

Early childhood education confers long-lasting, positive life outcomes—but only if the early childhood program is high quality. A strong state investment in QUALITYstarsNY, New York State's Quality Rating and Improvement System for early childhood programs, ensures that families with young children can access child care programs that are committed to excellence and supported with the guidance and resources to increase and sustain their quality.

How QUALITYstarsNY Benefits New York's Children and Families

- Provides robust, individualized quality improvement support to early childhood programs, including one-on-one guidance from a Quality Improvement Specialist, resources, materials, and professional development so they can best serve children and families.
- Safeguards New York's multi-billion dollar state and federal investments in early learning by providing quality assurance and accountability for less than \$300 per child.
- Serves as a valuable resource to help families find quality early childhood programs in their area.

QUALITYstarsNY Works!

The data tells a story—after three years of continuous quality improvement work with QUALITYstarsNY, programs are re-rated to assess their progress. This progress is measured in points leading to star level increases. **Among re-rated programs, 70% increased their Star Rating or sustained a high quality rating of 3, 4 or 5 Stars.** Almost all of the remaining programs earned significantly more points, which eventually leads to increased star levels.

"I believe during these times of uncertainty is when our Quality Improvement Specialist is most needed. We need a source of support, to reinforce and remind us to continue our best practices no matter how tough our adjustments may be."

Lisa Thomas
Family Child Care Provider
Brooklyn, NYC

Continued Growth Requires a Strong, Sustained State Investment

In 2021, the state allocated \$35 million in funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) to support the growth of QUALITYstarsNY over three years. We thank the State Legislature for this historic investment, which will allow us to double in size to support more than 2,250 early childhood programs; however, **we cannot stop there.** The new programs QUALITYstarsNY is currently expanding to support will continue to need our services in the years to come, as will many additional programs, in order to ensure that families have increased access to high quality child care across the state.

QUALITYstarsNY requests an increase in annual funding from \$5 million to \$20 million in the New York State budget.

A stronger investment of \$20 million would allow QUALITYstarsNY to sustain current support to its increasing number of participating programs, and build on its foundation for long-term growth so more early childhood educators, and the families they serve, can benefit from the comprehensive services QUALITYstarsNY provides to enhance and sustain program quality.

[Learn more at qualitystarsny.org.](http://qualitystarsny.org)

QUALITYstarsNYSM
Impact on New York State

Supporting **1000+** early childhood programs

that serve

65,000+ children

Thousands of New York's children are benefiting from the quality improvement support provided to participating programs.