



CALIFORNIA INFANT/TODDLER (I/T) QUALITY RATING AND IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM (QRIS) BLOCK GRANT

Request for Application (RFA)
Guidance Webinar
January 21, 2016
Presented by
Early Education and Support Division
California Department of Education



TOM TORLAKSON
State Superintendent
of Public Instruction

Purpose of Webinar

- To review the 2015–17 I/T QRIS Block Grant application posted as a Request for Applications (RFA)
Topics will include:
 - RFA
 - Attachments

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/fo/r2/itqrisbg15rfa.asp>



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Outline

- RFA Overview
- Two Levels of Eligibility
 - Consortia with QRIS Plans on File
 - New QRIS Consortia
- Critical Dates
- Funding
- Application
- Scoring
- Forms A-F



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RFA Overview

A. Purpose:

To award \$24.163 million in I/T QRIS
Block Grants to local consortia

B. Background:

Utilization of the existing Quality
Continuum Framework, Rating Matrix,
and Implementation Guide

C. Funding:

State General Funds from 7/1/15
through 6/30/17



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General Eligibility

- Be a local consortium that is:
 - Using the Quality Continuum Framework
 - Utilizing a Tiered Rating Matrix that includes the 3 Common Tiers
 - Operating a QRIS on or before **1/1/16** (rating early care and educational programs)
 - Inclusive of stakeholders



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Consortia with QRIS Plans on File

- Have an existing 2015–16 CSPP QRIS Block Grant award and maintained a good standing status
- Be a local consortium
- Submit a Letter of Intent (Form A)

Form A. Letter of Intent
For All Applicants
I/T QRIS Block Grant Funding
Due on January 27, 2016 by midnight
PLEASE COMPLETE EVERY PORTION OF FORM

Local QRIS Consortium Lead Agency Name	
Address	
City	
ZIP Code	
Executive Director (ED)'s Name	
ED's E-mail Address	
ED's Phone Number	
CSPP QRIS Block Grant Lead Agency. if not the above	
Consortium Co-Lead Agency Executive Director if not the above Consortium ED	



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New QRIS Consortia

All applicants with a new QRIS consortium must:

On 1/27/16,
submit a Letter of Intent (Form A):

and...

Form A. Letter of Intent

For All Applicants

I/T QRIS Block Grant Funding

Due on January 27, 2016 by midnight

PLEASE COMPLETE EVERY PORTION OF FORM

Local QRIS Consortium Lead Agency Name	
Address	
City	
ZIP Code	
Executive Director (ED)'s Name	
ED's E-mail Address	
ED's Phone Number	
CSPP QRIS Block Grant Lead Agency. if not the above	
Consortium Co-Lead Agency Executive Director if not the above Consortium ED	
Consortium Service Area (county/counties)	

On behalf of the above agency, I hereby formally submit to the California Department of Education, Early Education and Support Division (EESD), this "Intent to Submit Application" form. I understand that this form **is mandatory to be considered for funding.**

Consortium Executive Director's Signature:	Date:
Consortium Co-Lead Agency Executive Director's Signature:	Date:

ATTENTION NEW QRIS CONSORTIUM APPLICANTS: This letter of intent must be



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New QRIS Consortia

- Demonstrate its local QRIS was operational before the release date of this RFA by confirming that at least one of its participating programs has been formally rated in accordance with the Implementation Guide.
- Submit documentation of a complete site rating that includes the results from a reliable external assessor on the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) and appropriate Environment Rating Scales (ERS) tool.



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All Applicants

Demonstrate support for this I/T QRIS Block Grant Plan by submitting Form C, which begins on page 43 of the RFA with the signatures of key consortium

Form C. Consortium Participants

I. Consortium Participants

- The local consortium shall include representatives from the following A–E organizations. Section I.F is optional.
- Fill out the required information and secure stakeholders' signatures.
- When completing this section, if the signature of a consortium lead is on Form B, then on the signature line write "See Form B".
- Add additional signature blocks as needed.
- If applying as a region, the required participants for each county in the regions must be included. Copy pp. 43-46 for each county's A–E representatives.
- Signing this Section means that representatives have read and concur with the application that is being submitted.

