

Child Care Town Hall

Early Childhood Services Bureau/ Early Learning Unit

September 16 & 19, 2026



DEPARTMENT OF
**PUBLIC HEALTH &
HUMAN SERVICES**

Montana's Treasures Quality Recognition System

DPHHS/ECSB Quality Team:

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Marji Vegoren,
Deanna Mydland*



HOUSEKEEPING

- Please enter all questions you have during the webinar into the chat. We will answer at the end of the presentation and update the FAQ.
- ECP Credit –
 - If you registered for this session in ECP, enter your name in the chat
 - If you did not register in ECP but still would like credit, enter your name, PS# or Registry ID# and last 5 of your social security in the chat
 - For questions about ECP credit contact marjorie.Vegoren@mt.gov





AGENDA

- ❖ Introducing Montana's Treasures
- ❖ How to Participate
- ❖ Benefits to Providers
- ❖ What's Next
- ❖ Questions and Support

Purpose and Goals

- Montana's Treasures recognizes providers for their commitment to quality and continuous improvement. The system uses recognition stages rather than ratings to emphasize strengths, progress, and ongoing growth.

Recognition, not ranking

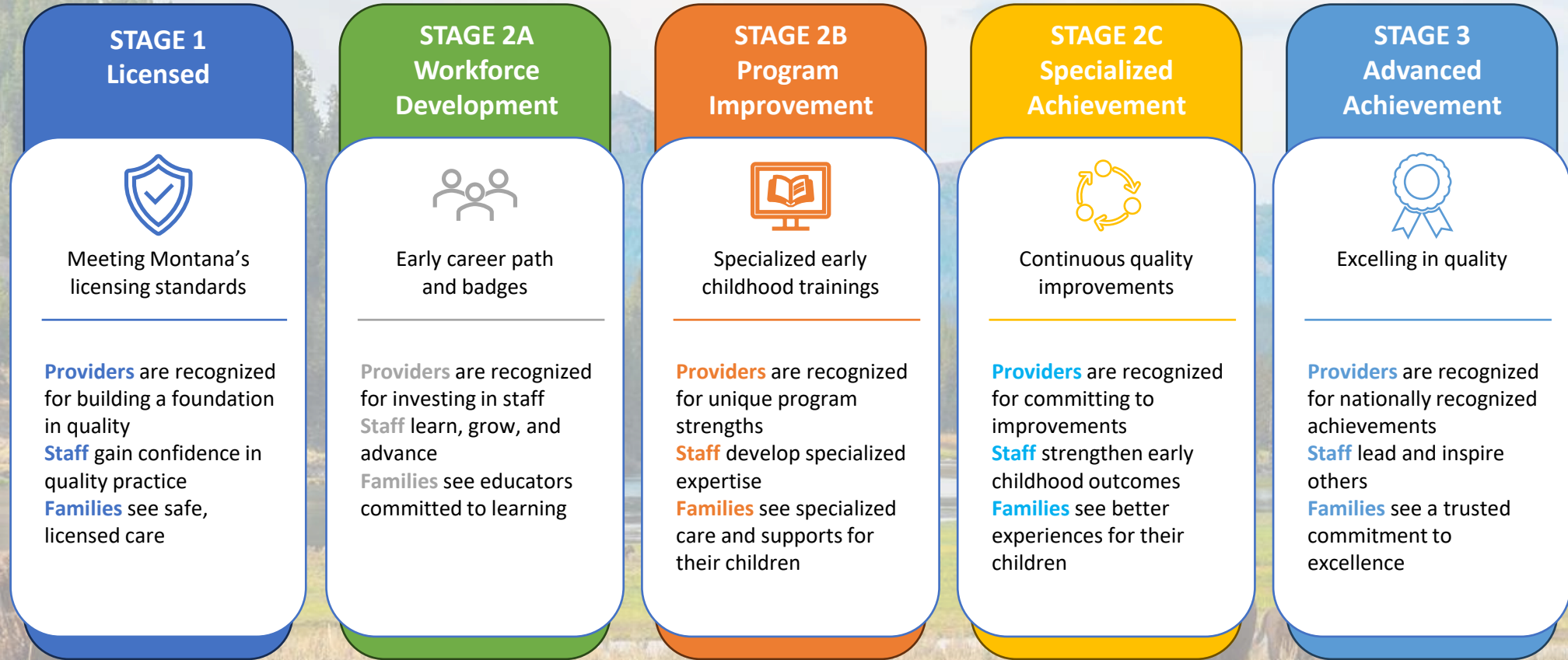
Recognition highlights a program's strengths, progress, and professional commitment without comparing programs throughout a single rating.



Montana's Treasures Recognition Stages

Recognize quality. Support growth. Empower families.

Montana's Treasures offers multiple options for child care providers to celebrate their commitment to quality.



Montana's Treasures is flexible. Each annual renewal cycle, providers choose the stage that fits their program, their goals, and the needs of the families they serve.



