

What is Steps to Quality?

The Butte Quality Early Learning Initiative is a collaborative partnership committed to enhancing and sustaining effective quality improvement strategies to support the unique needs of the county's early learning and care system. Aligned with **Quality Counts California's** <https://qualitycountsca.org> comprehensive quality rating and improvement system, the Initiative's Steps to Quality program supports early learning professionals through coaching, training, technical assistance, and financial incentives to elevate the quality of programs. Ultimately, transforming system-wide quality ensures that all young children have access to high quality learning experiences where they can grow and thrive.

Starting on a path to Quality

Steps to Quality promotes a pathway to quality and you get to choose where you start. Whether your program participates in the quality improvement system (QIS), or selects to receive a quality rating (QRIS) in recognition of your sites quality improvement efforts, you are making a statement... you want your program to be the best it can be. Dependent of participation level, you get to choose the areas of focus and develop your quality improvement goals.

Reasons to join!

- **Individualized Support:** On-site coaching and technical assistance from an Early Learning Specialist to support individual and program needs
- **Stipends for trainings and education:** Financial incentives for completing professional development through the Workforce Pathways Program.
- **Free training and workshops:** Workshops and trainings that are usually at no-cost
- **Materials to promote learning:** Materials and supplies to promote learning are available according to the step the site chooses
- **Quality Recognition:** Gain recognition from families, peers, and community members for achieving in Steps to Quality

Program Eligibility:

- Participation is open to any licensed child care program public or private in good standing with community care licensing; and community and home-based settings providing early learning and school readiness services to parents and young children 0-5.
- Programs that are willing to make quality improvements aligned with Quality Counts California Quality Rating Improvement System Framework.
- Sites that can ensure that all administrative and key staff have been provided information about the intent of **Steps to Quality**, the required elements and expectations and are eager to participate.

Process and Timelines:

- Fill out, sign and submit the application form. An electronic fillable application can be accessed here <https://bit.ly/s2qforms>
- Applications will be accepted at any time. However, in order to be considered for the current cycle, applications are due by **September 18, 2020 or until filled.**
- Once an application is received it will be reviewed by a **Steps to Quality** staff member to determine eligibility and readiness for participation.
- Programs will receive an email from a **Steps to Quality** staff member with notification of program acceptance and next steps including scheduling an orientation and determining participation in QIS or QRIS.
- Applications must be submitted by email (scanned signature pages required), mail or in person.
- Current Steps to Quality participants do not need to reapply.
- Need more information before applying? E-mail butteqi@bcoe.org to schedule an information session.