A. Local Educational Agency (at least one of the following are **Required):**

1. County Office of Education:

_____	_____	_____	_____
Title	Print Name	Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____	_____
E-mail	Phone Number	Fax Number	

2. School District/Charter School add contact and signatures as needed.

District Name: _____

_____	_____	_____	_____
Title	Print Name	Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____	_____
E-mail	Phone Number	Fax Number	



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Consortium Participants

- LEA(s)
- First 5 County Commission
- Post-Secondary Institution(s)
- Local Planning Council
- Local R & R(s)
- Other Agencies providing services to children from birth to five



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- LEA(s)
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Consortia with QRIS Plans on File

Update your CSPP QRIS Block Grant Plan, if needed, using Form D, which begins on p. 47 of the RFA.

Form D. Consortium's QRIS Plan

II. The Consortium's Quality Rating and Improvement System

A. An Overview of the consortium's current Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)

A1. Describe the local Early Learning Community.

A2. Provide background information on the development of your local QRIS.

A3. Describe the challenges and barriers in operating your local QRIS.



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New QRIS Consortia

Develop your CSPP QRIS Block Grant Plan, using Form D, which begins on p. 47 of the RFA.

Form D. Consortium's QRIS Plan

II. The Consortium's Quality Rating and Improvement System
A. An Overview of the consortium's current Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)
A1. Describe the local Early Learning Community.
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New QRIS Consortia

- On the week of 2/8/2016, there will be a follow-up webinar for the New QRIS Consortia applicants to go over Form D and Form F (Budget Narrative and Spreadsheet)
- Additional information will be sent to those who have met the eligibility criteria
- Submit questions in advance to PSQRISBG@cde.ca.gov



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All Applicants

Set ambitious yet achievable targets for providers serving infants and toddlers participating in the local QRIS with the goal of achieving the highest common tier

- Use the Rating Matrix posted on May 28, 2015
- Follow the Implementation Guide

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/rt/rttelcapproach.asp>



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All Applicants

- Complete Section III of the I/T QRIS Block Grant Plan using Form E which begins on p. 55 of the RFA

Form E. Infant/Toddler QRIS Block Grant Plan

III. I/T Participation Data Tables							
III. A. Increasing the number and percentage of Sites serving Infants and Toddlers participating in the Consortium's QRIS.							
<i>Please enter baseline (number current participating) and annual target number of sites that include I/T classrooms.</i>							
Sites that serve Infants and Toddlers in the consortium	Total Number of I/T Sites in the County or Region	Baseline and Annual Targets -- Number and percentage of CCTR sites in the Tiered QRIS					
		Baseline (Today)		Target -end of fiscal year 2015-16		Target -end of fiscal year 2016-17	
		#	%	#	%	#	%
General Child Care Centers (CCTR)							
Homes in FCCHENS (CCTR or CFCC)							
Migrant Child Care (CMIG)							
Centers serving I/T with Disabilities (CHAN)							
Layered Sites:							
EESD Programs with Early Head Start							
EESD Programs with State or Local First 5 funding							
EESD Programs with programs funded by IDEIA, Part C							
EESD Programs with Title I							
EESD Programs with Tribal Child Care							



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All Applicants

If choosing to offer local I/T QRIS Block Grants to EESD-contractors serving infants and toddlers, complete Section IV of the I/T QRIS Block Grant which begins on p. 58 of the RFA

Form E. Infant/Toddler QRIS Block Grant Plan

IV. OPTIONAL - Local QRIS Block Grants for EESD-contracted I/T sites rated at Tiers 4 and 5

A. Tier 4 Block Grants: What will be your block grant amount for EESD-contracted Centers rated at Tier 4? Is that amount given per site or per classroom or other factors? What will be your block grant amount for FCCHs within a FCCHEN? Is the amount based on whether the FCCH is licensed as small or large or on the number of infants and toddlers or other factors?