Learn more and find resources at
<https://dphhs.mt.gov/ecfsd/childcare/QRS/>



Stage 1: Foundations of Quality

Foundations of Quality – Licensed or Registered Facilities

- **Goal:** Maintain a **CURRENT** Child Care License/ Registration
- **How to achieve:** On time completion and submission of annual license renewal application

Per ARM 37.96.112 Renewing a License or Registration

1. A child care provider must submit an application for renewal at least 60 days prior to expiration of the license or registration.
2. Provided a complete renewal application is filed timely, the expiring license or registration will remain in effect until the department makes a determination on the renewal application.





Montana's Treasures

Stage 2: Commitment to Quality Options

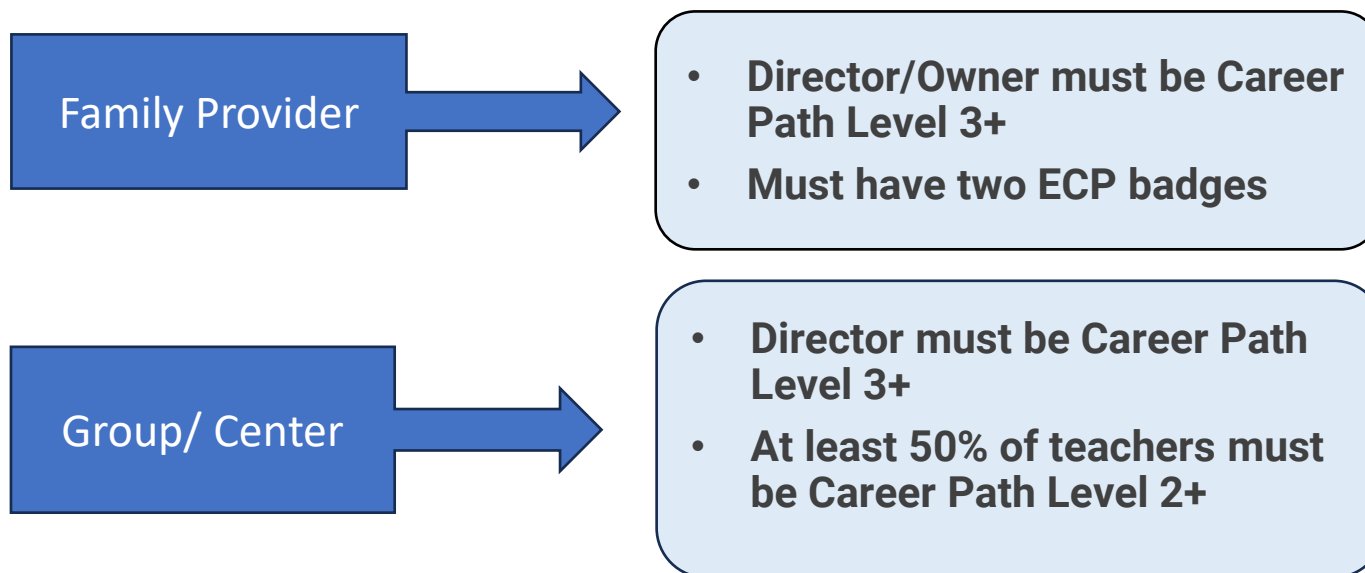


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MTT Quality Recognition Stage 2A

- **Career Path** - For programs focused on staff education and experience.
- **Goal:** Help programs build a strong, qualified team with clear professional pathways.
 - **How to Achieve:** Confirm teaching staff meet required ECP Career Path levels

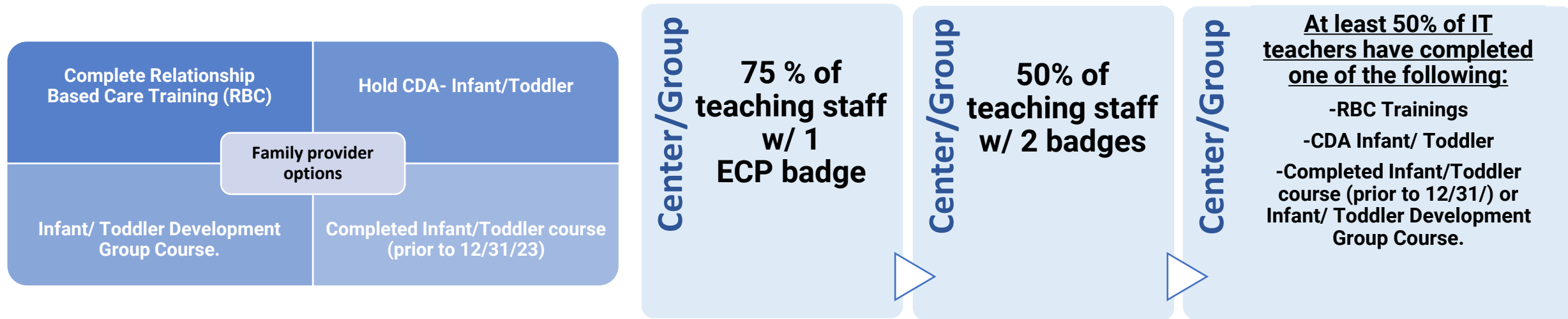




MTT Quality Recognition Stage 2B

➤ **Specialized Training** - For programs focused on deeper training.

