds additional participating provider types (4.2)
NEW Adds reporting on programs serving children who receive CCDF

REMINDER
Report on your own transparent system of quality indicators throughout this section if you do not have a QRIS, even if not explicitly stated

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The Sections of the QPR: Section 5

Improving the supply and quality of child care programs for infants and toddlers

- *Goal: Ensure adequate and stable supply of high quality child care with a qualified, skilled workforce to promote the healthy development of infants and toddlers.*
  - Numbers of infant and toddler specialists and infant and toddler health consultants
  - Numbers of programs receiving coaching and percent of those serving children who receive CCDF by provider type
  - Analysis conducted of supply and demand for infant and toddler slots
  - Number of staffed FCC networks supported by CCDF funds

REMINDER
Refer to the Glossary of Terms for the definition of "staffed FCC networks" for 5.5

REMINDER
CCDF quality spending percentage should only include funds spent in addition to the required 3% infant and toddler set-aside

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The Sections of the QPR: Section 6

Establishing, expanding, modifying, or maintaining a statewide system of child care resource and referral services

- *Goal: Lead agency provides services to involve families in the development of their children, information on a full range of child care options, and assistance to families in selecting child care that is appropriate for the family's needs and is high quality as determined by the lead agency.*
  - How CCDF funds were used to establish, expand, modify, or maintain a statewide or territory-wide system of CCR&R

> **KEY CHANGES**
> Removed item about symbols and icons
> Officially added "maintaining" CCR&R to section

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The Sections of the QPR: Section 7

Facilitating compliance with lead agency requirements for inspection, monitoring, health and safety standards and training, and lead agency licensing standards

- *Goal: To ensure child care providers maintain compliance with lead agency licensing, inspection, monitoring, and health and safety standards and training.*
  - Alignment of standards with other programs
  - Complaints regarding child care providers
  - Numbers of child care staff receiving coaching or TA to improve understanding of standards by provider type
  - *NEW* Providers who received virtual monitoring

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The Sections of the QPR: Section 8

Evaluating and assessing the quality of child care programs in the state or territory, including evaluating how programs positively impact children

- *Goal: Lead agency investment in effective quality improvement strategies using reliable data from evaluation and assessment.*
  - Assessment tools used in center-based and family child care programs to measure quality and effective practice

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The Sections of the QPR: Section 9

Supporting providers in the voluntary pursuit of accreditation

- *Goal: Support child care programs and FCCs in the voluntary pursuit of accreditation by a national accrediting body with demonstrated, valid, and reliable program standards of quality.*
  - Numbers of providers supported in their pursuit of accreditation by provider type

> **KEY CHANGE**
> *NEW* Adds reporting on programs serving children who receive CCDF (9.1)

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The Sections of the QPR: Section 10

Supporting the development or adoption of high-quality program standards related to health, mental health, nutrition, physical activity, and physical development

- *Goal: Assist programs to meet high-quality comprehensive program standards relating to health, mental health, nutrition, physical activity, and physical development.*
  - Quality improvement standards that include established indicators

The Sections of the QPR: Section 11

Other activities to improve the quality of child care services supported by outcome measures that improve provider preparedness, child safety, child well-being, or kindergarten-entry

- *Goal: To improve the quality of child care programs and services related to outcomes measuring improved provider preparedness, child safety, child well-being, or kindergarten-entry.*
  - Support provided to child care providers due to COVID-19 pandemic – grants and PPE
  - *NEW* Investment in data systems
  - *NEW* Analysis of supply and demand
  - *NEW* How supply building grants were used with lens towards Diversity, Equity, and *Inclusion* (DEI)
  - *NEW* General provider support
  - *NEW* Support for technical assistance

KEY CHANGES
Added items about data (11.3), supply (11.4), DEI (11.5), general supports (11.6), technical assistance (11.7)

REMINDER
Do NOT include ARP Stabilization Grants in 11.1 and 11.2

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The Sections of the QPR: Section 11 – Sustainability

- What should be included in the description for 11.1?
  - A description of any program designed to sustain the child care field and/or provide financial relief (one-time and/or ongoing) to child care programs based on the impact of COVID-19
    - If no data is available on the number of providers served, use the N/A box to describe why the data is unavailable
  - Description should **NOT** include information on ARP Stabilization grants (this is reported in Section 13)
  - If funds were provided specifically to purchase supplies ONLY (i.e., no other use of the funds) include this in 11.2

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The Sections of the QPR: Section 11 - Supplies

- What should be included in the description for 11.2?
  - A description of any program designed to provide supplies/PPE (e.g., cleaning supplies, masks, gloves, plexiglass dividers, etc.) to the child care field based on the impact of COVID-19
    - If no data is available on the number of providers served, use the N/A box to describe why the data is unavailable
  - Include a description if funds were provided specifically to purchase supplies ONLY (i.e., no other use of the funds)

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The Sections of the QPR: Section 12

Reporting of annual review of serious injuries and deaths in programs receiving CCDF funding and any changes to state or territory regulations, enforcement mechanisms, or other policies addressing health and safety based on annual review and assessment