B. Tier 5 Block Grants: What will your block grant amount for EESD-contracted Centers at Tier 5? Are the amounts for Tier 5 the same as Tier 4 or different? If different, is that amount given per site or per classroom or another factor? What will be your block grant amount for FCCHs within a FCCHEN? Is the amount based on whether the FCCH is licensed as small or large or on the number of infants and toddlers or other factors?

Describe the factors and amounts

Note:
Choosing this option contributes to the 20 percent limit on the grant funds that can be paid directly to providers.



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All Applicants

Complete Section V of the I/T QRIS Block Grant Plan, using Form E, which begins on p. 56 of the RFA

Describe how the I/T QRIS Block Grant funds will be used to increase the number of I/T providers achieving the highest common tier and to directly support classrooms/homes that have achieved the highest common tier.



Form E. Infant/Toddler QRIS Block Grant Plan

V. Quality Improvement Process for I/T Care Providers
A. Engagement. Describe your process of engaging providers serving I/Ts in your QRIS. This may include describing outreach and recruitment efforts. Identify any differences in the engagement between engaging center providers and family child care providers.
B. Improvement. Describe your process of improving the quality of centers and FCCs serving I/Ts in your QRIS. This may include highlighting the quality improvement efforts identified in Form E.V. *Note that the incentives in this section and local I/T QRIS block grants in Section V are limited to no more than twenty percent of the grant amount, per AB 123 – Budget Act of 2015, Section 77 provision 17 (no more than 20 percent of the funding awarded to a consortium may be allocated directly to child care providers).

Note that no more than 20 percent of the funds can be paid directly to providers.



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If choosing to use for Assessment and Access Projects, describe how no more than 20 percent of the funds will be used for this purpose. Complete Section VI of the I/T QRIS Block Grant, using Form E, which begins on p. 59 of the RFA.

Note that no more than 20 percent of the funds can be used for this purpose

Form E. Infant/Toddler QRIS Block Grant Plan

VI. OPTIONAL - Assessment and Access Projects

A. Assessment Projects. Describe the use of these funds to conduct initial and ongoing regular assessments of centers and FCCHs serving I/Ts in your QRIS service area.

B. Access Projects. Describe use of these funds to provide access to high-quality early learning programs.



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All Applicants

- Complete a budget narrative and budget spreadsheet that corresponds to the applicant's 2015–2017 projected allocation found in Sections VII and VIII of the I/T QRIS Block Grant.

Note: Section VII-Budget Narrative and Section VII Budget Spreadsheet of Form F **are not** included in the RFA. These forms will be provided to qualified applicants after letters of intents are received.



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Infant/Toddler Request for Applications Consortia with QRIS Plans on File	
Dates	Critical Events
January 15, 2016	The amended RFA is available on the CDE Web page at
January 20, 2016	Webinar to address grant questions and the application process.
January 27, 2016	Letter of Intent (Form A) due to PSQRISBG@cde.ca.gov by midnight
February 10, 2016	Submission date for consortia with QRIS plans on file. An electronic copy of the application is due to the PSQRISBG@cde.ca.gov email box by midnight. An original application (containing signatures on Forms B and C in blue or black ink) plus three hard copies of each signed application, must be postmarked by February 10, 2016 when received by the EESD.
February 11–15, 2016	The Application Review Process using the Reading and Scoring criteria specified in Section VI of the RFA.
February 19, 2016	The CDE will post the grant awards in an Intent to Award announcement. This is an initial notification and is not the final list of grantees. The final funding list will be posted on the CDE Web site when all data is verified and appeals are decided. Applicants are advised not to obligate funds based on this list.
February 29, 2016	Appeals must be submitted to the EESD within 10 calendar days of the Intent to Award announcement with original signatures from the Authorized Agent. No faxed or e-mailed appeals will be accepted.
March 1, 2016	Review of Appeals
March 3, 2016	Final funding list for award recipients will be posted on the CDE Web site.