- **Goal:** Strengthen your program with deeper, focused early childhood training.
- **How to Achieve:**
 - **Step 1: Meet Career Level Requirement-** Owner/ Director must meet Career Path level 3+
 - **Step 2: Choose 1 specialized training option below** (*dependent upon license/registration type*)





MTT Quality Recognition Stage 2C

- **Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)** - For programs growing through coaching, cohorts, community of practices or improvement initiatives.
- **Goal:** Recognize programs actively learning and improving.
 - **How to Achieve:** MUST meet **TWO** of the below CQI Opportunities

Program Growth Tool (PGT) with SPARK

CQI- Business Support Cohort(s) with Zero to Five

Registered Apprenticeship Program engaged in sponsorship/ mentorship within the last year.

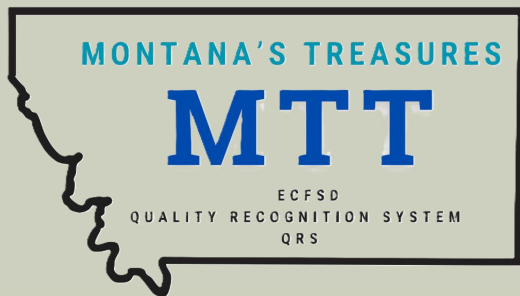
Practice-Based Coaching Cycles (*total of 16 hours*)
-2 teaching staff (*Center/Group*) or Director/Owner (*Family*)

New Provider CoP (12-month series)

One teaching staff completed Apprenticeship Program

OR

Full ERS assessment including completion of partial side by side assessment within the last 12 months and
Completion of a CQI plan with a minimum of 3 SMART goals



MTT Quality Recognition Stage 3

➤ **Excelling in Quality** – For programs with ongoing national or federal oversight

- **Goal:** Show your program meets nationally recognized high-quality standards.
- **How to Achieve:** Choose one Benchmark

- ☐ NAEYC Accredited
- ☐ NAFCC Accredited
- ☐ AMS (Montessori) Accredited
- ☐ Licensed Head Start/Early Head Start in good standing

Upload your accreditation certificate or approved Head Start documentation



Benefits for Providers



Recognition

Choice & Flexibility

Professional Growth

Visibility to Families

Financial Support

Connection to Support

STARS vs. Montana's Treasures

What's the same	What's Changed
Focus on Quality Improvement	More provider choice and program strength driven
Support through Coaching and TA	Multiple pathways to meet quality standards
Incentives and Recognition, subsidy add-ons	Clearer connection to licensing requirements
Alignment with Licensing and Quality Indicators	Stronger alignment with TA supports
	More modernized, growth focused system structure



Navigating Montana's Treasures in MAQCS

What to know:

- MTT Quality Recognition System tile
- Eligibility
- Application window
- Step by Step instructions for applying
- Helpful tips



Navigating MTT QRS-MAQCS: Shandi Hayes

Navigating Montana's Treasures in MAQCS

What to know:

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- Application window
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- Helpful tips



Dashboard

- My Applications
- My Licenses
- My QRS Applications
- Inspections
- Quality Recognition

MANAGE

- Child Care Scholarship
Provider
- Report an Incident
- View all Incident Reports

OTHER

- Laws & Regulations
- Notifications
- My Tickets
- FAQs

Welcome! Tau Ceti

Whether you are just starting your journey to becoming a licensed or registered child care facility or maintaining your child care facility's license/registration, staff, or other information, you are in the right place.

Being a licensed/registered child care provider takes time and dedication and lays the foundation for safe, quality care in your community, in which children and families rely.

We are dedicated to supporting you throughout the entire licensing/registration process and in being a successful child care provider.

[Read More About Us](#) ➤



License Number [REDACTED]

[Renew License](#)

Issued Date: 9/1/2025

Status: Regular

Eligibility Period: 9/1/2025 - 12/10/2026

[Download Certificate](#)

Quality Recognition

Stage : **Unable to Participate** | Issued Date : **09/01/2025** | Eligibility Period : **09/01/2025 - 12/10/2026** | Next Renewal Date : **06/13/2027**



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Eligibility & Enrollment Requirement

- A Licensed or registered program must submit a complete license renewal application at least 60 days, but no more than 90 days, prior to their license or registration expiration date (as required by ARM 37.96.112) to be eligible for participation in MTT.
- Programs must complete this process annually to maintain a Recognition Stage 1 or to apply for a higher Recognition Stage 2A, 2B, 2C, or 3.
- Providers will be recognized in the MAQCS system and on the public facing portal.
- Programs awarded a Stage 2 or Stage 3 are eligible for a quality subsidy add on if serving scholarship children.



