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## QUALITYstarsNY

**Quality improvement component** – Integrating the Early Care and Learning Council and establishing a regional presence for recruitment, coordination, professional development, and technical assistance.

New York State has a long tradition of maintaining an active network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCR&R's). Over time, many of these organizations have created a training capacity and have offered their services to those that work in family child care and center-based child care centers and other early childhood education programs. As the state moves toward the implementation of a quality rating system, the CCR&R's must be an integral part of the work. Each of the 35 agencies vary in size, funding, and capacity. We propose that the coordinating agency, the Early Care and Learning Council (ECLC) be supported to create a management hub that is charged with organizing 10 regional centers that would develop capacity to provide the following quality improvement services and supports for QUALITYstarsNY:

- Recruitment of new participating programs and homes
- Orientation to QUALITYstarsNY for potential participants
- Support of programs needing intensive technical assistance to participate successfully
- On-site coaching
- Individualized professional development, and
- Training on New York State framework tools( i.e., Early Learning Guidelines, Prekindergarten Foundation for the Common Core, Core Body of Knowledge, and the QUALITYstarsNY program standards)

The Early Care and Learning Council and the ten regional centers would collaborate with the ECAC's Workforce Development Work Group to insure that all professional development staff earned the NYS Trainer Credential, and met the criteria for coaching as set forth by the National Center on Child Care Professional Development Systems and Workforce Initiatives. Further, training sessions would be developed in compliance with training approval guidelines available through New York Works for Children, New York State's workforce development system.

The Quality Improvement Specialists, employed by the QUALITYstarsNY coordinating agency would collaborate with the 10 regional sites to arrange for the professional development services determined by each QUALITYstarsNY participant's Quality Improvement Plan. Other services, not available within the regional site would be provided by other individuals and agencies that were part of Aspire, within New York Works for Children, provided that they meet the same criteria of either having the NYS Trainer Credential and/or have their events approved through the training approval system.

Additional services likely to be provided by the 10 regional sites, as managed by the Early Care and Learning Council include:

- Community-based information sessions to provide orientation to potential QUALITYstarsNY participants
- Recruitment of QUALITYstarsNY participants as new funds become available
- Intensive technical support for programs who may have difficulty managing the QUALITYstarsNY process.

Year one:

- Establish the Early Care and Learning Council as a Management Hub for the QUALITYstarsNY components.
- ECAC Work Force Development Work Group collaborates with the Early Care and Learning Council to conduct regional training and support to insure that all professional development staff have the NYS Trainer Credential and are competent in the training approval process.
- ECAC Work Force Development Work Group collaborates with the Early Care and Learning Council to provide regional orientation and training to build coaching capacity among staff.
- ECLC identifies Regional Sites and works with site directors and QUALITYstarsNY coordinator to establish scope of work and capacity.
- Professional development is available to participating QUALITYstarsNY programs.
- Recruitment begins for new QUALITYstarsNY program participants.
- Intensive technical assistance strategies are designed in collaboration with staff from the QUALITYstarsNY coordinating agency.

Budget implications: Support for an Early Care and Learning Council QUALITYstarsNY manager, equipment, supplies, travel costs, and other related expenses. Support for regional site managers equipment, supplies, and travel costs.

Year two:

- Professional development is arranged and delivered in response to the Quality Improvement plans of each participating site.
- Regional sites host information/orientation sessions for potential QUALITYstarsNY participants that include information about environmental rating scales, the CLASS, the QUALITYstarsNY program standards, and preparing documentation.
- Programs are recruited to participate in QUALITYstarsNY.
- The regional sites reach out to programs who need intensive technical assistance
- Etc.

Budget implications: to be determined. As Quality Scholars allocations are increased across the project, these funds would support the quality improvement activities provided by both the 10 regional sites as well as the outside expertise.