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Infant/Toddler Request for Applications for New QRIS Consortia	
Date	Critical Events
January 15, 2016	The amended RFA is available on the CDE Web page at
January 20, 2016	Webinar to address grant questions and the application process.
January 27, 2016	Letter of Intent (Form A) is due to PSQRISBG@cde.ca.gov by midnight
March 15, 2016	Submission date for new Consortia. An electronic copy of the application is due to the PSQRISBG@cde.ca.gov e-mail box by midnight. An original application (containing signatures on Forms B and C in blue or black ink) plus three hard copies of each signed application, must be postmarked by March 15, 2016 when received by the EESD.
March 15–21, 2016	The Application Review Process using the Reading and Scoring criteria specified in Section VI of the RFA.
March 22, 2016	The CDE will post the grant awards in an Infant to Award announcement. This is an initial notification and is not the final list of grantees. The final funding list will be posted on the CDE Web site when all data is verified and appeals are decided. Applicants are advised not to obligate funds based on this list.
April 1, 2016	Appeals must be submitted to the EESD within 10 calendar days of the Intent to Award announcement with original signatures from the Authorized Agent. No faxed or e-mailed appeals will be accepted.
April 4, 2016	Review of Appeals
April 6, 2016	Final funding list for award recipients will be posted on the CDE Web site.



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Funding

- How are allocations calculated?
 - \$25,000 base for each county QRIS or each county within a regional QRIS
 - Balance prorated based on the number of infants and toddlers in EESD-contracted programs/county



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These numbers were a draft.
Prospective award amounts have been
sent using the most current data.

County	If All Counties Have a QRIS and Apply Maximum Grant	Consortia w/QRIS Plans on file Maximum Grant
Alameda	\$ 764,265	\$ 850,294
Alpine	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Amador	\$ 41,307	\$ -
Butte	\$ 330,957	\$ 366,561
Butte	\$ 27,330	\$ -
Colusa	\$ 111,972	\$ 122,093
Contra Costa	\$ 579,449	\$ 643,970
Del Norte	\$ 52,179	\$ -
El Dorado	\$ 143,034	\$ 156,770
Fresno	\$ 547,611	\$ 608,427
Glenn	\$ 69,263	\$ 74,414
Humboldt	\$ 245,537	\$ -
Imperial	\$ 271,940	\$ -



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Inyo	\$ 29,659	\$ 30,201
Kern	\$ 852,014	\$ 948,254
Kings	\$ 122,067	\$ 133,363
Lake	\$ 106,537	\$ 116,025
Lassen	\$ 51,402	\$ -
Los Angeles	\$ 7,240,604	\$ 8,080,281
	\$ 143,811	\$ 157,636
	\$ 122,844	\$ 134,230
Mariposa	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Mendocino	\$ 155,459	\$ -
Merced	\$ 263,398	\$ 291,140
Modoc	\$ 59,944	\$ 64,011
Mono	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Monterey	\$ 605,851	\$ -
Napa	\$ 118,961	\$ -
Nevada	\$ 121,291	\$ 132,496

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Orange	\$ 553,823	\$ 615,362
Placer	\$ 101,877	\$ 110,824
Plumas	\$ 67,710	\$ -
Riverside	\$ 1,088,082	\$ 1,211,793
Sacramento	\$ 989,462	\$ 1,101,696
San Benito	\$ 84,017	\$ -
	\$ 623,712	\$ -
	\$ 1,326,480	\$ 1,477,933
San Francisco	\$ 897,830	\$ 999,401
San Joaquin	\$ 771,254	\$ 858,096
San Luis Obispo	\$ 191,956	\$ 211,385
San Mateo	\$ 355,029	\$ 393,435
Santa Barbara	\$ 181,861	\$ 200,115
Santa Clara	\$ 790,668	\$ 879,768
Santa Cruz	\$ 275,046	\$ 304,143
Shasta	\$ 107,313	\$ 116,892