Renewal - Child Care Center

View Application

Application Number: BLA-0000002043 | Submitted On: 9/11/2026

Status: Submitted

Last Updated On: 9/11/2026

Withdraw Application

License Number: [REDACTED]

Issued Date: 9/1/2025

Status: Regular

Eligibility Period: 9/1/2025 - 12/10/2026

Download Certificate

Quality Recognition

Apply >

Stage : Unable to Participate | Issued Date : 09/01/2025 | Eligibility Period : 09/01/2025 - 12/10/2026 | Next Renewal Date : [REDACTED]

Applying for a MTT Quality Recognition Stage 2C

ERS Option:

- ☐ Full Environment Rating Scale (ERS) Assessment(s) completed by a certified and reliable Early Childhood Assessor*
 - Centers: ITERS-3 (infants/toddlers) and/or ECERS-3 (ages 3-5)
 - Family/Group: FCCERS-3 (ages birth through age 12)
- ☐ Director must have completed one partial side-by-side assessment with the EC Assessor*
 - Director must participate in the debrief following the side-by-side assessment.
- ☐ Director has completed a CQI Action Plan
 - Minimum of 3 SMART goals
 - 1 goal must be related to the Activities Subscale

**Assessments must have been completed within the last 12 months prior to submitting for Stage 2C.*



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- 4 Program Enrollment
- 5 Document Upload
- 6 Review and Summary

Instructions

Let's get started on your application!

To complete this application, you will be asked for information about the facility and staff. You will also be asked for some supporting documentation.

Important things to know about the online application

- You may not submit an application for a Quality Recognition Stage until you have submitted your license renewal application in accordance with The Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) [37.96.112](#).
- All fields that are required to be filled out to proceed through the application are marked with an **Asterisk "****.
- The pages of the application are shown on the left side of the screen and will be highlighted as you move through the application.
- The application will be saved automatically as you move to the next page.
- The **Save & Exit** button at the bottom of each page will allow you to save and exit the application so that it can be resumed later.
- Applications will expire after **60 days of inactivity**.
 - If you start an application and do not work on it for 60 days, the application will be put in an expired status.
 - This is to keep your information safe and to make sure the most current information is on the application.
 - Once the application expires, a new application will need to be started.

Click "**Get Started**" below to start your application.

Exit

Get Started >

*Please select one option from the following ⓘ

2C: Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) ▼

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) – Stage 2C eligibility

a. Program must be engaged in two of the following:

- i. ☐ Documented Program Growth Tool (PGT) with SPARK MT
- ii. ☐ Documented completion of a CQI CoP with Zero to Five (click this [link](#) for more information)
- iii. ☐ CDA Registered Apprenticeship program and/ or Sponsorship/ Mentorship:
 - 1. At least one teaching staff member has completed the CDA Registered Apprenticeship program within the last year. AND/OR
 - 2. The program is engaged in mentorship and/or sponsorship
- iv. ☐ At least 2 teaching staff members in the program have completed the 16 hour coaching cycle with SPARK
- v. ☐ Director has completed the New Provider CoP offered through the Central Montana Childcare Alliance (CMCA)

OR

b. Environment Rating Scale (ERS) pathway

- i. ☒ Program has received an Environment Rating Scale (ERS) Assessment within the last year that includes the completion of the partial side by side assessment and debriefing process and completes the following
 - 1. Program and classroom staff (if applicable) have identified and created, at a minimum, 3 SMART goals using data from each ERS assessment (1 goal must be related to the learning activities subscale).
 - 2. Develop and implemented a CQI plan containing the identified goals.

Save & Exit

Save

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CQI Plan and Goals

Asterisk (*) indicates required field

Instructions

Programs must have identified and created, at a minimum, 3 SMART goals using data from each ERS assessment completed within the last year to meet requirements for Montana's Treasures (MTT) Quality Recognition Stage 2C, ERS option. The goals chosen by a program should be based on needs identified through a variety of sources of evidence and should reflect the program's philosophy and mission. Please note, your CQI plan can spread over multiple years if creating long-term goals.

- One of the three goals must be related to the ERS Learning Activities Subscale assessment data results.

The following steps outline the required components of a CQI Plan. The table below will help ensure the goal follows the SMART format and provides clear and practical steps for reaching it. Each of the three goals must address the following points (1-6).

1. **Specific** – Write a goal that is clear, specific, and measurable. This goal should describe the result you want to achieve.
2. **Time-Frame** – Identify if the goal is immediate, short term (1–2 years) or long term (3–5 years) and select a projected date of completion.
3. **MT's Treasures Areas of Focus** – Identify the quality focus area that matches the goal objective.
4. **Source(s) of Evidence** – Identify the sources of evidence that indicate the need for the goal. Sources of evidence are typically assessments that provide valuable data about the current practices in place. There are a variety of quality indicators that may serve as source of evidence for the CQI Plan (examples provided below).
 - **ERS Assessment(s) - Required**
 - ECERS-3
 - ITERS-3
 - FCCERS-3
 - Family and/or staff surveys
 - Program Needs Assessment
 - Child assessment and/or observation data such as: Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ-3, ASQ-SE), staff observations and evaluations, After-School Quality Assessment (ASQ), family conference feedback, etc
5. **Action Steps** – Outline a series of action steps needed to accomplish the goal including who is responsible for coordinating the action steps and monitoring their completion and effectiveness.
6. **Resources and Supports** – Describe the resources and support needed to achieve the goal.



Assessment Data and Documentation: ERS CQI Report & Learning Activities Subscale

ECERS-3 CQI Report

Thank you for your commitment to early childhood education. The purpose of this assessment is to provide your team with feedback on a wide range of quality indicators within your classroom environment. We invite you to use this document as a learning tool to move forward in making decisions about quality improvement. We hope this information is useful in your ongoing efforts to offer the highest quality of care and education to young children.

