



# Gateway to Quality

2013-2014



The mini-grants, support and resources have directly impacted the quality of care in ECE programs throughout the county.

### Mini-Grant Recipients' Comments:

"I was well informed, they helped me see my program and areas that needed attention."

"It was rewarding to go through the process. We love the improvements we made with grant funds and receive many compliments on the quality of our newly improved indoor environment."

"I was able to share information with staff, I feel they were more receptive coming from an outside source and able to make the necessary changes to our program to improve the quality of care we provide. It was empowering!"

"I love improving my in-home child care; the kids also love it. Great program! I can't wait to apply again!"

(from Program Evaluation Surveys)

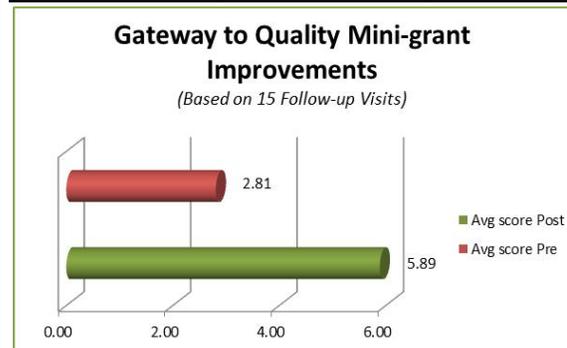


The Gateway to Quality program was launched on July 1st, 2008 to provide external validation of Environment Rating Scale (ERS) scoring improvements in Early Childhood Education programs who apply for First 5 Mini-grants. The program is administered by the Child Care Planning Council (CCPC), which contracts with nine reliably trained consultants to provide external ERS assessments, maintain inter-rater reliability checks and network with organizations in other counties and states using the ERS. Effective July 1st, 2013 the Gateway to Quality Program expanded services by adding the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) tool as part of the validation process for mini-grant applicants with continued low scores (under 3) in the Interaction Subscale. Additionally, in July, 2013 the program began providing ERS and CLASS Assessments to other First 5 Funded Programs by request (including VIP, CSP and READY).

For Mini-grant applicants, activities consist of Assessments, Feedback Visits, Mini-Grant Application Validations and Follow up visits. During the 3-hour assessments, the QIVs utilize the ERS tools (ECERS, FCCERS and ITERS) to assess the quality of Centers and Family Child Care Homes. They return for a Feedback Visit, and present the Summary Report with scores, comments and program strengths. For programs with continued low scores in the Interaction Subscale, the QIV returns to perform a CLASS Assessment. Upon completion of the necessary assessments, the QIVs recommend items that would improve ERS scores, and assist the provider to develop an Action Plan for Personal Care Routines and Interaction Subscale items that are under a score of 3.

For First 5 Funded Programs, the QIVs provide external ERS and CLASS Assessments as requested, and provide scoring results to the requesting program.

Gateway to Quality Activities Completed in 2013-2014									
ERS Assessments		Feedback Visits		Mini-Grants Validations		Follow-up Visits		CLASS Assessments	
Center	FCCH	Center	FCCH	Center	FCCH	Center	FCCH	Center	FCCH
26	9	15	8	14	6	10	5	14	4
35		23		20		15		18	



The average score on the ERS items requested prior to the Mini-grant was **2.81** (maximum of 7) and the average score after the purchases and implementation was **5.89** (maximum of 7). This is an average improvement of **44%**.

