



What's New in Montana's Quality Recognition System, Montana's Treasures?

- **Eligibility:** Providers must meet the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 37.96.112 licensing renewal requirements by submitting complete renewal paperwork 60–90 days before their license or registration expires to be eligible.
- **Strengths driven:** MTT helps child care programs show their strengths and commitment to quality.
- **Program choice:** The new QRS focuses on growth, flexibility, and choice by allowing programs to choose the stages and options of quality recognition that fits their program goals and philosophy.
- **Quality indicators:** MTT's quality indicators support Child Care Licensing and the technical assistance and supports our quality contractors provide.

Quality Recognition Stage Information

Stage 1: Foundations of Quality – For programs choosing a higher level of quality through on-time renewals

- ☐ Stage met if license/ registration is current and renewal paperwork is submitted on time per the Administrative Rules of MT. *(no additional requirements)*

Stage 2: Committed to Quality *(Can choose any one of the three quality recognition stages)*

- **Stage 2A: Career Path** - For programs focused on staff education and experience.
 - ☐ Director and teaching staff career path requirements, ECP Badges
- **Stage 2B: Specialized Training** - For programs focused on deeper training.

- ☐ **Options include:** ECP Badges, Relationship-Based Care (RBC) series, Infant-Toddler CDA, Specific infant-toddler coursework
- **Stage 2C: Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)** - For programs growing through coaching, cohorts, community of practices or improvement initiatives.
 - ☐ **Options include:** Program Growth Tool or Practice Based Coaching cycle with SPARK MT, Business training or Communities of Practice with Zero to Five, CDA Registered Apprenticeship, New Provider Supports, or receiving an Environment Rating Scale (ERS) assessment that provides a program with objective data to determine SMART goals & a CQI plan
- **Stage 3: Excelling in Quality** – For programs with ongoing national or federal oversight
 - ☐ **Options include:** NAEYC, NAFCC or AMS accreditation or Licensed Head Start or Early Head Start Programs