Assessment Type: ECERS-3 Assessment Date: 07/27/2026
Facility and Address: [REDACTED] Assessor: Monica Ayers
[REDACTED] Classroom: Preschool room
[REDACTED] Teachers: [REDACTED]
License Number: [REDACTED] County: [REDACTED]
Director: [REDACTED]

1. Indoor space

This item covers the amount of space, the basic features such as light, temperature, ventilation, and noise level, as well as the state of repair and maintenance, and the accessibility for children and adults with disabilities. When determining how well the space works, consider the space based on the highest number of children allowed in the group, regardless of how many are present during an observation.

Indoor space is important because...

- It helps the staff be more efficient in meeting children's needs.
- It impacts children's comfort, health, and safety.
- It gives children more play activities to learn and engage in at the same time.

1.1	3.1	5.1	7.1
1.2	3.2	5.2	7.2
1.3	3.3	5.3	7.3
1.4	3.4		
	3.5		

Item Score: 6

Areas of Effectiveness:

- ☒ Learning Activities
- ☒ 17 - Fine motor
 - ☒ 18 - Art
 - ☒ 19 - Music and movement
 - ☒ 20 - Blocks
 - ☒ 21 - Dramatic play
 - ☒ 22 - Nature/science
 - ☒ 23 - Math materials and activities
 - ☒ 24 - Math in daily events
 - ☒ 25 - Understanding written numbers
 - ☒ 26 - Promoting acceptance of diversity
 - ☒ 27 - Appropriate use of technology



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Montana's Treasures (MTT) Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Plan

This template has been developed to support early learning program leaders in creating a Continuous Quality Improvement Plan that summarizes their program's plan for implementing and achieving higher quality measures that meet criteria in Montana's Quality Recognition System for Quality Recognition Stage 2C, ERS option.

Program Name	PV Number	CQI Plan Created
		07/09/2026

 You must add at least 3 SMART goals to meet Stage 2C CQI requirements. Use Add SMART Goal to add goals.

Smart Goals

[+ Add Smart Goal](#)



Currently, no SMART goals have been added. Please proceed with adding goals by clicking on the **Add SMART Goal** button. A minimum of 3 SMART goals is required.

Adding SMART Goals

Add SMART Goal

Asterisk (*) indicates required field

☐ This goal is related to the ERS Learning Activities Subscale assessment data results

*Length of time is a required field

☐ Immediate

☐ Short term (1-2 yrs)

☐ Long Term (3-5 yrs)

*Projected Date of Goal Completion

MM/DD/YYYY

Actual Date of Goal Completion

MM/DD/YYYY

*Specific: What is the goal? What do I want to accomplish with this goal?

Enter specific goal text...

Cancel

Save

Add SMART Goal

*Action Steps: Include Initials of staff responsible

Schedule planning time for lead teachers - RG
Create and apply labels for Infant Room - MH

What source(s) of evidence did you use to determine this goal?

Sources of Evidence

Evidence Date

Actions

* ECERS-3 Assessment

* Feb 18, 2026

+ Add Row to Evidence Log

Cancel

Save



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Add SMART Goal

*Action Steps: Include Initials of staff responsible

Schedule planning time for lead teachers - RG

Create and apply labels for Infant Room - MH

What source(s) of evidence did you use to determine this goal?

Sources of Evidence	Evidence Date	Actions
* ECERS-3 Assessment	* Feb 18, 2026	

+ Add Row to Evidence Log

Cancel Save

Add SMART Goal

*Action Steps: Include Initials of staff responsible

Schedule planning time for lead teachers - RG

Create and apply labels for Infant Room - MH

What source(s) of evidence did you use to determine this goal?

Sources of Evidence	Evidence Date	Actions
* ECERS-3 Assessment	* Feb 18, 2026	
* Required row field entry	* MM/DD/YYYY	

Cancel Save

Add SMART Goal

- ☐ Learning Environments
- ☐ Family Engagement

* Action Steps: Include Initials of staff responsible

Test

What source(s) of evidence did you use to determine this goal?

Sources of Evidence	Evidence Date	Actions
* Knowledge Base Assessments	* Aug 3, 2026	

Cancel Save

Add SMART Goal

- ☐ Learning Environments
- ☒ Family Engagement

* Action Steps: Include Initials of staff responsible

Test

What source(s) of evidence did you use to determine this goal?

Sources of Evidence	Evidence Date	Actions
* Parent Survey	* May 20, 2026	

Cancel Save

 You must add at least 3 SMART goals to meet Stage 2C CQI requirements. Use Add SMART Goal to add goals.

Smart Goals

+ Add Smart Goal

Length of Time	Projected Date of Goal Completion	Specific Goal	Actions
Immediate	11/30/2026	Add picture and word labels to learning center environments to promote independent and successful cl...	 Edit  Delete
Short term (1-2 yrs)	09/30/2027	Test	 Edit  Delete
Short term (1-2 yrs)	05/31/2028	Test	 Edit  Delete

Review of Previous CQI Plan

Enter N/A into the required text fields if this is your first time applying for a Stage 2C using the ERS option and have not created a previous CQI plan with goals.

Please manually enter your facility's baseline metrics from the previous year's performance log below.