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Sierra	\$	25,000	\$	25,000
Siskiyou	\$	63,050	\$	67,478
Solano	\$	155,459	\$	170,640
Sonoma	\$	227,677	\$	251,262
Stanislaus	\$	849,685	\$	945,653
	\$	74,699	\$	80,482
	\$	66,933	\$	71,813
Trinity	\$	58,391	\$	62,277
Tulare	\$	384,538	\$	426,377
Tuolumne	\$	56,062	\$	-
Ventura	\$	285,141	\$	315,413
Yolo	\$	179,531	\$	197,514
Yuba	\$	77,028	\$	83,083

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Essential Elements

Essential I/T QRIS Block Grant Application Elements	Consortia with QRIS Plans on File	New QRIS Consortia
I.	Consortium Participants	Consortium Participants
II.		Consortium's QRIS Plan
III.	I/T Participation Data Tables	I/T Participation Data Tables
V.	Quality Improvement Process for I/T Care Providers	Quality Improvement Process for I/T Care Providers
VII.	Budget Narrative	Budget Narrative
VIII.	Budget Spreadsheet	Budget Spreadsheet



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Optional Elements

Optional I/T QRIS Block Grant Application Elements	Consortia with QRIS Plans on File	New QRIS Consortia
II.	Updating of RTT-ELC Action Plan or CSPP QRIS Plan currently on file, if needed	
IV.	Local I/T QRIS Block Grants to EESD-contractors serving I/Ts	Local I/T QRIS Block Grants to EESD-contractors serving I/Ts
VI.	Assessment and Access Projects	Assessment and Access Projects



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Scoring

- The scoring system is used to signify how an application meets the funding criteria for the program. For most narrative responses, a Likert Scale from 2-6 will be used as follows:

2 = Insufficient, lacks specificity

4 = Sufficient, includes some specificity, but needs additional detail

6 = Comprehensive- Provides a clear description that includes specific details



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Scoring Rubric Sections	Points
1. Consortium participants	9
2. Action Plan Currently on File/Consortium's QRIS A. Overview B. Quality Continuum Framework C. Rating and Assessing D. Quality Improvement Process E. Convening and Strengthening Partnerships F. Monitoring and Evaluating Child Outcomes G. Disseminating Information	NA for Consortia with QRIS plans on file or 135 for new QRIS Consortia Applicants
3. I/T Participation baseline and target Data Tables	12
4. Quality Improvement Process for I/T care providers	12
5. Assessment and Access Projects	NA or 12*
6. Budget Narrative	3 or 6* (one option) or 9* (two options)
7. Budget Spreadsheet	3 or 6* (one option) or 9* (two options)
Total for Essential Elements for consortia with QRIS plans on file	36
• Essential Elements Total with one option	54
• Essential Elements Total with two options	72
Total for Essential Elements for new QRIS consortia applicants	171
• Essential Elements Total with one option	189
• Essential Elements Total with two options	207

* * If consortium elects to use these funds for options.



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B. Required Application Elements

1. Form A – Letter of Intent

Please note that the Letter of Intent must be submitted to PSQRISBG@cde.ca.gov by midnight of January 27, 2016.

The content and sequence of the application will be as follows:

2. Form B – Lead Signature Page

3. Form C – Consortium Participants

4. Form D – Consortium QRIS Plan

5. Form E - I/T QRIS Block Grant Plan

6. Form F - I/T QRIS Block Grant 2015–2017 Budget Narrative and Spreadsheet Form F will be provided to applicants with their prospective award amount. Form F is not included in this RFA.



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Questions?





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Other RFA Sections

- Key Terms (Appendix A p. 61)
- Disqualifications (p. 38)
- Appeals (p. 39)
- Program Assurances (p.40)