



PROVIDERS

Incentives Available for Child Care Centers that Participate in Quality Start

Is your child care center participating in Louisiana's Quality Start Child Care Rating System?*

Do you currently receive payments from the Department of Social Services (DSS) for children (ages 5 and under) in the Child Care Assistance Program or in foster care?***

If the answer to both of these questions is **"YES"**, then your center may qualify for an annual school readiness tax credit -- even if you do not owe any taxes.

Beginning January 1, 2008, Louisiana will provide a refundable tax credit to eligible child care centers based on the center's level of quality as measured by Quality Start and the average number of children served in the Child Care Assistance Program or in foster care who are under the age of six. Both for-profit and non-profit centers are eligible.

Quality Rating	Tax Credit per Eligible Child Attending
Five Star	\$1,500
Four Star	\$1,250
Three Star	\$1,000
Two Star	\$750
One Star or non-participating facility	0

Example: If your center has earned three stars and serves an average of 20 children (ages 5 and under) in the Child Care Assistance Program you could be eligible for \$20,000 (20 x \$1,000)

For more information about the tax credits go to www.qrslouisiana.com and click on the School Readiness Tax Credits tab. For questions about participation in Quality Start go to www.qrslouisiana.com or call the DSS Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education at (225) 342-0694 or (800) 680-9098.

* Quality Start is a voluntary program for licensed child care centers designed to increase the quality of child care and early learning for all children throughout Louisiana. Both Class A and Class B centers are eligible to participate and earn up to five stars based on meeting standards established for Program, Staff Qualifications, Administration Practices, and Family and Community Involvement.

** Includes children who either participate in the Child Care Assistance Program administered by DSS or who are foster children in the custody of DSS.



Department of Social Services