Date of Previous CQI Plan Review

MM/DD/YYYY

*Total Goals in Previous Year's Plan

0 Goals

*Goals Successfully Completed

0 Completed

Goals to be Reconsidered from Previous Year's Plan

Enter goals from the previous year's plan that were not fully met and should be carried over or reconsidered.

*Goals to be Reconsidered from Previous Year's CQI Plan

N/A

*How has quality improved in your facility during the past year?

N/A

*How did you utilize Technical Assistance (TA) supports and regional resources to improve quality?

N/A

*What challenges did you face in working toward your previous targets, and how will they be resolved this year?

N/A

*How did you share your CQI goals and incremental progress updates with staff, families, and community stakeholders?

N/A

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Program Enrollment

Asterisk (*) indicates required field

Please enter the total number of classrooms in your facility and the number of children currently enrolled in each age group. This number may be larger than your licensed capacity due to overlap and part time children; however, if you have zero children enrolled in a specific age category, you must enter 0.

For **Center-Based Facilities** (and Group Facilities that separate children by age for most of the day), please enter both the number of classrooms and the number of enrolled children for each age category. If you have mixed-age or overlapping classrooms (such as a combined 2s and 3s room), please count that classroom only once.

For **Family and Group Homes** (that do not separate age groups for most of the day), please enter 0 for the number of classrooms and simply report the total number of enrolled children in each corresponding age category.

Age of Children	* # of Children Enrolled	* # of Classrooms
Infants (child through 11 months of age)	4	1
Toddlers (12 months old through 36 months)	2	0
Preschool (3-5 years)	10	1
School Age (5 years & up)	0	0

High Needs Enrollment

Enter the number of High Needs children currently enrolled in your facility:

Please note, one child may be entered into more than one high-need category (i.e. if a child receives services through Part C and has a speech/language need, you will count them in each of those categories).

Montana considers high needs to include the following:

Children receiving services from the following:

* Montana Milestones Part C Early Intervention Program (click this link for more information)

* Children and Family Services Division (click this link for more information)

Special needs

* Social/Emotional ⓘ

* Enrolled Tribal member

* Cognitive/Language (click this link for more information about Cognitive Disabilities ; click this link for more information about Speech or Language Disorders)

* Physical/Sensory (click this link for more information about Physical Disabilities ; click this link for more information about Sensory Disability) ⓘ

* Evidence that the child has special healthcare needs (such as food allergies, asthma, diabetes, special dietary restrictions, on extended prescribed medication, etc.)

High Needs Enrollment

Enter the number of High Needs children currently enrolled in your facility:

Please note, one child may be entered into more than one high-need category (i.e. if a child receives services through Part C and h

Montana considers high needs to include the following:

Children receiving services from the following:

* Montana Milestones Part C Early Intervention Program (click this [link](#) for more information)

0

Special needs

Social and emotional special needs encompass difficulties in managing emotions, building relationships, and regulating behavior.

* Social/Emotional

0



High Needs Enrollment

Enter the number of High Needs children currently enrolled in your facility:

Please note, one child may be entered into more than one high-need category (i.e. if a child receives services through Part C and has a speech/language need, you will count them in each of those categories).

Montana considers high needs to include the following:

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0

* Children and Family Services Division (click this [link](#) for more information)

0

Special needs

* Social/Emotional ⓘ

1

* Enrolled Tribal member

0

* Cognitive/Language (click this [link](#) for more information about Cognitive Disabilities ; click this [link](#) for more information about Speech or Language Disorders)

2

* Physical/Sensory (click this [link](#) for more information about Physical Disabilities ; click this [link](#) for more information about Sensory Disability) ⓘ

3

* Evidence that the child has special healthcare needs (such as food allergies, asthma, diabetes, special dietary restrictions, on extended prescribed medication, etc.)

2

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Document Upload

Asterisk (*) indicates required field

 Please upload the required documents. If the document is unavailable, you can download the form using the download button, complete it, and upload it a later time.

+ Upload Additional Document

Document Name	Download Template	File Name
*ECP Professional Development Record		 Upload Files
Infant/Toddler CDA Certificate		 Upload Files
Other		 Upload Files

Save & Exit

Save

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To be completed and signed by facility owner and/or director of program.

Yes, [redacted], accepts the opportunity and agrees to participate in the State's Quality Recognition System, Montana's Treasures, in all aspects required by the State of Montana, Early Childhood Services Bureau.

The Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 37.96.112 requires childcare providers to submit a license renewal application at least 60 days before expiration. For this reason, the first and most important goal of the redesigned system is to support programs in achieving and maintaining licensure, including timely renewals.

By aligning with ARM, the Quality Recognition System (QRS) supports providers to maintain health, safety, and quality standards, decreases non-compliance with licensing regulations, reduces administrative stress, and ultimately enhances the well-being of the children and families they serve.