– The "annual report" referred to in this item is the response the state provides to questions (a) and (b) (no additional document is required)

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The Sections of the QPR: Section 13

- *NEW* Section to collect aggregate information on the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Stabilization Grants

- Only report on ARP Stabilization Grants
  - If CRRSA was used to provide stabilization grants, report on this in Section 11

- System check (13.0) asks if funds were released ***before*** December 1, 2021
  - **If No:** Complete projected or actual date on or after December 1, 2021 for 13.1 and 13.2 – end of the Section 13
  - **If Yes:** Complete entire Section 13

The Sections of the QPR: Section 13

- Aggregate information on the following:
  - Timing of applications (13.1) and payment to providers (13.2)
  - Number of stabilization grants awarded/approved by provider type
  - The minimum, maximum, and average provider stabilization grant award amounts and average number of awards made to the same provider
  - Average provider licensed or identified capacity by provider type and age of children
  - Number of stabilization grants awarded to providers by gender, race and ethnicity, and operating in high need FIPS codes
    - OCC provided FIPS codes for each jurisdiction. Report only on number of providers for each designated FIPS code

The Sections of the QPR: Section 13

- Number of grants provided for specific uses
- If the lead agency ran more than one grant program using ARP Stabilization funds only
- If certain providers were targeted for grants and if certain uses of stabilization grants were prioritized
- Supports available to providers during the application process and after receipt of stabilization grants
- Methods to eliminate fraud, waste, and abuse when providing stabilization grants

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The Sections of the QPR: Progress Updates

- Lead Agencies only need to report progress in areas supported by CCDF quality funds
  - Description required of progress or barriers (when no progress was made) for each progress question
- Lead Agencies are not required to submit amendments to their plans if their quality goals changed since the initial submission of the **FFY2019-2021 CCDF Plan**
- If change occurred **<u>during FFY 2021</u>**, Lead Agency should describe the new goal and progress towards meeting newly described goal

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The Sections of the QPR: Spending

- Lead Agencies will report spending in each section from the following sources
  - CCDF quality set aside
  - Non-CCDF funds
  - CARES funds
  - CRRSA funds
  - ARP Act Supplemental Funds
  - ARP Act Stabilization administrative set-aside (10%) ONLY
- Report the amount of funds spent for each funding source and describe how funds were used
- Must describe if indicating "N/A"

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General Guidance

- Remember, the FFY 2021 QPR covers quality activities from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021

- Except for Section 13, report on all CCDF and non-CCDF funding sources other than the 90% ARP Stabilization Grants

- Please spell out all acronyms

- The QPR is submitted via the ACF-118/218 submission site

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Key Dates

- **December 2021**
  - New PI and pre-print available online
  - Submission site open
  - Technical submission process training

- **December 31, 2021**
  - Quality Progress Report **DUE**

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- How is the FFY 2021 QPR different from the FFY 2020 QPR?
  - Added a few new items of relevance and removed no longer applicable items.
  - Additional questions added to all spending sections to identify use of funding from the ARP Act, CRRSA Act.
    - Lead Agencies will still report on quality expenditures using CCDF and CARES.
  - Additional questions added on aggregate ARP Act stabilization grants information (Section 13).

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- Should I only report CCDF Lead Agency data?
  - No. QPR is not limited to CCDF data sources only.
  - Lead Agencies may use data collected by other government and nongovernment agencies (e.g., CCR&R agencies or other TA providers) as appropriate. Allow time to gather what is needed. For example, licensing or early learning guideline (ELG) info may come from another agency.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- Should I only report on activities that have been funded by CCDF?
  - No. QPR is not limited to CCDF funding sources only.
  - States should report information related to any non-CCDF funds (e.g., TANF funds spent directly on quality, Preschool Development Funds, state or local funds) used **in support of CCDF requirements or allowable quality activities** for the stated purpose (e.g., training and professional development of the child care workforce) **regardless of whether or not the funds were administered by the CCDF Lead Agency**.

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- Are states/territories required to report exact spending amounts for non-CCDF expenditures?
  - No. These amounts are estimates, however, they should be more than just a "ballpark" figure.

- What if I only have partial data for an item?
  - When in doubt, **report it!** Use the "Describe" box for that item to explain your data.

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- What are "Describe" boxes used for?
  - Contextual information to support the data reported (e.g., explain the State/Territory or CCDF monitoring visit requirements).
  - Narrative updates, including any plans for reporting data in the future, if actual data are not currently available.
  - When in doubt, use **Describe!**

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- What does "N/A" refer to? And how do I use it?
  - It depends…
  - Check "N/A" if the data is not available and **DESCRIBE WHY.**
  - Check "N/A" if the item asked for is not applicable and **DESCRIBE WHY.**
  - Check "N/A" if you do not have information for a particular group or if your State/Territory does not have data on a particular item and **DESCRIBE WHY.**

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- If it asks for a number can I enter text?
  - No. These fields are numerical for statistical computing purposes and will not accept anything other than numbers.
  - But what if I really need to explain the number?!
    - That is what **DESCRIBE** is for! Please explain your number here.

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Questions?