- * ☐ I understand that my annual eligibility to participate in QRS is dependent upon meeting the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 37.96.112. Failure to renew on time results in a loss of a Quality Recognition Stage award. Participants can reapply annually.
- * ☐ I understand actions and decisions related to a provider's license are governed by the program policies of the Montana Child Care Licensing Program.
- * ☐ I understand that I must be meeting Quality Recognition Stage criteria prior to submitting my QRS application and I must upload all required documentation at the time of submission. Failure to do so could result in my program not being awarded the Quality Recognition Stage I am applying for.
- * ☐ I agree to maintain the best practices as defined by the Recognition Stage I am applying for throughout the duration of my award.
- * ☐ I will ensure all contact information is current in the MAQCS system to ensure I receive and review all communication in a timely manner.
- * ☐ I understand that Montana's Treasures is a voluntary program. Stage criteria cannot be challenged.
- * ☐ I understand that I may be asked to gather data or participate in providing information for purposes of evaluation that may not be directly addressed in the QRS criteria (i.e. turnover information). I agree to work with ECSB and respond in a timely manner to any requests made by the State.
- * ☐ I understand that ECSB can use my program information, including but not limited to business name, address, phone number, city, and zip code to post for consumer education on the DPHHS website.
- * ☐ I understand that QRS is about continuous quality improvement and the ECSB can modify the QRS criteria, incentive structure, and process at any time.
- * ☐ I have read and agree to abide by the NAEYC Code of Ethical Conduct (English) (Spanish) (Additional language options)
- * ☐ I agree that ECSB may audit my facility's progress with QRS including staff turnover, change in registration/license, training completed by myself and staff, CACFP concerns, QRS incentive monies spent, if applicable, and any other pertinent information pertaining to my facility and realize this may prompt a QRS Stage review at any time.

*Applicant Signature

[redacted signature]

Submission Confirmation

You are about to submit this application.

- Need to change any information, please select "Cancel".
- Ready to submit this application, please select "Submit".

Once submitted, you will not be able to change any information.

Cancel

Submit





Program Licensing



Child Care Scholarship



Staff/Household Member Qualification



Dashboard



My Applications



My Licenses



My QRS Applications



Inspections



Quality Recognition

MANAGE



Child Care Scholarship Provider



Report an Incident



View all Incident Reports

OTHER



Laws & Regulations



Notifications



My Tickets



FAQs



My Licenses



My QRS Applications



Inspections



Quality Recognition

MANAGE



Child Care Scholarship Provider



Report an Incident



View all Incident Reports

Renewal - Child Care Center

Application Number: [REDACTED] | Submitted On: 7/9/2026

Status: Submitted

[Withdraw Application](#)

License Number: [REDACTED]

Issued Date: 9/1/2025

Status: Regular

Eligibility Period: 9/1/2025 - 10/1/2026

[Download Certificate](#)

[Renew License](#)

Quality Recognition

Stage : **Unable to Participate** | Issued Date : 10/09/2025 | Eligibility Period : 09/01/2025 - 10/01/2026

QRS Application Number: **QRS-0147** | Initiated On: 07/09/2026 | Last Updated On: 09/11/2026

QRS Status : Assigned

[View Application](#)

My QRS Applications

QRS Application: QRS-0147

Stage : **Recognition Stage 2C** | Issued Date : 10/09/2025 | Eligibility Period : 09/01/2025 - 10/01/2026

QRS Application Number: **QRS-0147** | Initiated On: 07/09/2026 | Last Updated On: 09/11/2026

QRS Status : Assigned

[View Application](#)

Quality unit staff

Montana's Treasures Application processing



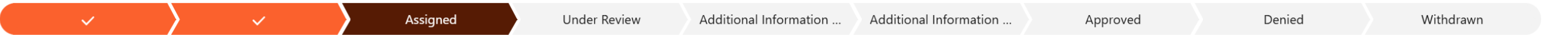
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH &
HUMAN SERVICES

 QRS Application
QRS-0147

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Deny/Reject



- Details
- Due Diligence Checklist
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▼ Overview and stage selection

QRS Application Name	QRS-0147		Application Status	Assigned	
Provider Account	Sunflower Montessori School		Stage 2 Options	2C: Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)	
Do you want to Opt in for the QRS	Yes		Stage Recognized	Stage 2	
Program Description	Our play-based early childhood program focuses on social growth, language skills, and self-expression through play based learning. We believe children learn best when they explore their environment actively. Classrooms feature distinct learning centers and play areas—including dramatic play, blocks, art, and sensory tables—where children make choices and solve problems.		Philosophy	Our early childhood program strives to promote a positive, safe, loving, nurturing and home-like atmosphere where the health, safety, nutrition and well-being of our children is of the utmost importance. We encourage mutual respect, patience and creativity in an inclusive environment while viewing children as competent, capable, curious and rich in potential.	
Rejection Reason			Staff Rejection Comments		

▼ CQI Plan and Goals

Previous CQI Plan Review Date			Quality Improvement Narrative	N/A	
Previous Year: Total Goals	0 Goals		TA Supports Narrative	N/A	
Previous Year: Goals Completed	0 Completed		Challenges Narrative	N/A	
Goals To Reconsider	N/A		Communication Narrative	N/A	
Responsible Implementation Person	Kaori Suzuki Van Dyke		Implementation Role Title	Director	
CQI Plan Completion Date	9/11/2026		Total SMART Goals	3	
SMART Goal 1	Add picture and word labels to learning center environments to promote independent and successful clean up.		MT's Treasures Focus Area for Goal 1	Learning Environments, Teaching interactions	
SMART Goal 2	Test		MT's Treasures Focus Area for Goal 2	Staff Qualifications and Professional Development	
SMART Goal 3	Test		MT's Treasures Focus Area for Goal 3	Family Engagement	

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Responsible Party

7

All Items

Due Diligence Checklist

⚙️ Automated

ℹ️ Help Text

📺 Video Instruction

↺

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Due Diligence	Responsible Party	Completed By And Date	Status	Comments
Documented Program Growth Tool (PGT) with SPARK MT	QRS Staff		Not Applicable	
Documented completion of a CQI CoP with Zero to Five	QRS Staff		Not Applicable	
At least one teaching staff member completed the CDA Apprenticeship within the past year	QRS Staff		Not Applicable	
At least 2 teaching staff members in the program completed the 16 hour coaching cycle with SPARK.	QRS Staff		Not Applicable	
Director completed the CMCA New Provider CoP	QRS Staff		Not Applicable	
Current ERS Assessment with side-by-side debrief (within 1 year)	QRS Staff		Pending	
Approve this application based on the verified due diligence items	QRS Staff		Pending	



Documented Program Growth Tool (PGT) with SPARK MT	QRS Staff	Not Applicable ▼	
Documented completion of a CQI CoP with Zero to Five	QRS Staff	Not Applicable ▼	
At least one teaching staff member completed the CDA Apprenticeship within the past year	QRS Staff	Not Applicable ▼	
At least 2 teaching staff members in the program completed the 16 hour coaching cycle with SPARK.	QRS Staff	Not Applicable ▼	
Director completed the CMCA New Provider CoP	QRS Staff	Not Applicable ▼	
Current ERS Assessment with side-by-side debrief (within 1 year)	QRS Staff	Completed ▼	
Approve this application based on the verified due diligence items	QRS Staff	In Progress ▼	





Assigned

Under Review

Additional Information ...

Additional Information ...

Approved

Denied

Withdrawn

Details

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Related

Uploaded Document

Document Name	Uploaded Date	Status	Comment	Action
ECP Professional Development Record	09/11/2026	Submitted		View
Infant/Toddler CDA Certificate	N/A	Not Submitted		
Other	N/A	Not Submitted		



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Quality Recognition

Show Details

Program Enrollment

Show Details

Document Upload

Show Details

CQI Plan and Goals

Show Details

Acknowledgement

Facility attestation



✓ ✓ Assigned Under Review Additional Information ... Additional Information ... Appro

Edit

Details Due Diligence Checklist Documents Information Request Application Wizard Activity & Chatter **Related**



QRS CQI Goals (3)

QRS CQI Goal Name

[SMART Goal #1](#)

[SMART Goal #2](#)

[SMART Goal #3](#)



QRS Document Items (3)

Document Item No.	Document Name
DI - 174974	ECP Professional Development
DI - 174975	Infant/Toddler CDA Certification
DI - 174976	Other



QRS CQI Goals Evidence
Evidence 1

Edit

Details Related

▼ Evidence Overview

QRS CQI Goals Evidence Name	Evidence 1	QRS CQI Goal	SMART Goal #1
Sequence	1		
		Evidence Date	2/18/2026

Details Related

▼ Goal Overview

QRS CQI Goal Name	SMART Goal #1	QRS Application	QRS-0147
Sequence	1	Length of Time	Immediate

▼ Completion Dates

Projected Date of Goal Completion	11/30/2026	Actual Date of Goal Completion	
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▼ Goal Details

Specific Goal	Add picture and word labels to learning center environments to promote independent and successful clean up.	Staff Responsible for Completion	Ryland Grace (Director), Mary Hail (lead teacher), Rocky Hail (lead teacher)
		Resources and Supports	Camera, computer, printer, paper, packing tape, planning time for lead teacher to create the labels, possibly another staff member in classroom to supervise and interact with children while the lead teacher is putting up the labels.



Support and Technical Assistance



MONTANA'S TREASURES

- Toolkits- **coming soon!**
- [Quality Email](#)
- [QRS Website](#)
- MTT MAQCS support, application and requirements

Opportunities to meet MTT quality indicators

- [Child Care Training CCT](#)
- [Early Childhood Project ECP](#)
- [SPARK MT](#)
- [Zero to Five](#)

MAQCS Technical Support

- [System Support](#)
- [Okta login, troubleshooting](#)
- [Website](#)
- [Submit a ticket](#)

Child Care License & Registration

- [Email](#)
- [Licensing Website](#)
- [MAQCS Technical Support](#)
- [Rules & Regulations](#)

Best Beginnings Child Care subsidy

- [Child Care Resources Eligibility Staff](#)
- [Family Connections Eligibility Staff](#)
- [Child Care Eligibility and Policy Staff](#)



Timeline & Next Steps

- MTT System launches in MAQCS
 - October 1, 2026
- Montana's Treasures Office Hours:
 - Starts October 6th
 - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of every month
 - 3:00 to 4:00 pm
- Toolkits- **Coming Soon!**
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)



Frequently Asked Questions



- Find current information at [ECFSD Childcare Quality Initiatives](#)
- Please email questions to HHSECFSDQualityInitiatives@mt.gov



Thank you!

Conclusion



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